

Sec. M

17310

17318

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

# WAR DIARY

## German Naval Staff Operations Division

PART A VOLUME 60

DECLASSIFIED IN DOD MEMO OF 3 MAY 1972, SUBJECT  
DECLASSIFICATION OF WWII RECORDS

AUGUST 1944

NAVY WAR COLLEGE  
CLASSIFIED LIBRARY  
RECEIVED  
JUN 22 1955  
Copy number

TO BE DEPOSITED TO  
CLASSIFIED LIBRARY  
ROOM H-16, MAIN FLOOR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED



WAR DIARY OF THE GERMAN NAVAL STAFF

(Operations Division)

Part A

August 1944

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

Volume 60

Begun: 1 Aug. 1944  
Closed: 31 Aug. 1944

REPRODUCTION OF THIS DOCUMENT IS PROHIBITED  
EXCEPT BY AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



FOREWORD

1. This volume entitled War Diary of the German Naval Staff, Operations Division, Part A, is Volume 60 covering August 1944. Other volumes 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 Fuehrer Conferences on Matters Dealing with the German Navy, 1939-1945, which have been published, 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 Classified Operational Branch of Naval History Division (Op-29).
3. Due to the cost of publication, only a limited number of copies could be made. If any recipient of this War Diary does not need to retain it, it is requested that it be returned to Naval History Division (Op-29).
4. The translation of this War Diary was made in London, England, under the guidance of Commander S. R. Sanders, USNR. When his London Office was closed and the translation project was discontinued, much unfinished material was sent to Naval History Division, (Op-29). Because the dissemination of the data contained in these documents is important, the translations and stencils have not been checked for accuracy of interpretation, phraseology, and spelling of officers' names or geographical names. Distribution under these conditions seems justified because translators are not available in Naval History Division. Research to correct possible inconsistencies and to revamp in smooth form the rough or literal translations did not warrant the expense involved.

John B. Heffernan  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)  
Director of Naval History

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
Naval History Division  
Washington 25, D. C.  
1955



1 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

Reports from various quarters state that Turkey is to break off diplomatic relations with Germany on 2 Aug. Churchill will, it is believed, announce this fact in his war report to the House of Commons on the same date. The Foreign Office thinks it possible that the Turkish National Committee will not agree at once to a severing of relations, so that there may be a short delay.

According to a report from RSHA (Central Security Police H.Q.) - Stockholm, dated 30 Jul., the attitude of Turkey is thereby clarified, as the Anglo-Americans have already started to transfer fighter-planes to the Adana area. The provision of air bases has been requested for the middle of August for the purpose of attacking the Dodecanese. According to press information from London it is expected that the Government of Turkey will announce the conclusion of Alliance Treaties with Russia and the USA.

The former Finnish Ambassador in Washington, Procope, arrived in Helsinki on 30 Jul.

On instructions from Moscow the Republic of Estonia formed a National Committee.

According to foreign press reports, political difficulties have led to considerable tension in the Bulgarian Cabinet.

According to information from London the Premier of the Polish Exile Government will offer Moscow the following terms:

1. The demarcation-line between Polish and Russian Administration should be based on the principle of the Curzon Line. The final settlement of the boundary to be postponed.
2. The Polish Government to transfer its seat of Government from London to Warsaw.
3. Subsequently the Government to be reformed with the inclusion of several members of the Liberation Committee.
4. Polish forces to be united and placed under a new Supreme Command.

At the reception of the Minister in Moscow, Tass announced that successes were being achieved by the Polish people independently of and in spite of the activities of the Emigre Government in London.

1 Aug. 1944

Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff at 1120.

I. Summary of Situation with Reference to the Patrolling of Narva Bay. (See War Diary, 31 Jul.)

The Commander in Chief, Navy remarked that submarines alone could not prevent the enemy from breaking through a "Seeigel" minefield. The nature of this kind of defense required the use of naval forces even in the face of enemy air supremacy. The Naval Command, Baltic has received instructions to investigate the possibility of operations in form of short sweeps by torpedo boats and to report their intention in this matter. (1/Skl I op 23781/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol.III.)

II. With reference to Group South's proposal to bring the steamship JOHANNA back to the Aegean, Commander in Chief, Navy, Group South has given orders by telephone that the ship was/is to be allowed to sail into the Black Sea and attention drawn to the danger of the ship sailing in the Aegean with her valuable copper cargo. The necessary telephone call was made to Group South.

III. Commander in Chief, Navy believes the number of dockyard workers reported to be stationed in the Atlantic ports for defense duties by Group West to be very high. He fears, therefore, that the directions concerning repairs and the installation of the Schnorchel may have been misunderstood. Commanding Admiral, Group West, is to give his views on this matter. In addition, the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters is to report to the Fuehrer on the possible effect on the naval operations already planned if dockyard personnel were withdrawn.

IV. Naval Staff, Operations Division.

a. Operational Staff Boehme is ready for action in Trouville.

b. On the advice of the Naval Staff, the Commander in Chief, Navy has ordered the following signal to be sent to the Admiral, Commanding Eastern Baltic; Naval Command Baltic expresses appreciation of the outstanding fighting to Commander of Task Force, Baltic States and Naval Control Service Hungerburg.

V. Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff.

a. Chief, Armed Forces High Command protested to Reichsminister Speer against the development of the generator program in favor of the Fighter Staff of the Air Force.

b. According to a report from Commanding Admiral, Defenses,

1 Aug. 1944

West the civilian population is annoyed by the continuation of training, while civilians are employed without reserve for digging trenches. It is suggested that those training should be put on the same job temporarily. Commander in Chief, Navy has decided that schooling is to be carried on regardless of other considerations, as this preparation for the naval operations was ordered by the Fuehrer.

VI. Chief, Naval Staff.

The Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters has forwarded the urgent appeal from Commanding General, Armed Forces, West to the Armed Forces High Command for the last man and the last gun to be placed at his disposal in view of the development of a critical situation in Brittany.

The Commander in Chief, Navy discussed this matter with the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters and drew attention to the possible consequences of such measures to submarine warfare and coastal defenses. The Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters referred to the Fuehrer's decision made known on 31 Jul.

With the issuing of new instructions by the Armed Forces High Command, extending the authority of Commanding General, Armed Forces, West this request is taken into account. The text of the instruction is as follows:

"Developments on the invasion front call for every available fighting man and the use of every available weapon.

1. The Fuehrer has, therefore, authorized Commanding General, Armed Forces, West,

a. To ward off invasion attacks coming from the area which is bounded by the Seine (Greater Paris to Fontainebleau - Orléans - Mouth of the Loire inclusive) by concentration and commitment of all available forces of the Army and Waffen-SS including organizations and units outside the Army, the Party and civilian services.

b. To speed up the combing-out already in progress in Paris and to extend action to the whole of France. In this connection, the Army General Staff is effecting the immediate transfer of the Special Staff of Army High Command to the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West.

1 Aug. 1944

2. In order to strengthen the fighting front, the security forces will also have to make some contribution, even if these units are already actively engaged. According to the above, in connection with measures to be adopted by Commanding General, Armed Forces, West the following should be kept in mind: All forces carrying arms without regard to which section of the Armed Forces or formation outside the Armed Forces they belong are to operate as one unit. The possibility of operations by naval forces and facilities for supply as well as the operational readiness of the Air Force must be guaranteed. Any decision, therefore, regarding the forces of the Navy and the Air Force should be left to the Commander in Chief of these services."

VII. Chief, Naval Communications Division reports the advisability of checking the enemy's intelligence by means of radio monitoring and stated that the necessary orders had been given. Commander in Chief, Navy concurred.

VIII. Chief, Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division.

The United States Navy Department announces restrictions in submarine construction, the reason for this being the insignificant submarine losses and the increased demand for other types of ships and weapons. The former Commander in Chief of the Home Fleet, Admiral Fraser, was appointed successor to Admiral Somerville as Supreme Commander of the Eastern Fleet. Most of the British submarines have been recalled from the Mediterranean in order to carry out intensified submarine operations against German Shipping to Norway. According to a report from the German Ambassador in Madrid, the Spanish Ambassador in London has noticed a lowering morale in London.

In a Highly Restricted Circle.

IX. Army Situation.

Western Front:

In the area of Granville-Avranches the enemy took Precy on the road to Dinant with weak forces. One of our armored groups started to counterattack. The Americans have been able to bring up 3 armored divisions and several infantry divisions in this sector. The existing weak and inadequate German forces have been scattered. Everything depends on whether the German forces on their way arrive on the battlefield in time. All marching schedules are worthless owing to enemy air superiority. In the area of Caumont the enemy has gained more ground in heavy fighting. The beginning of an intensive and large-scale British offensive east of

1 Aug. 1944

the Orne is thought to be imminent. The point of this action might be an initial swing to the southwest with the intention of breaking down our whole Normandy front in a simultaneous attack from Caumont via St. Martin in a southerly direction.

Italian Front:

After a quiet day, the enemy again tried to break through south of Florence. In spite of the large-scale fighting of the last few days, without relief and with considerable losses, the main line of resistance has been held. Attempts to break through have been frustrated. There were exchanges of gunfire around Pisa and the Leaning Tower was damaged.

Eastern Front:

The enemy is advancing in the direction of the Beskiden road. Army Group Raus is thereby placed in a difficult position with the impassable Carpathian Mountains to their rear. They are, therefore, attempting to fight clear of the Sambor area, Sanok Reichenhof in order to be able to withdraw to the other side of the Vistula. Our own troops are slowly gaining ground, as have divisions advancing from the north and south into the San-Vistula triangle with the intention of cutting off the advancing enemy, who has crossed the Vistula and is advancing on Stassow. The 4th Army is experiencing variable fighting conditions in the central Vistula sector, across which the enemy has formed numerous bridgeheads. The Russians are closing in on Warsaw. Our own counterattacks to clear the highways east of Warsaw were unsuccessful. The 2nd Army is to be withdrawn from the area northwest of Brest in day and night marches. Heavy fighting is taking place along the Memel. In the area of Kovno (Naunas) the enemy has not followed up his great success. A new line of defense has been constructed and local attacks repulsed. Mitau has been lost. At Tukum there were no incidents. There were successes in defensive fighting between Duenaburg (Dvinsk) and Lake Peipus and also in the Nara area west of the line Tukum-Shavli (Schaulen) to Army Group Center.

Special Items

I. Concerning the situation in the Eastern Baltic:

1. The Naval Command East has received the following intelligence: Supply-ships of the Home Fleet are available for supply duties for naval forces operating in Eastern Waters. Intentions were to be reported.

2. Naval Command East reports:

Naval Command Latvia sent the following signal to Army Group

1 Aug. 1944

North: Major Jollen of Army Group North and Railway Expert Strautz of the Reichsbahn Riga have been in Windau for two days with orders to destroy rolling-stock and railway tracks. This work is already in progress. From knowledge of the situation these measures are considered premature, and appropriate orders are requested.

3. According to a Directive issued by the Naval Staff, Naval Command Norway has announced his intention to transfer, for the time being, minesweepers M"151", "255", "36", and patrol boats VP"5901", "5907", "5713". Minesweepers M"151" and "255" are at present under dockyard control Koenigsberg and will be ready for action on 15 Aug. The remaining boats are reported to have left. Naval Staff agrees.

4. Naval Command East reports:

1. Demarcation between Army Group North and Center necessitates immediate reorganization of the part of the Navy. Sea Defence Command Latvia is at present cut off from the Admiral Commanding Eastern Baltic. The control of the naval garrison Latvia is very difficult, from Reval especially, as the Admiral Commanding the Eastern Baltic is out of touch with the Army Group Centre. This also applies to naval forces operating off the coast of Kurland.

2. It is thought advisable therefore, to place a Naval Shore Commander, Central Coastal Sector under Coastal Defense Commander Latvia.

3. The cutting-off of Riga from North Lithuania necessitates a change in the zone boundary of Naval Shore Command Lithuania, so that the area cut off is transferred to Naval Shore Command Estonia. The dividing line between the areas of Naval Shore Command Estonia and Naval Shore Command Latvia will then correspond to that of Army Groups North and Center.

4. Naval operations off the coast of Kurland to be directed by Naval Command, East. For this purpose, a Communication Centre in Pillau with an Admirals Staff Officer and the necessary personnel is required. Suggestions for the staffing will follow. Pillau has been chosen because the radio station there is at the point of intersection between the Eastern and Central Baltic lines of communication, and all reports are collected here.

5. The Naval Liaison Officer is to be appointed to Army Group Center, Naval Command, East.

1 Aug. 1944

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division agrees in principle to the proposal. It is to be confirmed whether the placing of Naval Shore Command Latvia under Coastal Defence Commander, Central Baltic, is more advantageous than direct attachment to Naval Command, East. Steps taken to settle this matter are to be reported.

6. High Command Air, Operations Staff, Chief of Operations Branch has informed the Naval Staff of Directive I-SG 5 concerning transfer (of units) to the southern Finland area for the purpose of attacking enemy naval forces in the Gulf of Finland, in particular those units engaged in sweeping activities on our "Seeigel" minefield. A further task is protection for our own minelaying operations and support for defensive operations on the Karelian Front if this is rendered necessary by the situation on land.

II. The Naval Command North reported on the preparedness of German North Sea coastal defenses.

A copy has been made according to 1/Skl 23816/44 Gkdos. in War Diary Part C Volume X.

III. Group South has made a final request for reinforcements for coastal batteries in the eastern area.

Copy in 1/Skl 2299/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Volume X.

The decisions of the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Coastal Defense Branch, according to 1/Skl 23778/44 Gkdos. are given in same document of the War Diary.

IV. The General Staff of the Army High Command informed the Naval Staff of the following Directive:

"Supplementing the Fuehrer's order Number 11, local defense commanders and officers in the field receive the following orders:

1. Railway personnel is to be exempted from combat duties only to the extent necessary to guarantee that railways are still contacting the fighting zone or running within it.

2. A number of anti-aircraft batteries may be included in the strength of a fixed position. The size of the crew of these anti-aircraft batteries should be proportionate to the importance of the strongpoint vulnerability, and the number of anti-aircraft artillery forces at the disposal of all branches of the services. Details will be worked out by the air force in cooperation with the Army Group Command according to the position. The commanders of strongpoints are not authorized to retain retreating anti-aircraft

1 Aug. 1944

artillery batteries passing through or by the position without the approval of the air forces concerned. Only the permanent crews of the anti-aircraft artillery batteries are liable for duty.

V. With Reference to the Situation in the Turkish Area:

The following reports have been received:

The airfield Hazimia near Izmir has been totally cleared since 2000 on 29 Jul. The naval air base Huezelyali near Izmir has also been cleared. There have been 2 minelayers in Izmir fully loaded and ready to sail since 31 Jul.

Group South informs the Naval Staff of directives to the Admiral commanding the Aegean and Admiral commanding the Black Sea for operation "Gertrud" and also for the event of Turkey's entry into the war.

Copies according to 1/Skl 2303, 2304 and 2309/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIVa.

The Naval Staff has nothing to add to these orders.

---

Situation 1 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

50 planes of 19 Group were intercepted on operations. Radio monitoring picked up 3 convoys bound for Omaha, 3 for Utah and 1 for Yukon. Nothing was observed at the mouth of the Seine owing to poor visibility.

Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast Area:

Group West has informed the Naval Staff of orders given by the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, West concerning the dangerous position and possible loss of St. Malo.

1 Aug. 1944

In the event of a threat to St. Malo - and this already appears imminent - forces will not retreat until the last minute, and then by order of the Commander, Convoy Flotilla. Until that time, suitable boats are to support the coastal batteries and fortifications with the object of holding St. Malo by all means.

In the event of the loss of St. Malo, convoys are to be diverted to Le Legue or Lezardrieux, bearing in mind that attempts will be made to bring reinforcements to the Channel Islands from there. In this case the Senior Officer and Officers Commanding the 4th and 6th Mine Sweeper Flotillas are to proceed to Lezardrieux. It should be remembered when distributing forces that traffic is to be maintained between the islands, and that units must adjust themselves to the fuel situation there.

The Channel Area:

During an air raid on Le Havre on the evening of 31 Jul. the Air Force shot down seven enemy planes, anti-aircraft artillery batteries on the alert participated. On the afternoon of 1 Aug., bombs are reported to have been dropped on the harbor of Rouen. The fire in the naval reloading centre has been extinguished. Twelve patrol-boat positions were occupied, Commitment and transfer of PT Boat Flotillas did not take place on the night of 1 Aug. owing to bad visibility. Operations (with torpedos) are planned for the night of the 2. by the 2. and 6. PT Boat Flotillas based at Le Havre. A Group belonging to the 6. PT Boat Flotilla was to be transferred from Dieppe to Le Havre.

With reference to the Army's position, Group West stated that according to a report received from Port Commander, St. Malo, at 2300 Dol de Bretagne had been cleared of the enemy. Report of enemy tank spearheads at St. Malo has been proved incorrect.

Special Items:

Naval Staff, Operations Division has informed Group West that for technical and political reasons it was impossible to obtain coal from Spain. The Reich Minister of Economics has agreed to the suspension of ore transports to Bordeaux, a temporary emergency measure. The Embassy in Madrid stressed the advisability, however, of continuing to import ore from Spain for reasons of foreign and economic policy.

1 Aug. 1944

Group West, therefore, received orders to once more sanction ore imports from Spain as soon as the coal situation permits.

The Reich Minister of Economics and the Reich Commissioner for Shipping have been informed by the Naval Staff that owing to coal shortage on the French Atlantic coast the Spanish ore transports are to sail temporarily without protection and coastal inshore patrols have been suspended until further notice. Permission for escort is only granted to steamers carrying coal, or craft whose sailing is of the greatest importance.

---

## II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

### North Sea:

Convoy duties between the mouths of the various rivers of the Heligoland Bight and for traffic with Esbjerg were carried out without incident. The tonnage convoyed amounted to 35,804 BRT. 3 convoys of about 36,000 BRT were escorted through the Zuider Zee and the Zeeland waters. Between 2219 and 2325 2 unidentified vessels were located in the vicinity of IJmuiden.

3 patrol vessels took up positions in the Heligoland Bight and 3 off the Dutch Coast. 2 mines were swept in the Elbe River.

### Enemy Situation:

Eighteen planes belonging to 18 Group were intercepted in the northern North Sea. Naval Command North has forwarded his situation report dated 31 Jul. with the remark that since the start of the invasion the enemy's aerial reconnaissance has increased over the convoy-routes of the inner Heligoland Bight. Furthermore, since the middle of July, enemy reports of the movements of our planes at night in the Heligoland Bight have been intercepted almost daily by air reconnaissance. It is certain therefore, that planes with shipping detection gear are being used in these waters. The urgent need for reinforcement by our own fighter planes for convoy-escort duties has therefore increased. The Naval Staff has forwarded the summary to High Command, Air Force, Chief of Operations Branch, Navy.

### Norway, Northern Waters

#### Enemy Situation:

According to radio monitoring, Flotilla Leader BAKU is in the region of Archangel, and the destroyer URITZKY at sea in the Yokonga area.

1 Aug. 1944

Own Situation:

Nine reconnaissance planes were reported in the vicinity of Vardoe, and 20 planes in the vicinity of Petsamo on the Arctic coast during the period 30 to 31. In the west coast area one reconnaissance plane was over the Sognefjord and on the 1 Aug. another was over the Fensfjord. Ten ships were escorted to the north and 33 ships to the south. On 31 Jul. and 1 Aug. the B.B.C. broadcast a report from Norway that the battleship TIRPITZ had finished repairing the damage received in September 1943, and it was assumed from this that complete repair had been impossible. The TIRPITZ was said to have been already moved into the outer fjord and would most probably be moved to the Baltic Sea for operations in that theater.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

High Command, Air Force deduces from a British broadcast that air raids on the east and west entrances to Kiel Canal are planned with the intention of putting it out of action for a long time. On the evening of 31 July 10 to 15 vessels were observed sweeping mines in Narva Bay, Gulf of Finland, 15 miles north of Hungerburg. Other small boats were at Lavensari, Seiskari and Kieper Ort.

On the afternoon of 1 Aug. a minesweeper formation of 7 craft was cruising in A 3744, 3748 and 3746. (grid squares).

Own Situation:

Admiral Commanding the Skagerrak:

Our patrol boat positions were taken up according to plan off the coast of Jutland and at the Hanstholm barrage gap. 17 boats carried out minesweeping duties in the Baltic Sea Entrances and 3 boats off the west coast of Jutland. The barrage K 1 minefield section now consists of one single and one double row of 80 coastal mines type A. The execution of the minelaying operation "Kalahari" off Hanstholm barrage gap has had to be broken off as it was discovered after the formation was outward bound that the chain lengths had been wrongly set. A repetition is planned for 3 Aug.

1 Aug. 1944

Western and Central Baltic:

38 boats and 5 planes were engaged on minesweeping duties. One mine was swept north of Swinemuende. On 31 July the following special transports arrived at Memel from Pillau: The steamer SUMTRA with 5,500 women and children, the steamer VENUS with 4,200 civilians, the steamer CELEBES with 7,612 Hitler Youths and the steamer MIMI HORN with 4,800 Hitler Youths and 50 civilians on board. On 1 Aug. the steamer BOLKOBURG sailed from Memel to Danzig with 3,000 civilians. 985 civilians and 250 slightly wounded have been transferred from Liepaja to Gotenhafen by the netlayers "26" and "8" as well as by the steamer TOGO. The steamer BUKAREST brought 1,400 female auxiliary Air Force personnel and troops from Riga to Pillau.

Admiral Commanding Eastern Baltic:

Vessels of our 25th Minesweeper Flotilla were attacked from 0526 to 0550 by 30 to 40 enemy planes including fighters. 4 planes were brought down. Minesweepers M "443" and M "14" report casualties and leaks; patrol boat VP "1706" and armed trawler "37" also report leaks. Minesweeper "423" had 20 casualties. The Commander 25th Minesweeper Flotilla has requested fighter protection. At 0940 Minesweepers M "17", M "18", patrol boat VP "1704" and the tug SCHWALBENBURG put out to assist the 25th Minesweeper Flotilla. The Narva patrol is to be relieved during darkness.

The southern section of "Seeigel" barrage was laid by the 1st Motor Minesweeper Flotilla according to plan. At Kilpisari the Kaihas barrage was laid. The submarine SCHMIDT is presumed lost. According to Russian radio reports the boat was sunk. 6 officers and the crew were taken prisoner.

According to Finnish observations detonations and a big mushroom of smoke were noticed at noon on 30 July off the northern approaches to Koivisto Sound. Subsequently a burning patrol boat and 2 vessels dropping depth charges were sighted. The loss of submarine U "250" is therefore probable as a result of depth charges after attacking a patrol boat but it might also have been a mine which caused the loss. The batteries of Sillamae 2, army coastal batteries 509 and 921 were under enemy gunfire during the forenoon. With regard to the situation on land the Admiral Commanding the Eastern Baltic reports the evacuation of Mitau on 31 July after heavy house-to-house fighting. Bridges were blown up. Own attacks in the area of Birsen are making progress. Enemy attacks on the Narva near Putki have been repulsed.

1 Aug. 1944

IV. Submarine Warfare.

Submarine U "275" which announced its impending arrival at Boulogne has not put in and is presumed lost. The loss of submarine U "250" in the Gulf of Finland is reported. On 21 July submarine U "24" failed to hit a sailing ship in the Black Sea. The boat was on the return passage.

---

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

There has been heavy enemy air penetration with the fighting zone of the army groups south of St. Lô and Caen as focal point. Besides this 1,000 four-engined planes attacked buildings under construction and fortifications on the Belgian North French coast. During the night of 2 Aug. there was no special fighter activity. Reports of our own operations on 1 Aug. have not yet been received.

Reich Territory:

No enemy air penetration of the Reich has been reported from the West during the day or night.

Mediterranean Theater:

Enemy attacks on lines of communication in the area of the Po and Ravenna continued. One plane was shot down by anti-aircraft artillery fire at Milan. The air attack carried out on 31 July by 4 four-engined planes in the area of Bucharest-Ploesti had no military or strategic effect. During the night of 1 Aug. 42 planes 15 of which are known to have come from Russia are noticed carrying supplies to Guerillas in the Balkans.

Eastern Front:

During 31 July 1,179 German and 803 enemy operations were reported on the eastern front, nine planes were shot down and there were 8 casualties. About 35 enemy planes penetrated eastern Russia. It is presumed that 2 planes landed agents on the night of 1 Aug. in this area. The 5th Air Force carried out reconnaissance from the Bank-Kolgujewan over the Jugor Straits, the Kara Straits and the Kostin Straits to Banak. Visibility was poor on account of sea mist and highlying fog.

---

1 Aug. 1944

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.Area Naval Group West:Enemy Situation:

At 1745 on 31 July one cruiser of the CAIRO class left Gibraltar for the Mediterranean. On the morning of 1 Aug. one cruiser of the DIDO class coming from the east and one big troop transport with 2 destroyers coming from the west entered Gibraltar.

Own Situation:

Anti-submarine control was carried out by 2 Arados off Port Vendres.

Area German Naval Command Italy:Enemy Situation:

Second phase interpretation of photographs obtained during reconnaissance of Alexandria on the evening of 31 July was as follows: 4 auxiliary aircraft carriers, 2 cruisers and 7 destroyers 5 escort vessels, 15 small naval vessels, 2 (presumed) troop transports, 2 tankers, 16 freighters, 1 ship used as quarters and 1 hospital ship. Reconnaissance of the floating docks was not made. Radio monitoring noticed the appearance of a remarkable number of call-signs beginning with "g" in broadcasts from Alexandria. The same observation was made 2 days prior to the "Simi" operation. At 0600 on 1 Aug. normal unloading was observed on the Livorno roads. There is still heavy traffic on the Piombino roads.

Own Situation:

Convoy and protection duties have been resumed on the west coast of Italy, according to plan, on improvement in weather conditions. At 2345 on 31 July the southward-bound convoy of naval landing craft was attacked unsuccessfully in Rapallo Bay.

Area Naval Group South:a. Adriatic Sea:

At 2025 on 31 July an enemy submarine was attacked with depth charges near Pola by the submarine chaser UJ "202". At 2225 an armed motor sailing boat was shelled from the Isle of Pasman with 2-4 cm guns. The shelling was answered by all guns with noticeable effect. On the night of 1 Aug. 18 more coastal mines type "A" were laid southeast of Rimini. The minelaying vessels were attacked unsuccessfully by fighter planes on the return flight.

1 Aug. 1944

b. Aegean Sea:

On the evening of 31 July the laying of 2 mines at the harbor entrance to Rhodes was observed. 2 convoys of motor sailing vessels with 1733 Jews from Rhodes arrived in Piraeus on the evening of 30 July.

According to a report from the Naval Attache, Istanbul, the British are using the natural grotto 4 kilometers north of Djebble as a submarine base. On 25 June the French submarines MINERVA, PEGAS, CASABLANCA, the British submarines OSIRIS and TRIBUNE and the Greek submarine KATSONIS were in this base.

c. Black Sea:

Nothing to report.

---

VII. Mine Situation on the Danube.

There are no reports on minelaying or of losses as a result of mines. On the contrary, 5 minesweeping operations have been carried out successfully by naval vessels and 2 by planes.

---

VIII. Situation East Asia.

Nothing to report.

\*\*\*\*\*

2 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

The Turkish National Committee accepted the proposal made by the Government to break off her diplomatic and economic relations with Germany.

The Prime Minister of Finland informed Parliament that State President Ryti had retired as it was thought advisable that military power and civilian administration should be dealt with by one person owing to difficult conditions in Finland. On the basis of this, Marshal von Mannerheim was indicated as the person who will be entrusted with the tasks of Head of the State. Parliament passed a law on 1 Aug. which gives it the power to appoint the State President direct by law without a constitutional election. Marshal von Mannerheim stated his willingness to accept the post.

The reactions of the Swedish press to this noteworthy step state that the close relations taken up by Tyti with the Reich would become invalid through his resignation. The way to peace has thereby been opened for Finland.

The Premier of the Polish Exile Government arrived in Moscow. At the same time the Council of the People's Commission of the Soviet Union has appointed the Deputy Chairman as its representative to the Government of the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy at 1120.

I. Gauleiter Koch ordered limited evacuation of the area north of the river Memel (by women, children and cattle). The steamer CELEBES and SUMATRA are available for transportation purposes.

II. Battle Group reports that the maneuvers of the 1st Task Force in the open sea, covering a period of 2 days, were carried out according to plan. There was unfortunately not the desired sea-way on both days, but it was impossible to wait any longer for the weather to clear on account of the urgency of the exercises. No contact of any kind was made with the enemy. The exercises fulfilled their purpose and contributed substantially to the operational readiness of the formation. They proved clearly that such maneuvers are an urgent necessity.

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

a. Naval Command East passed an order on 19 July to the Coastal Defense Commander, Central Baltic Coast, in view of the orders issued for the demolition of ports, to start preparations for

2 Aug. 1944

the demolition of the ports of Memel, Pillau, Elbing, Danzig and Gdynia, including the construction of mine-chambers. The order was extended at the end of July for Memel and Pillau to include installation of high explosives, for the present without detonators. The Naval Staff proposes that preparations be carried out for harbor demolitions in the areas of East and West Prussia also, in accordance with basic orders, and that safety measures be taken to ensure that there is no possibility of any premature demolition. Since, when abandoning a harbor, its demolition is not intended in every case, order from the Armed Forces High Command or the Naval Staff must be final even when orders from high up will no longer reach a local commanding officer. It is definitely accepted that harbor installations in the eastern area may fall into enemy hands intact.

In the course of preliminary considerations regarding project "Weissdorn" it has been noticed that sufficient explosives are not at the disposal of the Navy in East and West Prussia to carry out complete demolition of harbor installations in this area. This fact is positively confirmed by the Chief, Bureau of Naval Armaments.

The Commander in Chief, Navy agreed with the proposal but decided that the existing orders should be maintained, i.e. that further explosives (for instance mines), should not be transported into the area for harbor demolition.

Naval staff, Operations Division addressed a relevant request to the Quartermaster General with the object of doing something further. Copy order 1/Skl.I op.23932/44 Gkdos. in War Diary Part C Volume III.

b. From three shots two end-of-run detonations were reported in the use of "Zaunkönig" torpedoes on PT boats.

c. The Commanding Officer of the Battle Units reports the disintegration of the 10th Italian PT Boat Flotilla after surrender by Borghese. The flotilla split up into several independent units some of which joined the partisans. In order to utilize the few still existing active and available forces, the Commanding Officer of the Battle Units considers it advisable to appoint an active Liaison Officer to reassemble the individual groups, to take over command, to eliminate all unsafe elements, to carry out sorties within the command of the Battle Units and to attach them as a special Battle Group to E- and A-Staff South. The views of the German Naval Command Italy on such measures have been requested. Commander in Chief, Navy ordered that these views be awaited.

2 Aug. 1944

d. The Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters reported that the Fuehrer has ordered strong fighter protection from the Air Force for naval minelaying operations in the course of a conference on the mine situation in Narva Bay.

Instructions to this effect from the High Command, Air, Operations Staff, are known already to the Naval Staff.

IV. Quartermaster General:

a. By direction of the Fuehrer's orders in force in the Silesia and Warthe areas have been adjusted to meet those already in force in East Prussia.

b. The Air Force has only sufficient stocks for a 20 minute smoke screen for Bremen. Quartermaster General intends to instruct Naval Command North to help out, unofficially if necessary.

Commander in Chief, Navy wishes requests to be submitted after he has personally cleared up the question of smoke screens with the Chief, Armed Forces High Command.

c. Several trains, loaded with coal, arrived in the West Area, destined for the west coast, but whether they will reach their destination is not yet certain.

V. Chief, Naval Communications Division, Naval Staff, Operations Division: reports that all teletype cables between the Reich and Paris are out of action, most probably due to sabotage.

VI. Chief, Submarine Division, Naval Staff, Operations Division reported that FOEHRE did not enter port as reported and also was not picked up by the escort group.

VII. Chief, Bureau of Naval Armanent:

a. Reichsminister Speer received full power to seize all existing stores and the right of disposal. An order to this effect will follow.

b. The withdrawal of dockyard workers from Atlantic harbors might have been without further detriment at half the numbers reported. It is hard for the Construction Department to appreciate from here how far withdrawals to the extent reported affect repairs in practice, and considers delays unavoidable.

Commander in Chief, Navy, remarked that these especially should be avoided.

2 Aug. 1944

Commander in Chief, Navy had a personal talk with Commanding General, Armed Forces, West by telephone.

VIII. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, Operations Division reported on the speech made by Churchill in the House of Commons concerning the war situation.

In a Highly Restricted Circle:

IX. Army Situation:

Western Front:

On 1 Aug. the enemy continued his attempts to break through in a southerly direction, in the area of Caumont.

His attacking spearheads reached the region of Le Beny Bocage. Under the impression of his own defensive successes east of the river Orne, the enemy brought up at least two armored divisions from there into the area of penetration at Caumont. 2nd SS Armored Corps will be brought up for a counter-attack against the enemy advance.

The 47th Armored Corps scored a defensive success between La Beny and Villedieu. Between Villedieu and the coast the enemy succeeded in putting to flight or annihilating our own small fighting groups. With strong advance formations he pushed into the open area and, with his armored spearheads, reached Laurent, Pontorson and Dol at 1800. Here 34 enemy tanks were destroyed. One enemy armored group also advanced further up to Rennes. An attack was repulsed at the northern outskirts of the town.

5 of our own divisions will not be brought up to Avranches. It will not be possible at present to ensure the cutting-off of this area as the approaching divisions will probably not be in time or sufficient strength.

The aim of the enemy attack will be to destroy the center of our Normandy defenses in the area between Orne and Vire, and then to cut off Brittany and advance on Paris.

Italian Front:

While the enemy still remained quiet in the coastal sectors, he unexpectedly continued his attacks today with weak forces only, south of Florence. Through concentrated artillery barrage the enemy suffered heavily before leaving his assembly position and his attacks failed. For several days it has been noticed that the enemy has

2 Aug. 1944

been deliberately holding back and this may mean large-scale operations in the Italian area. In the area of Anzio the enemy is carrying out landing maneuvers. In the past such actions by the enemy were followed up by actual operations, and, therefore, it can be expected that an operation of this kind will take place today or in the next few days.

#### Finland:

The existing forces on the Karelien front (29 rifle divisions, 18 tank and assault-gun-regiments) enables the enemy at any time to carry out decisive attacks.

The Finnish High Command regards the situation on the Eastern Finnish Front in the area of Tohmajaervi Lakw as very critical, as strong enemy attacks here could never be repulsed with the forces at present available. An enemy break-through from this area to the west would force us to withdraw to our old line of the winter 39/40, which is in a bad state of repair.

#### Eastern Front:

The withdrawal of Army Group Haus proceeded without incident. Our own attack in the area of Sambor-Jaslo-Reichshof only made a little ground, as our own inadequate forces were repeatedly out-flanked by the enemy. Our own pincer-attack in the San-Vistula triangle also had to be suspended. Strong enemy attacks were repulsed there: Stashov was retaken. Numerous bridgeheads across the Vistula between Radokysl and Pulawy were taken. Halfway between Pulawy and Warsaw at the point where the Pilitsa flows into the Vistula the enemy formed a bridgehead.

The enemy was comparatively quiet before Warsaw. Our own successful attacks led to the clearance of important roads northeast of Warsaw. Resistance movements began in the town. The retreat of the south wing of the 2nd Army was slowed down owing to the difficult terrain.

There was fierce fighting in the area south of Kauen, where the enemy took Pilwischken and is standing firm east of Wirballen.

Mitau was lost after heavy house-to-house fighting. North of Mitau the Aa is closed. No enemy activity at Tuckum.

After repulsing numerous attacks, on the eastern front of Army Group North our movements are proceeding according to plan. Strong enemy attacks were repulsed on the Narva front and fighting is still going on.

2 Aug. 1944

X. The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces, Operations Staff issued the following instructions:

"1. Turkey will sever relations with the Axis-powers. It is not certain if she will also enter the war against us but this is not anticipated in the near future.

All preparations for operation "Gertrud" or Turkey's entry into the war on the side of the Allies should be checked for safety's sake.

2. It must be expected that Allied demands for free passage through the Dardanelles will be complied with. For this eventuality the Navy should prepare countermeasures such as the laying of mine-barrages in the entrance to the Dardanelles and Bosphorus. Report your plans."

---

Special Items.

I. According to information from the Admiral at Fuehrer Headquarters, it is the intention of the Fuehrer to use the 13 fighter groups now in formation not singly but combined in a surprise action on a focal point. Readiness for action is to be expected as from 20 Aug. The political situation in Finland is still not clear. According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the final incentive for the resignation of Ryti was the retreat of the 122nd Infantry Division.

It is intended to send a senior Army officer to support Mannerheim on 3 Aug. In Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary the political situation has become more unstable.

Countermeasures are under consideration. With reference to the withdrawal of the 122nd Infantry Division from Finland and the beginning of withdrawal from Bulgarian harbors by the Navy, the Minister of Foreign Affairs asked the Fuehrer to instruct the Armed Forces High Command as well as sections of the Armed Forces that the Minister of Foreign Affairs be informed regarding military measures in pro-Axis countries before these are carried out, even if there is a Fuehrer's decision on them.

The Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters again reported to the Chief of Armed Forces Operations Staff that the Navy is not at present ready for Operation "Tanne" as the troops scheduled to take part are operating on land.

2 Aug. 1944

II. Group West reported Commanding General, Armed Forces, West had requested the release of more light naval artillery detachments from the Atlantic Isles for use on the fighting front. Two proposals were submitted by Group West to Commanding General, Armed Forces, West for decision by the Armed Forces High Command.

Proposal 1:

Such withdrawal of forces that the infantry-defense of the Islands to some extent assured. Number of forces to be released thereby 1900 men.

Proposal 2:

Withdrawal of all mobile parts of light naval artillery detachments so that only such units are left on the Islands as must serve as crews of immobile batteries and guns. In proposal 2, infantry-defense will no longer be assured, but the islands will still be at least as strongly protected as is the coast of the continent with the sparse army protection at present. In proposal 2, 3,600 men will be available. In the proposals the numbers of the units remaining on the Islands have been included. An examination of the question as to how far the light naval artillery detachments to be withdrawn can be attained by further combing-out of dockyards revealed that no further workers over and above the numbers at the disposal of fortress commandants can be released, if the tasks assigned to dockyards up to now are maintained. The Army will investigate if, instead of this, the replacement of the garrison on the Islands will, to a small extent, be possible with Alarm Units from the Army.

IV. High Command, Air, Operations Staff, instructed Naval Staff, Operations Division, by copy of the following directions to the 1st Air Force:

1. "The 1st Air Force will give fighter protection to our naval forces engaged in strengthening and supplementing the "Seeigel" minefields in the Gulf of Finland.

2. Enemy minesweeper formations engaged in clearing the minefields should be annihilated by using sufficiently strong forces armed with bombs and machine guns. It should be investigated if the use of small calibre splinter bombs would be effective, in particular SD 4 HL. It is essential to prevent the enemy breaking through our minefields. The attacks are to be carried out in cooperation with I./SG 5, which is being transferred to the south Finnish area, according to the instructions issued as soon as this group has arrived there.

2 Aug. 1944

V. Group South's plan to transfer the 21st PT Boat Flotilla after conclusion of overhaul in Salamis, into the area of western Greece and to put it under the command of the Commander PT Boats, has been superseded by a new plan, to transfer the PT boats from the Adriatic into the Aegean.

Letter from Group South see 1/Skl 2314/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIC.

VI. Record of Conference with Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament on 1 Aug. with regard to submarine lighter, see 1/Skl IIIa 23900/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part B, Vol. V.

In a subsequent discussion the question as to which vessels can still be completed at dockyards in the east in the present situation, was dealt with. The result of the discussion was that construction on all craft due for completion in 1945, is to be suspended in favor of earlier constructions, with the exception of submarines.

As a result the Chief, Naval Armaments issued the following instructions: Commander in Chief, Navy has increased ship-building requirements for dockyards in the east as follows:

All ships nearing completion and also those under repair to be got ready to put to sea as quickly as possible, even so that they can be towed if necessary, at the expense of constructions with completion dates in 1945. Submarine construction and submarine repairs remain unrestricted.

VII. At noon on the 2 Aug. representatives of the Bulgarian War Ministry appeared at Group South and demanded the return of Bulgarian merchant ships, which had been placed at the disposal of the German Navy. As justification for this a law was quoted, supposed to have been made on 1 Aug., according to which all Bulgarian merchant ships were to be transferred to the Black Sea for transportation of wheat. In practice it is a matter of two ships for Aegean supplies, of which one is at present in the Aegean and the other in the Black Sea. Group South expressed its surprise that these measures were taken at a time when ships were urgently needed by the German Navy. The wheat-transport in the Black Sea could be taken over without difficulty by German ships, of which there are sufficient numbers. The exchange of Bulgarian ships for German ships of the same value was also quite possible.

Naval Staff, Operations Division informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters and the Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy.

2 Aug. 1944

VIII. The request of Admiral, Small Battle Units to the German Naval Command, Italy shows that completion of the transport submarines GRONGO MORENA, and SPARIDE will be delayed by at least four to six months; crews are provided for end of June. For details see Teleprint 0320.

Situation 2 Aug.

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

No observations were made of the invasion fleet on the night of 1 Aug., visibility being 4 to 6 miles. Single unknown or enemy targets on a line with Blankenberghe and Ostende, as well as west of Gris Nez and north-northwest of Berre were located in the Channel.

Single enemy targets were at sea in the area east of Guernsey up to north of Jersey as well as north-east of Paimpol. More single enemy targets were detected 6 miles northwest of Beele Isle and 6 miles southwest of La Baule.

Photographs taken at 2330 on the night of 1 Aug. of the Cherbourg harbor could not be evaluated in detail as they were incorrectly focussed.

In addition to the visual reconnaissance of 28 July the following facts were established: In the extreme western part of the outer roads there are only 2 tank landing craft, and in the extreme eastern part no connections of ships were noticeable. The harbor basin in the arsenal area was devoid of vessels.

Three groups of ships were at anchor, one of which was in the inner roads and two in the outer roads. Group West considers that unloading was probably being carried out by small vessels from ships at anchor. According to radio monitoring a LCG was sunk in the Seine Bay on 1 Aug. probably after striking a mine.

During the day 2 convoys each for Utah and Omaha were detected. In the area of the 19 Group 52 planes were detected in action. 2 British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

During the night of 1 Aug. planes were observed off Brest dropping a number of mines. 3 mines were swept off Brest on 2 Aug., 1 submarine was escorted on outward passage.

2 Aug. 1944

The town and harbor of Nantes were raided by 50 enemy planes between 1622 and 1645. A fire was started on board the steamer RIEDEMANN. Group West informed the Naval Staff of instructions to Commander, PT Boats in which the preparations for PT boat bases in Bordeaux and La Pallice and PT boat operational points in Bayonne and Arcachon as ordered in March were to be cancelled on account of the present situation. Group West did not object to the continuation of preparations without material and personnel expenditure as long as no guards were required.

The Channel Area:

On account of poor visibility on the night of 1 Aug. the operation by the PT Boat Flotilla based on Le Havre was cancelled. The transfer of the 1st Group of the 6th PT Boat Flotilla from Dieppe to Le Havre was carried out.

On the evening of 1 Aug. 40 enemy planes raided oil storages and tanks at St. Malo. At 2300 the demolition charges which were installed in the pier of the fishing harbor at Dieppe for the purpose of blowing up the harbor if necessary exploded; damage was slight.

Probably no sabotage in question. Patrol boat VP "1539" was badly damaged.

6 officers and 120 men arrived at St. Malo from the command of Port Commander Granville. A vessel of 300 BRT was escorted in the Channel Islands traffic.

The Small Battle Units Command transferred the 201st Flotilla into the jumping-off area.

The 24th Minesweeper Flotilla sent boats to Rance to block the threatened southern sectors. No contact with the enemy reported up to now. Port Commander Malo transmitted a report from the fortress commander according to which 50 enemy tanks reached Bois Domesnil at 1345 and the enemy was attacking Dinant with weak forces.

On the night of 2 Aug. operations by small battle units were planned in the Seine Bay.

2 Aug. 1944

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

Convoy and escort duty was carried out according to plan. In the mouth of the Weser and north of Juist 3 mines were cleared, and 2 coastal mines type A barrages with 82 and 182 mines respectively were laid off Voorne. A harbor defense vessel sank after hitting a mine off the mouth of the Elbe. Patrol boat VP "1300" was damaged off the Hook and towed in after a mine had exploded close to.

---

Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

14 planes belonging to 18 Group were detected on operations. Radio monitoring intercepted unusually brisk and urgent traffic between England and Archangel.

Radio interception stations of Commander in Chief, Air picked up for the first time on 1 Aug. 2 flying boats in communication with Archangel and Murmansk while en route from America to Russia with intermediate landing in Iceland.

On the afternoon of 31 July our air reconnaissance detected 2 merchantmen and 2 seaplanes in the harbor of Belushya-Guba. Reconnaissance was incomplete.

Own Situation:

Battery Kyberg shelled 2 enemy motor torpedo boats on 31 July at 1820.

At 2104 on 1 Aug. units of the 21st Motor Minesweeper Flotilla made contact with 2 enemy PT boats 110 miles south of Bardoe without results.

A submarine alarm was reported on the evening of 1 Aug. east of Skudesnes. Anti-submarine activities are in progress. 2 Mosquitoes attacked one of our convoys off Egersund at 1331 on 2 Aug. One plane was shot down.

21 ships were escorted to the north and 23 ships to the south. Admiral, North Norwegian Coast reported that patrol boats VP "5713", V "5901" and "5907" will sail from Aalesund or Trondheim on 3 Aug. at 1800 bound for the Gulf of Finland.

2 Aug. 1944

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

Enemy Situation:

According to a Finnish report there were 5 vessels 13 miles north of Narvi at 2400 on 1 Aug.

A formation of 35 small vessels and nine naval landing craft was sighted lying at anchor in AO 3743 at 0400 on 2 Aug. The same formation, split up into 2 groups was detected at 0925 in the same area on varying courses.

Our Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Nothing special was reported.

West and Central Baltic:

One mine was swept in Kiel Bay. The inner and outer estuary of Kiel is now open to traffic. The PRINZ EUGEN was escorted amongst others.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

Kaspervik was raided at 0500 by 40 enemy planes with bombs and machine guns.

Minesweeper M "1309" was damaged. Minesweeper M "3144" was sunk in the harbor of Vergi. Both boats reported slight casualties.

Four naval landing craft were attacked in the entrance to Loksa Bay at 1559 by enemy planes, but without effect. 20 planes with fighters attacked one of our units at 1738 in AO 3563.

F "258" was slightly damaged. One attacking plane was shot down and one was set on fire.

Enemy planes also raided the harbor of Kotka on the afternoon as well as ships lying at anchor. Our own air force attacked enemy minesweeping vessels in Narva Bay. One minesweeper was sunk and several set on fire.

Riga was attacked by enemy planes on the night of 1 Aug. Naval installations were not damaged.

2 Aug. 1944

At present only 12 boats of the Narva Patrol are in fighting trim compared with 37 at the beginning of July.

Three mines were swept west of Tallinn.

138 KMA\* mines were laid east of Valaste. PT boats S"120", "85", "160" left Libau at midnight for the Gulf of Finland. Transfer of the 6th Torpedo Boat Flotilla with T"22", "23" and "32" from Pillau to the Gulf of Finland commenced in the evening. Three hours' readiness was ordered for the 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla. Troop transports and escorts were carried out according to plan. The hospital ship BERLIN docked at noon in Danzig with 3,200 wounded.

On the morning of 1 Aug. 30 planes raided Kastre on Lake Peipus where the ammunition dump exploded. Two enemy planes crashed.

On the Army front the enemy was reported in the area of Schaulen-Mitau. In the area of Memel and Tilsit there are only single weak armoured scout parties. Pukti is under steady enemy fire. Attacks on the Tannenberg position were repulsed. The area west of Schloch from Kemmern to the north was reported free of the enemy. A weak enemy formation was repulsed by Battle Group Maeder halfway between Schaulen and Libau. Heavy fighting is going on east of Mitau. The annihilation of enemy units north of the Lielupe river is progressing. Our own attack north and northeast of Birsen made progress. The new boundary between Army Group North and Army Group Central runs approximately from Engure on the Gulf of Riga via Tukum northeast of Schaulen and Schedder to the east. The Naval Command, East, transmitted a report, concerning the Central East Coast, according to which the situation at Corps Headquarters Rothkirch is viewed as being serious, less on account of the enemy situation than on account of our own forces. Both divisions of Corps Rothkirch are still being built up, and have already been partially withdrawn. Direct protection for Memel can only be offered for the time being by the Navy. The evacuation of women and children by way of precaution is therefore understandable and necessary. It is in the interests of the Navy to carry it out as quickly as possible so as not to disturb operation "Weissdorn".

Further, Naval Command, East, transmitted the operational report of Operations Detachment, East dated 30 July. The 1st and 3rd Company of this unit have repulsed repeated enemy attacks. The troops allowed the attacking enemy which amounted to 12 companies, to advance up to hand grenade range at 1230 and then annihilated them completely without themselves sustaining casualties. On account of heavy losses through operations by enemy bomber and ground attacking planes, the unit's sector was shortened. The 3rd Company which only has a fighting strength of 25 men left, was withdrawn as assault-reserve.

2 Aug. 1944

IV. Submarine Warfare:

Submarine U"309" returned from the Channel operational area and reported the sinking of 14,000 BRT and torpedoing of a further 6,100 BRT in the landing area. "FOEHRE" again did not arrive at the rendezvous. In Northern Waters Group GrEIF was formed out of four submarines. Submarine U"394" fired a "Zaunkönig" which missed on a Norwegian submarine in AB 9158.

---

V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

During the day the enemy concentrated on the occupied western area with operations by more than 3,000 planes of which 1,000 fighters carried out raids in the area of Arras, Amiens, Aumale and 2,100 in the area west of the Seine up to Paris, Tours, and Nantes.

400 fighters, coming from the southern Italy area, penetrated southern France south of Valence and attacked railway installations. A smaller unit attacked traffic installations in the area of Avignon. On the night of 2 Aug. there was only slight enemy penetration. 199 of our own fighters and heavy fighters carried out low level strafing attacks on roads with projectors and machine guns in the area of Rennes-Avranches. 185 of our own planes operated against ground targets on the bridgehead and nine against shipping targets in the mouth of the Orne on the night of 2 Aug.

Reich Territory:

During the day brisk reconnaissance activity was reported from the west and north area of the Reich.

Mediterranean Theater:

On 1 Aug. 570 enemy planes were engaged in raiding traffic targets and airfields behind the front, concentrating on Florence and the valley of the Po. Four enemy planes were shot down by anti-aircraft artillery fire. A formation of 60 twin-engined planes attacked railway bridges in the area south of Turin and north of Genoa.

During the night of 1 Aug. 47 planes were reported supplying partisans in the Balkans area, 20 harassing planes in the upper Italian area and 10 night fighters in the western Italian front area as far as Corsica.

2 Aug. 1944

21 Ju 87's carried out low level attacks on roads in the area of Pontederra - Arezzo.

Reconnaissance duties were carried out by our planes on 2 Aug.

Eastern Front:

1,141 of our own and 1,488 enemy planes were reported from the eastern front on 1 Aug. with 22 enemy planes shot down and 14 lost by us. Road-bridges and the passage area south of Kauen were attacked by 98 of our bombers during the night of 1 Aug. Lively enemy air activity was reported on 2 Aug. over East Prussia. Attacks with machine guns were carried out by 70 fighter bombers and fighters in all. In the course of these, 2 Ju 52's were destroyed and one was damaged on the airfield at Insterburg.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

Area of Naval Group West:

Enemy Situation:

At 0720 a convoy, probably KMS 58 was detected off Cape Spartel, consisting of 19 freighters and 10 escort vessels on course for the Mediterranean. At noon Tarifa reported the same formation consisting of 16 freighters, 4 tankers, 2 light cruisers and 6 corvettes. At 0800 1 auxiliary carrier left Gibraltar eastward bound.

Own Situation:

An enemy air raid on Varbruecken near Nice left the railway bridge undamaged. The wooden bridge is impassable. The naval commissary depot at Bourguin was attacked by terrorists. A minefield was laid south of the mouth of the Rhone.

Seven vessels totalling 9,200 BRT were escorted off the south coast of France.

Area of German Naval Command, Italy.

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance detected a convoy of 3 tankers, 24 freighters and 3 escort vessels, steering course 310°, at 0828 about 150 miles southeast of Malta.

2 Aug. 1944

On the evening of 1 Aug. 1 transport, 5 freighters and what were presumably 3 destroyers were sighted on the northwest coast of Sardinia, 48 miles northwest of Porto Torres, steering course north.

A patrol boat steering south and 1 steering north were detected on 2 Aug. at 0610 between Elba and Piombino. There were patrol boats 5 miles west of Leghorn. There were 7 freighters or task landing craft in the Leghorn roads. On the evening of 2 Aug. a submerged submarine was reported south of Sestri Levante.

Since the beginning of June there has been an increase of aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean, so that it is estimated that the number has risen to 2 carriers and 11 auxiliary aircraft carriers. Of these the following were observed: 9 auxiliary carriers in Gibraltar on 30 July, 3 auxiliary carriers in Alexandria on 31 July and 2 further auxiliary carriers which lay in Mers el Kebir on 11 July are also suspected to be in the western Mediterranean. According to a report from reliable quarters the 2 carriers which were last seen on 22 June in the eastern Mediterranean have most probably sailed for the Indian Ocean. The location of 3 auxiliary carriers is unknown.

Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, Operations Division, is of the opinion that the obvious splitting-up of aircraft carriers over the western and eastern Mediterranean confirms their previous assessment of enemy intentions and emphasizes plans for enemy operations in the eastern Mediterranean as well in conjunction with a development of the situation in Turkey.

Own Situation:

The battery at San Remo was attacked by enemy planes on 1 Aug. One plane was shot down. In the afternoon Imperia was attacked and one block-ship was damaged. A heavy air raid was reported on Genoa on the afternoon of 2 Aug., serious damage being caused. According to reports up to now the steamers LEZARDRIEUX, ANGELA, FERRARA, 1 tank barge, 4 freight barges and 2 coastal sailing vessels were sunk, the steamer EMBERTA was burned out and 2 war transports, 3 freight barges and 1 coastal sailing vessel were damaged. Ammunition, fuel and several cranes were destroyed.

During the night of 1 Aug. 2 assault boats advanced to 20 miles south of Leghorn. The boats discerned a wreck 4 miles west and a mast head with flag 5 miles west-southwest of Livorno. Hits by mines are not improbable.

2 Aug. 1944

Area of Naval Group South:a. Adriatic Sea:Enemy Situation:

According to photographic reconnaissance in the forenoon, 1 minelayer, 1 escort vessel, 19 small war vessels, 4 submarines, 13 landing craft, 48 auxiliary landing boats, 1 tanker, 22 freighters, 2 special ships and 90 boats were lying in Brindisi. Two destroyers were proceeding on an easterly course, 30 miles east of Brindisi.

Own Situation:

Minelaying south of Venice was continued by one harbor defense vessel. 10 mines type A were laid southeast of Rimini.

On the night of 2 Aug. it is planned to carry out minelaying operation "Paula 1-3" off Pesaro with 2 torpedo boats of foreign construction.

Apparently weak enemy forces were landed on the eastern part of Korcula at 0630. Two destroyers, 2 landing craft and other vessels were observed off the south coast at 0015. Apparently 8 guns were unloaded. A convoy of 19 vessels was reported off the coast at 1100 which after carrying out landing operations sailed on to Lagosta. Aerial reconnaissance at noon observed no movements or fighting in the eastern part of Korcula or in the western part of Peljesac.

b. Aegean:

Report Center, Near East of the Reich Security Head Office reports: Attitude of Turkey indicates that military events are expected in connection with the breaking-off of diplomatic relations. Whether as a German reaction to the break or in connection with British attacks on the Dodecanese is not clear. Greatest alertness is necessary, especially in the Aegean, as strong concentrations of troops were observed in the vicinity of Alexandria at the end of July, but there was no embarkation. Six probably large and 3 small vessels were lying in the harbors of Bodrum (northeast of Coos) according to aerial reconnaissance. Group South informed the Naval Staff of instructions to the Admiral in Command, Adriatic and Admiral in Command, Aegean regarding operations by the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla in the Aegean which may be necessary at any moment in view of the development in the situation. A break-through by the Flotilla through the Otranto Straits has little prospect of success before 11 Aug. on account of the full-moon period and will therefore only be considered as a last resort. Operations by the 3rd PT Boat

2 Aug. 1944

Flotilla and by the 1st PT Boat Flotilla at present remaining in the Aegean will be carried out under the command of the Senior Officer, 1st PT Boat Division who will come under the Admiral, Aegean. Besides Leros, only the islands and inlets to the north, with good possibilities of camouflage can be considered as , jumping-off places.

Admiral in Command, Adriatic reports in connection with this, that the situation in South Dalmatia, especially in Korcula, is regarded as serious so that operations by the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla cannot be broken off in this area.

In the last naval action the 7th PT Boat Flotilla again proved to be inferior, in spite of gallant leadership, on account of lack of speed. The 24th PT Boat Flotilla is still untested. The 22nd PT Boat Flotilla is for the present not yet ready for operations so that its value is certainly limited.

Admiral in Command, Adriatic urgently requests that this plan be cancelled.

c. Black Sea:

Four motor minesweepers left Constanta for the Bosphorus at 2300 to pick up the JOHANNA.

Otherwise nothing to report.

VII. Mine Situation on the Danube:

No minelaying or mine hits were reported. No mines were swept.

VIII. Situation East Asia.

Nothing to report.

\*\*\*\*\*

3 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

Nothing to report.

---

Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy at 1125.

I. Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division.

Commanding General Armed Forces, West has ordered:

"Our forces of all three services engaged in Brittany under the command of Artillery General Fahrtenbacher, received orders to prevent the enemy from advancing towards the fortresses. They are not to retreat on the fortresses unless faced with superior pressure. The fortresses must be held."

II. Naval Staff, Operations Division, International Law and Prizes Section reports on international law as it effects the Turkish straits. Further a report was made about the Finnish steamer SAVONIA, retained in Trelleborg on her way to Stettin with army supplies. Ministry of Foreign Affairs is taking action. More particulars in War Diary, Part C, Vol. VIII.

III. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

Chief of the Army General Staff has objected to the supplying of Army Group North by sea. Only 3 ships put out on 1 Aug. Further ships had stopped the urgent job of loading fuel during an air alarm in Königsberg. According to Quartermaster General, Naval Staff, Operations Division these reports are not correct. The Chief, Army General Staff has been either insufficiently or wrongly informed.

The Commander in Chief, Navy ordered a telegram to be sent to General Guderian personally, giving him the truth of the matter.

A telegram was sent, 1/Skl 29465/44 geh., with the personal signature of the Commander in Chief. Therein it was stated:

"The plans for Army Group North were known here until the morning of 26 July. Already on the 28 and 29 July 9,220 tons of shipping space, and on 30 July and 1 Aug. a further 20,410 tons, a total, therefore, of 29,630 tons, lay ready in the harbors. There was always sufficient shipping space at hand. The harbors were also able to deal with the amount of cargo arriving at any time, in fact, they could have handled more. The Reich Commissioner of Maritime

3 Aug. 1944

Shipping should be highly recommended for his achievement in having the shipping space available at such short notice. Attention is drawn to the fact that an estimate of 5,200 tons leaving German ports daily for the east cannot be reckoned on, as the ships employed are mostly of the 2 and 3,000 tons size and had to be fully loaded to make the most of them. Therefore the 156,000 tons demanded are shipped each month to the Baltic countries, but not actually 5,200 tons a day. The alleged shortage of labor in Königsberg cannot be blamed, as no important supplies sail from here to the east. Further, attention is drawn to the fact that productive power may be increased considerably if labor is conscripted as requested by the Navy in the following ports: Riga - 2,400 workers, Tallinn - 1,000, Baltisch Port - 500 and Pernau - 200. In about 3 days' time, the harbors of the Baltic countries will have to absorb considerable quantities of supplies and therefore it is necessary to clear the harbors in good time and acquire the extra workers. To sum up, I notice that the Chief, Army General Staff was apparently never properly informed of the true position and the steps required in connection with sea transport and that he never received the proper support. I noticed the same thing in the telegram dated 30 July, the contents of which is not entirely correct. The tanker could not sail as the fuel was not available. The airforce administrative area's order to cast off in case of an alarm made no difference. After all the ship did not leave her berth. I consider that reports of this kind should be seen by all quarters concerned and checked for their accuracy."

The Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters has also been informed.

IV. Chief, Naval Communications Division, Naval Staff, Operations Division: reported that the breakdown in the teletype network with France has been repaired.

V. Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament received a letter from Reich Minister Speer concerning fuel from which it is understood that the minister considers the naval position in this respect is very unfavorable.

The Commander in Chief, Navy ordered that in the answer it should be clearly stated just how much the new submarine campaign depends on the adequate assignment of fuel.

VI. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, Operations Division: Report on extracts from Churchill's speech made on 2 Aug. At the beginning Churchill declared he had the impression that the space of time between the end of the war in Europe and that in Asia would be shorter than he had hitherto believed. The British fleet would be strengthened considerably. The invasion, the date of which

3 Aug. 1944

was arranged at Teheran, could not have been carried out earlier, as the Allies were short of experience and war materiel. The operations in Italy would also be continued through the autumn.

The treaty with Russia might prove to be one of the surest factors for the preservation of world peace and order. The Prime Minister gave a detailed account of the effect of V1-bombs, 5,340 of which dropped in southern England, causing 4,735 people killed, 14,000 people injured, 17,000 houses destroyed and 800,000 houses damaged. Detailed extract appeared in foreign press report, No. 216/44.

According to the report from a reliable agent through the Central Security Police Office the choice of Mannerheim as President of State indicated the decision of the Finnish state-leaders and parties, to make a serious attempt to come to a peace settlement with Russia. Finns will declare that Germany did not keep the promises made by the Foreign Minister. According to Swedish interpretation the Russian peace terms are not much more severe than those which were lately negotiated.

Further statements say that the decision on future Finnish policy depends entirely on the fact whether Estonia or a strong bridgehead opposite South Finland can be held by German troops for a long period. The decision about the continuation of the war which is expected this week, will not depend so much on the government or parties as on the view of the Finnish High Command.

In a Highly Restricted Circle.

VII. Preparations for operation "Gertrud" have been arranged by Group South in agreement with the 4th Air Force and are running in conformity with developments.

Plans for key-word "Fliegenpilz" are as follows:

a. Dardanelles:

1. DRACHE and ZEUS to lay on 2 successive nights 39 minefield sectors in 8 lines one behind the other generally running from north-northwest to south-southeast in the area southwest tip of Imbros-Rabbit Islands, west tip of Tenedos, southwest tip of Imbros; also 9 minefield sectors in zigzag in 4 lines one behind the other in the area northeast tip of Tenedos, Rabbit Islands, coast of Anatolia, and 20 single minefield sectors in 5 lines one behind the other in the area between southeast and northeast tip of Imbros and Gallipoli. For this purpose 886 EMF (electric mines F) were intended to be laid at minus 16m with a space of 200 m between each mine and 110 RMH (regular mine H). The laying will be completed from the inside of the mouth of the Dardanelles to the outside.

3 Aug. 1944

2. Inside an arc of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles radius round Cap Helles as well as east of this, air mines will be employed.

b. Bosphorus:

1. Inner belt: 6 PT boats and 4 motor minesweepers will lay 5 minefield sectors with RMA (regular mine A) and LMF (air-mine F) (according to depth) in a line 0,3 miles north of and parallel with the line of communication beacon Anatoli and Stumili and north of it.

2. Outer belt: north of 4115 north 3 minefield sectors to be laid of 100 EMC (electric mine C) each in double rows by MURGESCU, 2 motor minesweepers and 8 minelaying naval landing craft.

3. South Bosphorus outlet, minelaying by air.

The mining materiel needed for the Dardanelles is already available, for the Bosphorus only partly available in the Rumanian area. The remainder of the mines left Germany at the end of June but have not yet arrived. Rumania has agreed to the employment of minelayer MURGESCU with destroyers.

Special attention is drawn to the fact that the moment when enemy war ships will pass through the Dardanelles cannot be accurately predicted. Therefore the laying of mines as a preventive measure cannot be calculated with any certainty, or else the mines will have to be laid independent of enemy measures which would mean a commencement of hostilities from the German side. This step is not recommended by Naval Staff. The Commander in Chief, Navy agreed. Corresponding telegram was sent to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Division and for information to Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters and High Command Air, Operations Division. Copies according to 1/Skl I m 2334/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV a.

VIII. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The 2nd British Army made several detaining attacks in the Caen area. In the Caumont penetration area the enemy continued his attacks, making small territorial gains. We succeeded in blocking the advancing enemy with 2 freshly brought up tank divisions.

Vire will be held. Further west American troops advanced 20 kilometers deep to the southeast via Villedieu where heavy tank fighting developed. The enemy is advancing in strong columns from the area of Avranches to Dinan, Rennes and Fougères.

3 Aug. 1944

Several attacks by an American tank division were repelled at Rennes. More enemy forces were advancing in Brittany. The XXV Army Corps has received orders to stop the advance of the enemy in Brittany employing units of all 3 branches of the armed forces.

It must be expected that the 2nd British Army will strive to push forward in easterly direction concentrating on Vire and with the intention of separating Tank Group West from the 7th Army. The 1st American Army seems to be concentrating on an advance in a south-easterly direction with the intention of cutting-off Brittany.

Italian Front:

The enemy continued his heavy attacks in the area of Florence. In exemplary and heroic counterattacks the point of penetration was eliminated apart from 1 or 2 unimportant pockets. On one base alone the enemy used 18,000 shells as preparatory fire. A breakthrough to Florence was again frustrated by the exemplary fighting of the tank-grenadiers and parachutists.

In the area of the 10th Army the enemy only carried out reconnaissance and scouting patrols which were all repulsed before reaching our main line of defense.

Eastern Front:

Our own attack aimed at clearing the Beskiden road; annihilating the enemy in the area of Suzki made progress. Several attacks against the eastern front of Army Group Raus were repulsed and the front was withdrawn further west to release our own forces.

Strong enemy attacks were smashed in the Sambor area. While the Russians were protecting the area Sambor - Reichenhof with one armored corps and 2 fast corps, they were advancing with 2 armored armies on to the Vistula above Sandomir. Our forces are countering this movement with good results west of Reichenhof in northerly direction.

The enemy consolidated several bridgeheads across the Vistula between Sandomir and Demblin. Numerous crossings were frustrated at other places.

The enemy crossed the Vistula south of Warsaw at the mouth of the Pilica.

Heavy fighting was continued in Warsaw against the rebels.

3 Aug. 1944

At the front east of Warsaw we carried out an attack with the intention of cutting off some enemy armored corps. The enemy is concentrating on Augustowo. A breakthrough was prevented after very heavy fighting. Very heavy fighting is going on in the area of Mariampole and Kalwarya. The enemy is trying to break through here in direction of Gumbinnen with an army and several armored corps. The breakthrough on the East Prussian protective line was held after hard and expensive fighting. Heavy fighting is going on north of Kauen.

At Army Group North the Russians gained one bridgehead east of Mitau, beyond the Aa. In the area of Birsen, the 2 German corps fighting there occupied important ground in a bold attack and went over to the defensive with the object of conserving forces for the re-establishment of the position at Mitau and for clearing up the point of penetration at Bauske. Surrounded enemy forces tried in vain to break out.

Between Lievenhof and Schwanenburg changeable fighting occurred which forced us to withdraw our front. Enemy attacks carried out by 5 divisions succeeded in tearing a small opening into our Narva front after being beaten back several times. Counterattacks are in progress.

---

Special Items.

I. Naval Staff, Operations Division, Submarine Division informed Naval Staff, Operations Division of orders to Group West, Commander Submarines, West and Commanding Admiral, Submarines concerning measures in the Biscay ports as follows:

"1. Submarine warfare is still the main task of the submarine weapon. Everything must be subordinated to this.

2. Get all submarines ready for action in Bordeaux and La Pallice and those boats in St. Nazaire, Lorient and Brest which can be ready for action by 5 Sept. Remaining boats prepare for removal or destruction and make report. If the situation on land grows more critical, more drastic measures may be necessary.

3. Decision concerning the withdrawal of submarine crews belonging to boats which will not be ready for action in St. Nazaire, Lorient and Brest by 5 Sep. after these boats have reported.

4. The withdrawal of further submarine personnel is not intended just now."

3 Aug. 1944

Copies according to 1/Skl 2322/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol: IV.

II. The Naval Staff, Operations Division addressed the following questions to Group West after further consideration:

"1. a. Which of the large ports on the French Atlantic and South coast could be destroyed so effectively that possession of them would not enable the enemy to land any supplies there worth mentioning? (Example: St. Nazaire harbor, which would be dry and, therefore, useless after destruction of the locks).

b. Which large ports could not be totally destroyed on account of their structure (perhaps natural berths or length of several kilometers) or which offer by nature the essentials for landings on a large scale which cannot be removed?

2. Which harbors must, therefore, be held as fortresses to deprive the enemy of their possession and efficient means of unloading?"

In reply, Group West reported:

"Conditions as mentioned above do not apply to any important harbor on the Atlantic or South coast.

In detail:

1. Brest and Lorient. Natural harbors which will permit disembarkation on a large scale at several points after the destruction of discharging installations.

2. St. Nazaire. In spite of total destruction there will be possibilities of unloading over several kilometers in and below Nantes, where installations can not be fully destroyed if the fortress is abandoned.

3. La Pallice. Good possibilities of discharging on the beach from protected roads, even if harbor is destroyed.

4. Bordeaux. There are possibilities of unloading over a stretch of kilometers, the total destruction of which is impossible. Also a large number of unloading possibilities from Gironde.

5. Marseille. Total destruction of the harbor to last for any length of time is not possible on account of dimensions of same. Toulon is a natural harbor. Total destruction of port installations in Toulon, Port Vendres and Sete will not interfere in any decisive

3 Aug. 1944

way with unloadings on a large scale, as there are especially well situated inlets and beaches along the whole coast of the Mediterranean between Toulon and Port Vendres.

III. Reference Situation in the Eastern Baltic:

1. Naval Command, East reported that the hospital ships at present available will not be adequate and more ships are absolutely necessary for transportation of wounded in case of large scale operations or period of tension before operation "Birke".

2. With reference to orders from the Operational Staff dated 28 July for operation "Tanne", (War Diary 28 July, Discussion on Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy, cipher VIII.), the following was reported to Armed Forces High Command:

a. Provision of other forces for the "Tanne-Ost" operation is at the time not possible, either from the area of Admiral in Command, Eastern Baltic, or from the German front.

b. At the same time it was reported that the operation "Tanne-West" could also only be carried out to a restricted degree at present, as the forces held in readiness at Tallinn were also at the disposal of Army Group North. Apart from the naval forces, there are at the time being only 3 coastal batteries and naval fitting-out depots which have been shifted from Norway into the Danzig-Gdynia area.

c. The units mentioned in paragraph 2 are: Naval Shore Commander, 2 Port Commanders, 4 Harbor Guards, Naval Artillery Formation 629, Naval Communication Officer, Ordnance Command and Administration and Supply-Depot Office."

IV. The Admiral, Black Sea reported the number of naval casualties in the Crimea up to 1 Aug.: killed in action 416, wounded 866, missing 1081, - altogether 2,363, which is the same as 28.5% of the total strength employed. Up to 1 Aug., 1,120 scattered soldiers on furlough have been accounted for and arrived at their units which is the same as 13.5% of the strength employed.

V. Group South reported that the Admiral in Command, Adriatic believed Trieste unsuited as new garrison and suggested Laibach. According to information received, Laibach is very unsuitable. Group South therefore, issued orders for transfer from Abbazia to Trieste.

3 Aug. 1944

VI. The Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North drew up and presented a survey of the waning strength and casualties in the units under his command during the period 1 June to 25 July. Copy of survey as per l/Skl 24105 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

VII. Armed Forces High Command, National Socialistic Operational Staff has passed on a telegram from the Leader of the Reich Chancellery to all Reich Leaders or District Leaders for information, according to which the Fuehrer wished that nobody shall forget himself so far as to attack or insult the officers corps, the generals, the nobility or armed forces "in corpore" when talking in reference to the events of 20 July.

Copy as per l/Skl 29569/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part B, Vol.V.

---

Situation 3 Aug. 1944.

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

48 planes belonging to 19 Group were intercepted in action. 3 British and 1 American vessel were located in the rendezvous area. 4 convoys were located by radio monitoring in the landing area of which 3 sailed for Omaha and 1 for Utah. Radio monitoring reported further messages concerning counter action against our own small-battle-units. During the night hours enemy targets were located in the Channel off Dunkirk Fecamp and in the area of Antifer and Les Sept Isles.

Photographic reconnaissance between Orne and Cherbourg showed a large concentration of ships and landing craft representing more than 1 million BRT. One cruiser and destroyer and about 90 PT boats and patrol vessels were the only warships recognized.

Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

The steamer REIDEMANN which was set on fire on 2 Aug. in Nantes, has sunk. A minesweeper was attacked without result by enemy planes in the mouth of the Gironde on the night of 2 Aug.

4 mines were cleared off Brest.

3 Aug. 1944

Without regard to outwardbound sailing routes for submarines the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, West is of the opinion that it would be better to let submarines sail independent of set routes on different courses, as we can no longer control the sea routes in the present enemy situation. Commanding Admiral, Defenses, West considered the danger from old minefields to be very small and practically non-existent. The last moored mine was cleared in the Bay of Biscay in October 1943. The enemy will lay AT mines if at all, where, according to his information our submarines leave and enter port, which means on fixed sailing routes. The use of different sailing routes would minimize the danger of their suddenly being mined. Group West has again asked for re-examination of this question and a decision on it.

#### Channel Area:

Battery "Bastion 2" and "Oldenburg" were raided by enemy planes without effect on the evening of 2 Aug. "Grosser Kurfuerst" was machine-gunned by one plane at 2113, which was followed by anti-air raid precautions at battery "Mollier d'Aval". Only a few casualties were reported. 10 patrol positions were manned.

2 vessels were escorted by 5 patrol boats in the area of the Channel Islands. An explosion took place in the motor minesweeper bunker in Dunkirk at 2353, obviously caused by a short circuit during welding operations whereby inductive current was set up in the ignition cable of an explosive charge. The bunker collapsed to a depth of 20 meters from the waterside up to the 3rd extension seam. The workshop at the naval building center was destroyed. One harbor-tug-boat, one water-tank vessel and one mine barge sank. No mines exploded. 22 men were killed and 25 men were wounded.

Le Havre was raided by 60 to 80 enemy planes on 2 Aug. between 1855 to 1905. Serious losses in ships were caused. PT boats S "39" and "114", ferry FH "02", net tender "Planet", 1 diver barge, 1 tug-boat, 1 floating crane and minesweeper M "4430" were sunk. A boat S "79" was damaged and a boat S "91" was seriously damaged. The KONDOR received a direct hit on the fore-castle in dry dock; steamer MAAS was set on fire. The air-raid-bunker received a direct hit but survived. Further damage was done to the quay, to the lock gates of dock 5 and to a bridge.

The light anti-aircraft artillery battery 1/1255 was raided by low-flying planes on 2 Aug. at 2120 and suffered few casualties. One plane has been reported as shot down.

3 Aug. 1944

Small battle units were employed in the Seine Bay during the night of 2 Aug. The 2nd PT Boat Flotilla was employed on diversion action from Le Havre and several times made contact with 3 motor gunboats.

According to radio monitoring one motor gunboat was badly damaged; sinking is probable. According to a brief report on the action a tongue of flame and a small fire were noticed on one of the enemy boats. PT boat S "167" was damaged through a collision. PT boats S "168" and "181" were hit. All boats reported many splinter and machine gun holes.

58 "Marder". 12 "Kommandolinsen" and 20 "Ladungslinsen" were employed in the small battle unit operation. 2 destroyers, 2 corvettes, 1 freighter of 10,000 BRT and 1 freighter of 3,000 BRT were sunk by "Marder" according to the evening reports. 17 "Marder" returned, of which 10 reported either misses or no results.

1 transport, 1 freighter with lattice mast and 1 LCT were sunk by "Linsen". 10 "Kommandolinsen" returned, of which 7 reported the discharging of 1 "Ladungslinse" during the run-in as a technical failure. 7 explosions some of them with high jets of flame and large mushrooms of smoke and another succession of loud explosions were reported by 2 observation points on shore during the hours 0230 to 0600.

The various times given by radio monitoring, sinking reports as well as reports by the shore-observation will be compared with one another.

3 officers of the "Marder" Flotilla as well as 1 cadet officer, 1 NCO and 5 men announced shortly before the start that they would make contact with the enemy and completely destroy any worthwhile targets, regardless of their radius of action and question of getting back. These men did not return from the operation. The Admiral, Small Battle Units believes that a further 40-50,000 BRT were sunk besides the war-ships already reported.

Naval Staff, Operations Division made a short provisional report to the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters and to the Operations Staff, Navy. Copy as per 1/Skl 24014/44 Gkdos. in Handakte "Invasion 3/8".

3 Aug. 1944

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

2 mines were swept off Borkum and 2 off Zeebruegge. A minefield of coastal mines type "A" - K 14 was laid between Beer and Voorne consisting of 164 mines.

Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North has delivered the report for the month of July. Copy as per l/Skl 24009/44 Gkdos. in War Diary Part C, Vol.IIa. According to this 112 ground mines were swept. Enemy planes carried out 6 raids on convoys and 18 raids on warships of which 3 attacks were on a large scale. Enemy PT boats attacked our escorts twice and our warships 10 times. 30 planes were shot down. 1 PT boat was captured with the entire crew.

14 vessels of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North were lost, 6 sunk by PT boats and 8 by planes. 3 war vessels were lost through mines. 5 large merchant ships were sunk by enemy air torpedoes, 1 small tanker and 1 small steamer struck mines and sank. 1,060 freighters totalling 1,073,281 BRT have been escorted, of which only one ship was escorted in Dutch waters. Altogether 4,885 coastal mines type "A" were laid in Dutch waters and 1,419 in the Heligoland Bight.

---

Norway, Northern Waters.

Enemy Situation:

17 planes belonging to 18 Group were intercepted. According to radio monitoring Russian PT boats were at sea on the night of 3 Aug.

Own Situation:

An exchange of heavy artillery fire was reported from the Petsamo area at 0845 on 1 Aug. and weaker fire at 2046 on 2 Aug. 68 British planes were located west of Haugesund at 1800 on 3 Aug. 15 ships were escorted north and 27 ships south.

3 Aug. 1944

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

Enemy Situation:

In the Gulf of Finland radio monitoring observed 57 naval vessels in radio communication on 2 Aug. No minesweeping activity was observed in Narva Bay. 5 Russian PT Boats advanced up to 2½ miles south of Kinskeri on the night of 1 Aug. and turned away under cover of a smoke screen when fired on. Most probably it was a mining operation as the Finns found new Russian lead-hooded mines in this area on 2 Aug. Submarine "Stoeffler" was several times attacked without result on the night of 1 Aug. by enemy planes.

Own Situation:

Admiral commanding the Skagerrak:

20 vessels were employed on minesweeping duties in the Baltic Approaches.

In minefield section K 1 a minefield has been laid consisting of 160 coastal mines type "A" in a double row north of Thyboroen.

The minelaying operation "Kalahari" with the minelayers "Ostmark" and "Kaiser" under Commander, Minelayers and the Commander of the 5th Destroyer Flotilla with destroyers Z "30", GALSTER, RIEDEL, IHN and mine-exploding vessel "23" operating from Frederikshaven has so far gone according to plan.

Western and Central Baltic:

29 boats and 9 planes were engaged in minesweeping duties. The HESSEN and HIPPER were escorted among others. The following people were transferred in special transports: 5,500 were evacuated from Memel to Gdynia in steamer CELEBES, 6,000 from Memel to Danzig in steamer SUMATRA and 1,000 wounded from Neufahrwasser to Swinemuende in steamer STEUBEN. Guerilla activity was reported from the area 40 miles north and northeast of Memel. 750 people have been transported through the "Haff" to Labiau from Memel.

The situation is reported critical from the army front Mariampole area where the enemy has penetrated our line of defense. The Russians were advancing from the Schaulen area in direction of Tilsit.

3 Aug. 1944

Admiral commanding Eastern Baltic:

The minelaying formation which is to lay the minefield "Seeigel" IXb is loading mines in Baltischport. The intention is to lay the minefield with 6 naval landing craft and 8 motor minesweepers on the night of 4 Aug. and to have torpedo boats standing by as anti-aircraft protection and PT boats as a further protection in Narva Bay.

Commander 6th Destroyer Flotilla left Gdynia for the Gulf of Finland with torpedo boats T "22", "23" at 1530. Torpedo boat "32" joined them in the vicinity of Brusterort.

The 1st Transport Detachment of the 122nd Infantry Division left Hango for Tillinn at 0600. The transports were given special air cover. The convoy BALTENLAND was attacked on the evening of 1 Aug. by 10 enemy planes on Lake Peipus. 12 ground attacking planes raided Embach at about the same time. No losses have been reported. Naval artillery barge MAL "16" was lost during an air raid on 2 Aug. In an air raid carried out by 15 enemy planes, 2 submarines were badly and several slightly damaged. On the evening of 2 Aug. a raid carried out by 6 ground attacking planes at Dorpat harbor was warded off.

The Teletype network line to Tallinn via Liepaja has only been in partial working order since midday on 2 Aug.

There only seem to be enemy reconnaissance troops on the army front in the area west of Mitau as far as the Bay of Riga. Enemy attacks have been repulsed in the area of Birsen and northeast of the Dvinsk. According to a report from Admiral, Eastern Baltic the naval artillery barge MAA "531" was operating in the area of Mitau and fought a gallant action in spite of heavy casualties.

SS "obergruppenfuehrer" Steiner expressed his special satisfaction to the naval reserve unit Baltic countries and to the Naval Coastal Defenses Unit Hungerburg for steadfastness and bravery, according to a report by the Chief Adjutant of the "Reichsfuehrer" SS to the Commander in Chief, Navy.

In an additional report from the Admiral, Eastern Baltic, made at 2350, the gravity of the situation increased during the day on the fronts of the 16th and 18th Army High Command. Army Group North apparently depends on supplies of ammunition and fuel for continuation of the fight.

3 Aug. 1944

IV. Submarine Warfare.

Submarines U "745", "958" and "1001" sailed from Kiel for operations in the East. No special reports were received from other operational areas.

---

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

1950 enemy planes flew over Belgium and northwest of Paris during the daytime and attacked buildings under construction as well as the town and the air base at Creil. 1,100 enemy planes entered western France and bombed and machine-gunned anti-aircraft positions, air-bases and railway stations.

In the occupied west area only 46 enemy planes attacked searchlight positions at Tours with gunfire on the night of 3 Aug.

There are no reports yet concerning our own operations in the west area.

Reich Territory:

Single planes were reported during daytime over north, west and south Germany. A formation of 4 to 500 four-engined planes with fighter protection flew in from the south via Innsbruck to raid Friedrichshafen, where 3 plane plants, the Maybach-Motor-Factory, the Zeppelin shipyard and a cog-wheel factory were hit. The damage reported is not very heavy. A further attack was made on an air armament factory in Kempten. Railway and industrial plants in Strassburg and Saarbrücken were raided by 350 - 450 four-engined planes with fighter escort coming from the west. Further bombs were dropped on Pechelbronn and Mulhouse.

No enemy planes flew over the Reich during the night of 3 Aug.

Mediterranean Theater:

700 enemy planes were operating in the area behind the Italian front and in the valley of the Po during 2 Aug. attacking traffic targets and air bases. 35 fighter bombers prepared the enemy landing in the eastern part of Corcula. 80 four-engined planes, coming from the south Italian area, raided Genoa, concentrating on the harbor. The results of the attack have already been reported.

3 Aug. 1944

24 Italian fighter planes reported unsuccessful engagements. During the night of 2 Aug. several planes were observed carrying supplies to Corcula, 37 planes carrying supplies to the partisans in the Balkans and 10 harassing planes over northern Italy. 20 Ju "87"'s were operating in low level attacks on roads in the area of Pisa-Arezzo. One plane was lost in this operation.

Eastern Front:

During 2 Aug. 584 German and 2,108 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front. 24 enemy planes were shot down and 5 of our own were lost.

Operations carried out by the 1st Air Force are not included in the above statement on account of breakdown in the line of communication. The railway station at Wilno, as well as road traffic in the Wilno area was attacked by 84 of our own fighters on the night of 2 Aug.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

Area Naval Group West:

Enemy Situation:

One cruiser of the HOBART class arrived in Gibraltar at noon from the Atlantic.

Own Situation:

5 steamers of 3,000 BRT were escorted along the south coast of France.

Area German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

One destroyer steering northwest course was reported at 1122 by air reconnaissance about 60 miles southeast of Malta.

According to photographic reconnaissance made on the evening of 2 Aug. the following vessels were staying at Augusta: 4 tankers and 6 freighters, and at Syracuse: 6 small naval vessels, 2 mining vessels, apparently one troop transport and apparently 2 freighters. Probably one large destroyer, 4 destroyers as well as 2 escort vessels and 4 freighters were seen in Ajaccio.

3 Aug. 1944

On the morning of 3 Aug. 3 ships, most probably freighters, were observed 10 miles south of Leghorn steering southeast. 15 vessels were stationed in Piombino as usual. 2 PT boats were reported 12 miles north of Porto Ferrario steering east-northeast.

Own Situation:

In the air raid on Genoa on 2 Aug. the following vessels were sunk: 4 steamers, 1 war freighter, 1 patrol boat, 2 naval landing craft, barges and 4 motor coasters. The following were badly damaged: 1 motor minesweeper of foreign construction, 1 minesweeper, 1 war freighter and 2 barges; slightly damaged were: 1 motor minesweeper, 1 minesweeper, 1 patrol boat, 5 naval landing craft and 9 barges. Quai installations as well as mining and barrage commands were hit. Several cranes and naval signal stations were destroyed as well as service buildings damaged.

On the night of 2 Aug. a naval landing craft escort in the Bay of Genoa, a convoy putting in to Imperia and a motor minesweeper southeast of Nice were attacked by fighter bombers without result. One rocket bombing plane was shot down by a naval landing craft near Rapallo. Convoy and escort duties were carried out according to plan.

Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

At 0330 2 ships were detected 16 miles east of Rimini. No ships were observed at Ancona by the early reconnaissance. About 8 destroyers and 4 large vessels were seen during daytime in the area west of Corfu on changing courses.

Second degree of alarm was ordered for the island. 2 partisan supply boats were sunk and 1 boat was seized north of Capri by an armed auxiliary sailing vessel on the evening of 1 Aug.

Operation "Negus" was carried out according to plan on the night of 1 Aug. by 5 motor minesweepers.

410 prisoners were taken after only weak resistance and 26 boats were sunk. Our own motor minesweepers entered Sibenice early on 2 Aug. One sentry on guard over TA "38" was shot in Venice by terrorists on the night of 1 Aug. As a reprisal 7 communists in custody were shot. The mining project "Paula" was carried out according to plan by TA "38", "39" and 2 Italian boats on the night of 2 Aug. northeast of Pesaro. The mining projects "Zobel 1 and 2" were carried out by the minelayer FASANA and TA "37". The execution of operation "Feh 2" was postponed. The midnight operation "Dachs" was carried out on the same night by 3 naval landing craft and 5

3 Aug. 1944

vessels of the 6th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla.

The execution of operation "Wolf" is planned for the night of 3 Aug.

b. Aegean Sea:

In the afternoon a fire broke out on board the steamer CAROLA in Piraeus (1,348 BRT), caused either by spontaneous combustion or by sabotage. Not much damage was caused. The ship will be operational again on 5 Aug.

One enemy plane dropped aerial mines south of Burtzi on the evening of 2 Aug. Through passage is closed.

c. Black Sea:

The disposition of warships of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Poti and Batum was nearly the same as on earlier occasions. For particulars see the daily "Situation Report".

Otherwise no special incidents.

---

VII. Mine Situation on the Danube.

2 barges sank and 2 were damaged after hitting mines on 2 Aug. There were no reports of minelaying. 22 mines were cleared by minesweepers and 8 by planes between 1 and 3 Aug.

\*\*\*\*\*

4 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

Nothing to report.

---

Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy at 1115.

I. According to the review of the air situation made by Operations Staff, Air Force, Foreign Affairs Section, dated 2 Aug., the Naval Staff, Operations Division, Naval Air and Air Force Liaison Section reported:

All allied command posts, directing close combat units are now situated in the Normandy bridgehead, not counting the headquarters of the II British Close Combat Corps. The collecting of all leading British Close Combat Corps on a combined radio net, which took place at the end of July, should be taken into account.

The raid on Leuna which was carried out on 28 July proved that targets which are protected by smoke screens can still be hit, presumably by means of "Meddo" apparatus and by flying in close formation.

The formation of an allied command post in the eastern Mediterranean under the name of "Airforce Command Balkans" should be taken into account. This command maintains radio communication with 5 subradio stations in the partisan sector of the Balkans. We have already reported the clearing of Turkish air bases and ground organizations for the reception of allied airforces.

The Japanese Naval Attaché, Lisbon reported on the results produced by the V 1 projectile. According to this all British countermeasures have proved so far ineffective. Mistrust of the government is increasing with the rising amount of damage done as well as of the casualties. Evacuation is being carried out with special firmness. The V 1 problem seems to have had no immediate effect on the front in France.

II. In connection with the situation report concerning operations of small battle weapons on 2/3 Aug. the Commander in Chief, Navy has again ordered an investigation of the possibility of an improvised method of embarking "Dacker" aboard PT boats independent of harbor facilities. Directions were passed on by Naval Staff to Group West and Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division accordingly.

4 Aug. 1944

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

a. Admiral, Small Battle Units reported on the evening of 3 Aug:

"1. Before the commencement of last night's successful operation I sent a message to each man taking part in which I challenged them to act as "Winkelriede" for the hard-fighting land front.

Today Captain Boehme reported the following:

"The following soldiers who took part in this action and have not as yet returned deserve especial mention. Before starting they reported to the Commander of the Unit that they would not return without having sunk a large man-of-war or transport and thus earn the name "Winkelriede": Lieutenant Winzer, Lieutenant Schiebel, Sub-Lieutenant Hasen, Midshipman Pettke, Warrant Quartermaster Schroeger, Stoker P.O. Guski, Seaman Glaubrecht, Seaman Roth."

2. We are convinced that these men were especially connected with successes which we may never be able to attribute to them directly as they have not returned. Apart from the visible success it seems to me that the spirit of these men is both an example and encouragement, and an indication of the unconquerable spirit of the Navy. Therefore, I suggest that they be cited as outstandingly brave men in the Naval Gazette, unless they are to be mentioned in a High Command Communique."

Commander in Chief, Navy has issued instructions for the men to be mentioned in the Naval Gazette.

b. Commander in Chief, West has decided to accept the more comprehensive proposal made by Naval Group West in connection with the withdrawal of the 1st Naval Artillery Unit from the Atlantic Islands. Only such immobile units as gun and battery crews will remain on the islands. On the Ile de Croix only 600 will be left out of 1,250 men, on Belle Ile out of 1,800 also only 600, on Noirmontier only 500 from 1,300, on Ile d'Oleron only 650 from 1,350 and on Ile d'Yeu 150 men from 300 men. Ile de Batz and Ile de Ré will retain their entire garrison. Besides this a number of imported laborers and submarine men will stay on the Ile de Ré with the remainder of the immobile naval units.

Commander in Chief, West accepted this proposal, especially as the islands will still have the same protection as the coast of the mainland at present, even after the withdrawal of forces.

4 Aug. 1944

The question of appointing new island commanders will be decided by the Commanding Admiral, Channel Coast.

c. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command has issued exclusive instructions to the Fuehrer's orders concerning the construction of a fortification system in northern Italy. They have been passed on to Group South, to the German Naval Command, Italy, to the Commanding Admiral, Adriatic in message 1/Skl 2341/44 Gkdos. Chfs. Copy in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.

IV. Naval Staff, Quartermaster General:

a. According to a report from our special plenipotentiary, Danube, Hungary wished to see Hungarian minesweeper units placed under Hungarian command. The Naval Staff considers this a workable solution, placing the troops administratively under Hungarian command while operations would be directed as before by the German Minesweeping Inspector, Danube through a liaison officer.

b. Commander in Chief, Naval Command, North has objected to the transfer of authority to the Armed Forces. He is afraid that the Commanding General, Armed Forces will withdraw forces from the coastal area without taking into consideration the importance of the coastal defenses.

c. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command issued the following directions:

"1. The special measures issued on 1 July by Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command in Teletype 007018/44 GK will remain in force for the month of August as far as those weapons peculiar to the army are concerned.

a. The entire production of rifles, pistols, automatic pistols and machine-guns will be placed at the disposal of the army.

b. The supply of arms to other needy units from army sources must be discontinued.

2. In August the deliveries to Bulgaria will re-commence in full capacity. The end of the delivery period will be shifted one month accordingly. Short deliveries from the month of June are to be dispatched with increased speed.

3. The entire production in motor trucks and tractors will be at the disposal of the army until 31 Aug. Special distribution of material for special naval fighting weapons will be continued."

4 Aug. 1944

V. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Enemy Situation Branch submitted a map concerning the distribution of enemy shipping. Copy in War Diary, Part C, Vol.6.

Commander in Chief, Navy remarked that the enemy is obviously starting a systematic war against our submarine construction centers.

VI. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division:  
"Naval Attaché, Helsinki reports:

1. Official communique concerning the change in presidency does not reveal the background; however it may have occurred about two weeks beforehand on account of threats from opposition "RT" circles perhaps already in the majority or through attacks on account of the letter from Ryti and may even be connected with the telephone communication with Procope, Lisbon.

2. If, as an alternative, the marshal hopes to serve the country by military or political means, only the latter seems to the point as the marshal does not believe in a German victory. The assumption is that an armistice might be procured for Finland in about 14 days which would secure the independence of the country until the general peace negotiations. One of the Russian terms is believed to be a demand that the west and south coasts as well as Aland should be placed at their disposal.

3. The trade union leader Vuori has been mentioned in connection with the presidency as well as General Walden and the "dark horse" Gratz, a member of the Alstroem Mining concern and bosom-friend of the marshal; as Minister of Foreign Affairs Procope is mentioned.

4. General Schoener is at Headquarters today with information for the marshal on the situation of Army Group North.

5. Embassy has not been informed.

The German general attached to the Finnish Armed Forces does not believe there is any acute danger of a change in the Finnish war attitude.

In a Highly Restricted Circle.

VII. Army Situation.

Western Front:

4 Aug. 1944

In the area of Tank Group West the 2nd SS Tank Corps succeeded in preventing the enlargement of the penetrated area at Caumont. Enemy tank units were cut off and face annihilation in the area of Vire. Loose communication with the easterly wing of the 7th Army has been established north of Vire.

The withdrawal movement of the 7th Army was carried out according to plan during the night of 2 Aug. Making the most of the successful fighting on the part of the 116th Tank Division southwest of Vire, a new defense line could be established against the advancing enemy at Mortain.

Several enemy columns were noticed marching in southeasterly direction in the area of Fougères.

While enemy activity was restricted to local reconnaissance thrusts in the area of Dol-Dinan, he launched a concentric attack against Rennes on the afternoon of 3 Aug. He succeeded in entering the town from the east in the evening. The enemy advanced on both sides of Rennes in southerly direction and advanced with tank reconnaissance deep into Brittany as far as Loudiac and the area north of Redon.

In order to create a strong tank attacking unit at Avranches, the Normandy front was withdrawn to a line running from the Orne river north of Vire to the forest of St. Sever.

216 tanks were destroyed on 2 and 3 Aug. according to reports so far received. The fighting on these two days however proved that the fighting efficiency of the badly mauled infantry divisions has declined. The heroic death of another divisional commander shows how regardlessly commanding officers of all grades took part in operations.

It is probable that the enemy in order to make the most of his favorable position, will try to occupy Brittany and take the most important harbors and fortresses by surprise.

2 American tank divisions are advancing in Brittany, 4 American infantry divisions are following up and have reached the area of St. Malo and Rennes. There are 40 large enemy formations in Normandy, 41 large formations still in England. It is to be expected that on the basis of his successes the enemy will transfer further formations to France.

4 Aug. 1944

Italian Front:

The enemy continued his attempt to break through in the area of Florence with strong tank support. Only the unremitting devotion of every single man and outstanding cooperation of all branches of the service enabled us to defeat the enemy yesterday. On account of the heavy casualties it was not expected that further enemy attacks during the day against the south bank of the Arno could be resisted; therefore, to prevent the enemy from crossing the Arno at the same time as our own troops in case of a break through, the mass of our troops was withdrawn during the night to a new line of resistance just north of Florence.

Marshal Graziani took over as Commander in Chief of the Ligurian Army today.

Eastern Front:

Army Group Raus has annihilated the surrounded enemy force on his right wing which amounted in strength to one rifle division. The enemy was not able to bring any effective relief with his units which had already suffered in the fighting around Dolina. Thus the enemy's attempt to break through to the Beskiden Pass was wrecked.

Heavy defensive fighting is going on between Sambor and Reichenhof. The enemy is pressing further west between the San and the Vistula and has everywhere managed to force our troops over to the defensive; one tank corps has crossed the Vistula. The Vistula front has been stabilized between Sandomir and Warsaw. At the mouth of the Piliza the enemy sent more forces over the Vistula.

The rebellion in Warsaw has intensified. One Russian tank corps was surrounded east of Warsaw. Many enemy attacks were repulsed on the southern front of the 2nd Army.

Our withdrawal between Augustow and Kalvaryja was quickly followed up by the enemy. In the area of Kalvaryja he made a fresh attack with a great many tanks after heavy artillery bombardment and tried to force his way through to the East Prussian boundary. After changeable fighting with many casualties courageous fighting on the part of our troops held the enemy at the second line of defense. Embittered fighting was still going on in the evening.

North of Kauern the front was withdrawn to the Dubysa position. The enemy is close behind.

4 Aug. 1944

We succeeded in narrowing in the enemy bridgehead east of Mitau in the area of Army Group North. The intended mainline of resistance was on the whole attained in the area of Birsen.

The situation has become more acute between Dvinsk and Lake Peipus. Numerous attempts at penetration were blocked with our last resources. A large-scale enemy attack, carried out by 9 rifle divisions and 4 tank formations was repulsed after heavy successful fighting on the Narva front. Fighting still continues.

VIII. Report by Deputy to Chief of Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff on harbors in west and southern France. Corresponding instructions to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy and Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters have been issued by teletype 1/Skl Ib 24080/44 Gkdos. Copy in War Diary, special file "Invasion 4 Aug.44". Participation of Group West was attended to on 3 Aug.

IX. Chief of Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff is considering the withdrawal of valuable special personnel of vessels which can no longer be fitted out in time from the threatened western French ports while it is still possible.

Chief, Submarine Division reported request made by Commander, Submarines as to whether submarines in these ports should be made quickly ready to sail; that is whether they should sail without the installation of "Schnorchel". Commander in Chief, Navy has given instructions that Commander, Submarines is to be kept informed concerning developments on the land front. All decisions in this area depend on the success of thrust made by the attacking tank group towards Avranches.

---

Special Items.

I. Commander in Chief West received the following directions from Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command with regard to the task of the coastal defenses in Brittany outside the range of the fortresses:

"1. The abandonment of further sectors of the coast which would soon be discovered by the enemy might cause him to make improvised landings with weak forces. The situation of the XXV Army Corps is rendered more difficult by this.

4 Aug. 1944

2. The Fuehrer has therefore approved the abandonment of field establishments in Brittany only for those sections where the situation and threat to the fortress make it absolutely necessary.

The forces required for the fortress must be got first of all by draining the resources of all alarm formations. Weapons and supplies must be, if possible, transferred in their entirety into the fortress if field stations are abandoned. The destruction of small ports is permitted in agreement with Naval Group West.

3. All establishments of fortress-like character outside the real fortress must be manned and are also to be defended.

II. Concerning the Situation in the Eastern Baltic:

A. With regard to convoy protection in the Eastern Baltic the following directions were issued by Naval Staff to Admiral, Eastern Baltic, with copy to the 9th Patrol Division, Naval Command, East, Coastal Defense Commander, Center, Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch and Naval Liaison Officer, Operations Staff, High Command, Air:

"1. Closest cooperation should be arranged with the 1st and 6th Air Force for the purpose of protecting convoys en route from Danzig to the north and back again.

2. Operations Staff, High Command, Air advises the attachment of a Liaison Officer to represent the Chief, Supply and Transport on the Staff of the 6th Air Force, Kutno.

3. Operations Staff, High Command, Air and the 6th Air Force require a weekly summary of number of convoys sailing in both directions and the sailing times from the north and from the south as soon as possible. Special importance should be attached to the sea area to be passed by night as night fighter protection will have to be arranged.

4. Please instruct office, responsible for the execution of convoys to contact the 6th Air Force at once, and at the same time to keep the naval liaison officer to the Chief of Operations Staff Robinson, High Command, Air informed."

B. Naval Chief Command, East reports as follows with regard to the protection of supplies for Army Group North:

4 Aug. 1944

"1. Again it is reported that the forces set aside to escort supplies for Army Group North are inadequate. At present the following are employed on escort duty:

- a. 3rd Patrol Flotilla (at present 9 boats operational)
- b. 2 patrol boats and 1 minesweeper, lent by Admiral, Skagerrak
- c. "Colani" vessels, torpedo boats T "196", T "123", patrol boats F "10" and DELPHIN

From Naval Command, Norway (after arrival) 3 Patrol boats and 1 minesweeper; 2 more minesweepers after 15 Aug. Submarine U "676" is not yet ready for operations. This means at present there are 16 vessels, 7 more will follow later.

2. The following alternative solution is possible: For the time being the 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla (4 vessels) which was reserved as escort for PRINZ EUGEN could be released for this task. The escort duties for PRINZ EUGEN will be carried out in special cases by two boats of the 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla (at present in Liepaja) and those for the LUETZOW by the other 2 boats of this flotilla. Escort will be made up to 3 vessels each as soon as torpedo boats T "8" and T "10" are dismissed from the Gulf of Finland, that is after the arrival of the 6th Torpedo Boat Flotilla. Request consent."

C. Admiral, Eastern Baltic's plans for minelaying in the Narva Estuary (see War Diary 14 July 44) had to be revised because of the development of the situation. Minelaying must be carried out with the means at hand at concentrated points. A larger supply of coastal mines type A for Baltic countries cannot be expected on account of the shortage of both men and material. Naval Staff, Operations Division has informed Naval Command, East, with copy to the High Command, Navy, Under Water Obstacles Branch.

Naval Command, East transmitted the following telegram from the Chief Command, Army Group Center, signed by Model:

"1. The 3rd Tank Army Command takes over command in the area up to the new army group with immediate effect. The boundary is Engure-Tuckum-Schaganen-Scheddau, and then as before.

4 Aug. 1944

2. In this way troops in the area just taken over will come under the command of the 3rd Tank Army. These are as follows: Combat Group Meder, 2 battalions, 1 "Abteilung", and 1 unit of the Paratroop Guard Company (defense units). 1 formation of the Waffen-SS, stationed at Windau and now in training will be set up as an SS Tank Brigade.

Tasks:

a. The task of Combat Group Meder will be to slow down the advance of the enemy towards Liepaja from the direction Schaulen and north of it. The group will evade a superior enemy by retiring in the direction of Liepaja. Contact should be made between the 7th Tank Division and Combat Group Meder.

b. The SS Tank Brigade is to cover the withdrawal of the other troops in action from the area of Windau and northeastwards and is to prevent an enemy advance in the direction of the Irben Strait. Orders were issued to the brigade direct by the High Command, Army.

3. Naval Shore Commander, Liepaja and Local Defense Officer, Windau will be placed under the command of the 3rd Tank Army with regard to their task of defending the harbors from landward. All measures for the purpose of increasing the strength of the defense should be hastened also making use of those weapons only intended for sea defense.

4. The Staff of the 52nd Safety Division in Liepaja will be appointed as the reasonable staff for direction of the entire operations in the new area."

D. Army General Staff, High Command, Army informed the Naval Staff among others about orders to army groups concerning measures to counter the infiltration of saboteurs. The content of the decree is already known from the original instructions from the Armed Forces High Command. The announcement that changes will soon be made in the use of paroles as a further protection against the infiltration of enemy - or treacherous elements is new.

---

III. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch issued the following instructions to Bureau of Naval Armament, concerning new naval constructions in case of an enemy threat:

4 Aug. 1944

"According to the newest decree issued by the Armed Forces High Command the authorized Reich Defense Commissioner will always be responsible for the destruction or crippling of shipyards and of new ship constructions in the yards of the home combat area and not the armed forces. Any requests regarding the handling of new naval constructions must be given by the navy to the Reich Defense Commissioner in question who has to take such requests into consideration.

The navy can only issue instructions with regard to the management of their own materiel, as for example gunnery apparatus and such like."

---

IV. The summary of enemy news intercepted by the radio decoding service and radio monitoring service for the period 24 to 30 July is contained in radio intelligence Report No. 31/44. Reference concerning the transportation of U.S. planes to Europe during the month of June of this year to be found on page 19/20.

---

Situation 4 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area.

Enemy Situation:

31 planes of 19 Group were intercepted in action. They were concentrating on the western entrance to the Channel. 2 British and 1 American vessel were detected in the rendezvous area.

The following second phase interpretation was reported according to photographic reconnaissance made at 1600 on 2 Aug.:

Discharging was concentrated at:

Berniergs northwest of the Orne mouth: 200.000 GRT, 2 cruisers, 8 PT boats, 34 escort and minesweepers, 245 LCT's and smaller landing craft.

North of Asnelles: 130.000 GRT, 48 PT boats, 38 escort and minesweepers, 5 LST's, 115 LCT's and smaller landing craft.

4 Aug. 1944

North of Laurence: presumably 1 old battleship used as a breakwater, 490.000 GRT, 1 PT boat, 7 LST'LCT's, 122 LCT and smaller vessels.

Northwest of the Vire-mouth: 360,000 GRT, 15 minesweepers, 189 LCT's and smaller landing craft. Smaller points of disembarkation were northwest of the Orne-mouth with a breakwater for the use of smaller vessels made out of the beached COURBET, 1 "Java", 1 destroyer and 6 freighters of 42.000 GRT.

North of Luc: 21.000 GRT, 18 PT boats, 81 LCT's and smaller landing craft. Breakwaters were constructed from merchantmen off the assembly points; at Berniergs with 77.000 GRT, at Asnelles with 296.000 GRT, 72 caissons, 5 landing stages and 2 flotating docks, at Laurence out of 56.000 GRT and 45 caissons, at the Vire mouth out of 64 GRT with 2 landing-stages.

In Seine Bay there were in all: 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers, 45 escort vessels, 74 PT boats, 43 minesweepers, 1 landing transport, 13 LST's, 278 LCT's, 520 smaller landing craft, 5 transports (26.000 GRT), 180 freighters (1.157.000 GRT), 6 tankers (20.500 GRT), 2 old battleships, 1 old cruiser and 50 freighters (335.000 GRT) used as breakwaters. The number of cruisers, destroyers and tankers employed is surprisingly small.

The first phase interpretation of photographic reconnaissance of Cherbourg taken on 4 Aug. showed the presence of 2 probably naval vessels, 1 corvette, 1 LST, 32 LCT's, 25 smaller vessels, 19 freighters of 93.000 GRT, of which 10 had smaller boats alongside illuminated by searchlights.

Nothing was observed off Seine Bay from shore owing to poor visibility.

25 to 30 vessels were seen 16 miles north of the Ile de Bas in the afternoon, steering a west to southwesterly course.

During the night of 3 Aug. enemy targets were located steering changeing courses from Antifer to Cap de la Heve, as well as north-northwest of Jersey and from Ile de Bas to Quessant.

Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

The former base of the 3rd Escort Division Nostang was burned down by sabotage on the night of 31 July.

4 Aug. 1944

The Maquis Camp of Forêt du Granou situated southeast of Brest was nabbed by units of the 3rd Naval Anti-Aircraft Brigade and army. A great deal of sabotage material was captured.

An enemy tank spearhead stood near Redon at 2355 on 3 Aug., according to a report from the fortress commander of St. Nazaire. Infantry was observed there at 0215 on 4 Aug., according to a report from Naval Shore Commander, Loire.

Patrol boat positions were not manned. 3 mines were swept off Brest and 1 off St. Nazaire. Patrol boat V "702" was slightly damaged in the course of this operation. The 2nd Minesweeper Flotilla was attacked from the air off Ile de Croix.

During the course of the evacuation of the northern and southern Breton coast by the army without active participation of the navy and partly in opposition to it, the Naval Shore Commander, Brittany reported the evacuation of the following naval bases and the destruction of same according to plan:

St. Brioux, the port commander of which transferred to St. Malo on the night of 4 Aug., Paimpol, Lezardrieux, Ile de Brehat, Morlaix, Ile de Sein, Benodet. On receipt of orders from the division the battery at Paimpol will be blown up. The protest made by this group has not yet been dealt with.

Group West reported at 2325 on 3 Aug. that according to enemy news reports Rennes has been occupied by the Americans. Group has not yet been able to confirm this report. Angers is thus endangered. Group has asked the Submarine Division for instructions as to where Commander, Submarines, West is to move if the evacuation of Angers becomes necessary. Commanding Admiral, Atlantic Coast will shift to Royan. Commander, Submarines, West mentioned La Rochelle as alternative port.

Early in the morning the 7th Army High Command issued orders for the immediate transfer of 2 anti-aircraft artillery combat units to Lemans. Route to be used between Nantes and Angers south of the Loire. By order of the 7th Army High Command the 681st Light Naval Artillery Unit will go into action north of the Loire.

Group West reported at 1025 that the enemy situation no longer permitted troop and supply movement west of the Seine or north of the Loire including Nantes and St. Nazaire.

The enemy is advancing from Rennes in westerly, southerly and southeasterly direction according to a report made by Group West at 1140.

4 Aug. 1944

Chateaubraind and Renace have been occupied by the enemy. Up to the present the Army has evacuated the north Brittany coast as far as Lezardrieux. It is the intention of the Army to withdraw to the wider fortress area of Brest and Lorient.

A heavy enemy air raid was reported on Pauillac at 1830. Mine exploding vessel "146" was bombed and sunk, the steamer DRESDEN was left burning and has to be towed out of the fairway.

Channel Area:

Operations by the 2nd and 6th Minesweeper Flotillas during the night of 4 Aug. had to be cancelled on account of poor visibility. The lock installations and ferry at Tancarville were attacked by enemy planes on the evening of 3 Aug., at noon and on the evening of 4 Aug. The 24th Minesweeper Flotilla was several times attacked in the Roads of St. Malo by fighter bombers during the afternoon and in the evening of 4 Aug.

Minesweeper M "424" capsized, minesweepers M "432" and "206" were damaged.

In an enemy air raid made in the afternoon on the army coastal battery 2/1244 west of Gravelines, an anti-aircraft artillery platform and an anti-aircraft gun were destroyed and 2 more guns were damaged. Living quarters were damaged at Middelskerke in an attack made on the battery 3/1240.

On the afternoon of 3 Aug. the batteries "Lothringen" and "Strassburg" shelled vessels in the area of the Channel Islands, presumably PT boats, and the battery "Paimpol" shelled a target located in BF 2953, upper right corner. 9 patrol boat positions were manned in the Channel Area. At noon radar station Primal was blown up with one set of equipment and Erqui and St. Malo with two. The crews were then attached to the army. The Staff Unit of the 2nd Patrol Flotilla fought an action with terrorists on the return march. The 24th Minesweeper Flotilla and the 8th Gun Carrier Flotilla with 2 boats have been detailed to raise the siege of the surrounded base at St. Gat.

The Air Force has dropped a total of 1710 air mines type "B" and 911 bomb mines in the Seine Bay during the month of July.

4 Aug. 1944

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.North Sea:

Several strong enemy bomber formations with fighter cover entered Heligoland Bight after 1150. More strong formations followed at 1234 heading for the Baltic area. Bombs were dropped on Hamburg, Bremen, Nordenham, Einsvaarden, Nordholz, and Hemmingstedt near Heide. In Hamburg the living quarters of the 8th Warship Construction Acquaintance Detachment were 50% destroyed, the accomodation ship SIERRA CORDOBA was set on fire, the torpedo maintaining unit at the Tollerort arsenal was hit, and the oil and carbonate factory at Harburg was left burning. Naval anti-aircraft was employed in all the areas flown over and 6 planes were reported shot down. 21 parachute jumpers were taken prisoner.

Patrol boats in Heligoland Bight shot down 2 more planes.

Minesweeping and escort duties were carried out according to plan. 2 mines were cleared off the Elbe Estuary. One motor vessel struck a mine near the Elbe lightship.

Boats of the Rhine Flotilla were bombed in the morning by enemy planes off the Dutch coast south of Schouwen. One boat became unmaneuverable. Boats of the 20th Patrol Flotilla were attacked several times by enemy planes off the Maas. One boat was damaged south of Goerre. The revenue-cutter SCHELDE sank at noon after a bombing attack north of Schouwen. Naval Staff informed the Reich Commissioner for Shipping that the return of shipping still in the Ems is continuing, making the most of the darkness and weather conditions. It is planned to start traffic on the Ems as soon as the nights grow longer.

Norway, Northern Waters:Enemy Situation:

23 planes belonging to 18 Group were intercepted in action. According to a radio monitoring report one American steamer ran aground in the Pentland Firth during the forenoon of 4 Aug. One British vessel was located in 253° from Svanvik at 1300.

Own Situation:

8 Spitfires machine-gunned the coastguard at Holmengraa in the area of Commanding Admiral, West Coast and caused slight damage. 13 ships were escorted to the north and 32 ships to the south.

4 Aug. 1944

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

Enemy Situation:

According to aerial reconnaissance at 0930, 6 freighters and 15 minesweepers were located west of Kurgalowo steering on south-westerly course.

At 0924 17 boats were seen in AO 3741, 3 boats in 3745, 9 boats in 3746 and 21 boats in 3749, steering on changing courses.

Not much air activity was noticed owing to weather conditions. Only 20 planes were located on the night of 2 Aug. and only 15 planes during the day. The enemy reached the railway line Kreuzburg - Rossitten at the station Mesare on the land front.

The enemy attack concentrating on the Pulka and Tannenberg position was repulsed after heavy fighting. The penetration northwest of Basuk was partly cleared up. Our line west of Lake Labanas was thrown back 10 kilometers to a breadth of 20 kilometers.

A new front is shaping northeast of Laura. Enemy penetration was narrowed down.

According to a report from the Naval Shore Commander, Latvia it is noticed that calm is slowly settling over the Latvian population of Courland.

Own Situation:

Admiral , Skagerrak:

22 boats were employed on minesweeping duties in the Baltic Sea Entrances and 3 in the "Nordmannsteif".

Mining operation "Kalahari" was carried out according to plan on the night of 3 Aug. The formation was twice intercepted by enemy planes which were most probably courier planes.

Minefield K 8 was laid with 125 coastal mines type "A" and minefield K 9 with 36 coastal mines type "A" during the course of the coastal mining type "A" operation. The operation continues.

Western and Central Baltic:

28 boats, 1 mine exploding vessel and 4 planes were employed on minesweeping duties. One mine was cleared off Hela.

4 Aug. 1944

The floating anti-aircraft battery "Ariadne" is to be transferred from Brunsbuettel to Gdynia. The Swedish motor vessel CHRISTIANIA (341 GRT) became a total loss after running aground off Hela.

The cruisers HIPPER, KOELN, PRINZ EUGEN and the hospital ship BRAKE were escorted.

The transport VENUS carried 3,500 persons from Memel to Pillau. 3,945 persons were taken through the Haff from Memel to Labiau.

Strong fighter formations entered the Baltic via Holstein at 1400 to attack Peenemuende, Anklam and Uckermuende. The assembly plant I and plant West were hit at Peenemuende. In flying over, bombs were dropped on Wismar, Warnemuende and Rostock. Anti-aircraft battery "Undine" off Peenemuende reported scoring 6 probable hits.

The northern part of Kiel was attacked at 1423 by the last fighter formation to fly over, consisting of 60 to 80 planes. Several ships were set on fire in the locks at Holtenau. The locks and bridges remained undamaged. Fires were started in the oil depot at Wiek and in the Naval School.

The barracks at Wiek and the barracks of the Mining and Barrage Experimental Command on the southern jetty were badly damaged. The TIRPITZ jetty received a direct hit, the garrison church was damaged by fire. The wireless station Tannenberg was damaged. Naval barge MP 1 was sunk by a direct hit, minesweeper M "572" was damaged. Industrial damage was reported from Kiel.

Admiral, Skagerrak:

No special reports concerning our own naval forces have been received. It is not possible to man the submarine position Narvi at present as the Finns have blocked the outward passage at Kiuskeri. The floating dock which was on its way from Riga to Tallinn broke up and sank after an explosion northeast of Dagoe. Sabotage is suspected. The 521st Naval Artillery Unit was transferred from the mainline of resistance at Mitau to the Narva front.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic made the following situation report for 3 Aug. at 1625:

"1. Situation on land:

a. The Russians are increasing their pressure in direction of Riga. Army Group North plans to meet this situation by clearing up the bridgeheads at Mitau when the position at Birsen has been recovered. The backbone there is at present the 531st Naval Artillery

4 Aug. 1944

Unit which has done well in battle but has suffered heavy losses. The situation in the area of Lievenhof is tensening.

b. The Russian design to reach the railway line Riga-Pleskau is further indicated by the employment of strong forces.

c. The lack of ammunition and oil is hampering our own fighting command.

d. On the Narva front the enemy is attacking with fresh forces which consist mostly of tanks. Our forces have been pushed back into the last prepared line at Putki and Kinderheim.

2. Conclusions to be drawn from par.1 as regards to the situation at sea:

a. The present enemy plan is to eliminate Riga from the south.

b. As soon as the enemy arrives on the west bank of Lake Peipus an attack must be expected in the direction of Dorpat over Lake Peipus, concentrating on Warm Lake.

c. The enemy is at present concentrating on the Narva front in the knowledge that it would be difficult to hold west of Kinderheim. Parallel to this runs the operation of Russian naval forces with the intention of reaching the open Baltic in the latitude of Tallinn.

The Russian Air Force successes of the last four weeks against formations of the 9th Escort Division will encourage the Russians to employ untrained destroyers during day as well as soon as the "Seeigel" minefield has been forced. The enemy is sweeping mines with fighter protection. Our own minefield operations are under way.

For the attention of Naval Command, East:

"Operations to close the gap of "Seeigel" 7b and "Seeigel" 9b commenced on the night of 3 Aug."

---

#### IV. Submarine Warfare;

Submarine U "300" is operating in the Atlantic off North Minch. Submarine U "307" entered Northern Waters for operational area of the west coast of Spitsbergen.

4 Aug. 1944

Submarine U "537" reported a FAT-hit on a tanker and a "Zaunkoenig"-hit on a destroyer. From the Indian Ocean on 8 July submarine U "181" started its return voyage from MS 79 on 19 July on account of bomb damage. Up to then the boat had sunk 25,000 GRT. Of these one steamer of 2,800 GRT is known. Submarine U "537" started its return voyage on 29 July from LD 84 and submarine "196" on 2 Aug. from LE 75. Submarine U "24" entered Constanta. Submarine U "9" reported on the 21 July T 3 miss on a motor gunboat.

No special reports were received from the Gulf of Finland, from the Mediterranean or from Group Center.

---

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

1,000 enemy planes entered the occupied areas on the night of 4 Aug. and attacked an air base and a railway station at Tours. 168 of our own planes raided concentration of motor vehicles and tanks in the area of Avranches during the day. 10 of our own night fighters were in action attacking ground targets in the invasion area (bridgehead)

Reich Territory:

Reports received concerning attacks in the north German coastal area and in the Baltic coastal area. Further details are to be found in the "Report on the daily situation".

Only single planes were reported over the Reich area on the night of 4 Aug.

Mediterranean Theater:

720 enemy planes were reported on 3 Aug. attacking traffic targets and air bases in the rear of the Italian front. 5 enemy planes were shot down by anti-aircraft artillery. 41 enemy planes flew a line patrol over the Balkan area. One Spitfire of this formation was shot down by anti-aircraft artillery. 24 planes were observed carrying supplies to partisans in the Balkan area on the night of 3 Aug. 8 were observed mining the Danube between Smederova and Moldova and 20 harassing planes were observed over northern Italy.

8 Ju "87"'s carried out low-level attacks on roads in the area of Pisa-Arezzo; 2 of the planes are missing.

4 Aug. 1944

Eastern Front:

During 3 Aug. 550 German and 728 enemy operations were reported on the eastern front, 4 planes were shot down and we suffered 4 casualties.

100 to 120 enemy planes entered East Prussia on 4 Aug. from Russia and dropped bombs in the area of Eydtkuhnen-Schlossberg-Wehrkirchen-Lyck. Single planes were reported from the area of Insterburg.

10 enemy planes attacked Insterburg and Gumbinnen on the night of 4 Aug. with high-explosive bombs.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

Area Naval Group West:

Enemy Situation:

One auxiliary aircraft carrier left Gibraltar for the Mediterranean at 0700 on 3 Aug. and 2 cruisers of the COVENTRY class and 1 auxiliary aircraft carrier arrived from the Mediterranean.

Convoy, probably GUS 47, passed the Strait of Gibraltar in westerly direction in strength of 47 freighters, 1 tanker with 12 corvettes and 1 minelayer.

2 auxiliary carriers, 4 transports and 8 destroyers left Gibraltar at 0430 on 4 Aug. in an unknown direction.

Own Situation:

Enemy planes bombed the Var bridge on the morning of 4 Aug. The railway bridge is at present impassable.

Further air raids were directed against the 11th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla and 3 submarine chasers off Cap d'Ail south of Monaco respectively. No damage reported.

One enemy submarine was attacked with depth charges off Cassis. A total of 13,000 BRT were escorted off the south coast of France.

4 Aug. 1944

Area German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

One convoy was observed at 1755 southeast of Malta, in 17°27' East steering course 125° and consisting of 28 standard freighters and 1 tanker with 2 frigates and 2 patrol boats. 2 freighters and the tanker carried a deck cargo of 30 single-engined planes; other freighters apparently carried motor trucks on deck.

3 PT boats and 2 freighters were in the harbor of Bastia according to aerial photograph. The other PT boats were probably not yet back from their night enterprise. The enemy has been very reserved in the employment of PT boats during the recent moonlit nights. Our own coastal traffic was covered almost exclusively by night fighter bombers.

Own Situation:

Rocket and bombing attacks on a southbound convoy on the night of 3 Aug. were without result. Sabotage on the part of Italian soldiers aboard a tug boat forced a convoy sailing from Spezia to return. The mutineers were handed over to the security service.

Area of Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

3 medium-sized freighters lay in Ancona.

6 destroyers were observed several times between 1000 and 1530 west of Himara obviously employed on coastal observation, as offensive operations were not reported.

2 PT boats were observed at 1617 east of Bari. Port Albona was attacked by strong formations on the morning of 3 Aug. The position was re-taken in the evening after bringing up relief forces from Pola. Mopping-up operations in the surrounding district are planned for 4 Aug. One fighter bomber attacked coastal auxiliary sailing boats at 2250 on 3 Aug. in the harbor of Albona without success.

In addition the patrol boat VP "053" was lost in an attack by fighter bombers with rocket bombs east of Porto Bado on 2 Aug.

The 6th and 7th battery on Murter reported in addition that they made contact with enemy PT boats on the night of 1 Aug. which turned away under cover of a smoke screen.

4 Aug. 1944

b. Aegean Sea:

An enemy submarine was attacked at 2115 on 3 Aug. south of the western tip of Milos by submarine chaser UJ "2142".

Convoy GK 61 was attacked by enemy submarines with torpedoes at 0215 on 4 Aug. GK 61 and 2 motor sailing vessels were sunk. The position of the attack was not reported.

Convoy R 185 with tanker DRESDEN was attacked by 2 planes on voyage from Piraeus to Syra. R 185 shot down one plane.

One sabotage unit of 9 men was captured in Piraeus by the intelligence officer attached to the staff of Commanding Admiral, Aegean. Several stores containing materials for sabotage purposes were confiscated.

c. Black Sea:

According to radio monitoring a Russian submarine was believed to be operating in the sea area of the west coast and 3 further boats off the central and southern east coast.

3 Turkish motor sailing vessels from Rumania with Jewish emigrants on board left Constanta for the Bosphorus escorted by 2 Rumanian submarine chasers.

d. Mine Situation on the Danube:

Minelaying and mine hits were not reported. In addition the clearing of 10 mines by planes was reported on 4 Aug. by vessels and 4 by planes. 19 mine explosions were observed between 31 July and 2 Aug. between the kilometer markings 555 and 1040, exploding without any outside influence.

\*\*\*\*\*

5 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

Marshal von Mannerheim has taken up the position as Head of the State of Finland. The Linkomies Government then handed in their resignation.

The Premier of the Polish Exile Government had a long conversation with Stalin on 3 Aug. The Moscow press warned against expecting any concession from Russia and attacked the whole Polish Exile Government with great severity. Only those elements which assembled around the Polish National Committee could expect to survive.

After the severing of Turko-German relations, people in England were inclined to expect the opening of the Dardanelles as well as provision of naval and air bases. Turkey is looked upon as a passive combattant. The Japanese Ambassador assured the Turkish Government in Ankara that Japan saw no reason to sever relations with Turkey. The British-American oil negotiations are about to be concluded. The signing of this agreement will practically terminate the activities of private international cartels which until now divided world production and markets between them. This agreement between the British and American Governments will place the cartel system on a public basis. These Governments will in future control the supply and demand. It was noticed that British delegation circles were uneasy about the fact that an agreement, signed by Roosevelt might be without value in the case of a new President being appointed.

---

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

I. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division submitted a chart of the Seine Bay in which 2 American and 2 British bridgeheads were marked in, sheltered by breakwaters built out of sunken freighters and pontoons. The focal point of the landings lay with the Americans in the western area of the Seine Bay. The capacity of these artificial harbors was not yet known but must be considered as important. The warships in Seine Bay were concentrated in the eastern area.

II. Weather forecast promises **extraordinarily favorable landing** conditions and flying weather for the enemy during the next 5 days until 9 Aug.

III. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff reported that the building project "Hektor" at Constanta is at a standstill. As nothing can be done about it for the time being the best thing is to transfer the personnel to the Aegean. Commander in Chief, Navy has agreed.

5 Aug. 1944

The Admiral also reported on the building of submerged supply barges. In order to acquire the necessary labor it will be necessary to eliminate a few minesweepers from the naval construction program. Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament remarked in connection with this, that additional requests were continually being made and that these requests always cut across the naval building program. The main shipbuilding committee is not able to fulfil all its commitments. Things, which are not absolutely necessary should be done without.

IV. Chief, Naval Communications Division reported that teletype connection with Riga and Tallinn had once more been established.

V. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division: Tension in Rumania is increasing. It is alleged that the Bulgarian Premier Brigianoff is agreeable to Russia as a vehicle for negotiations.

It is remarkable that Mannerheim said no word about German armed support in his address to the Finnish Reichstag.

Shipment of certain war materials to Russia from Britain ceased as from 2 July according to an Ostrow report.

Drastic measures have been taken in the U.S.A. with regard to the employment of labor.

In a highly restricted Circle:

VI. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The withdrawal of the 5th Tank Army to the intermediate position between Orne and north of Vire was carried out according to plan; the enemy followed only half-heartedly. Heavy fighting was going on at the juncture of the army. Several enemy formations were annihilated in the area northeast of Vire and communication between the two armies was restored. On both sides of the forest of St. Sever the enemy pushed quickly ahead and succeeded in penetrating our intermediate position. On the evening of 3 Aug. Mortain was recaptured but was lost again on our open wing against strong enemy tank forces. The Americans brought up strong forces from the area of Avranches in the direction of Rennes. The situation in Rennes is not clear. The relay stations of Radon and Vannes were overwhelmed by terrorists, who took a hand in the fighting in several places. The enemy will continue to try to cut-off Brittany, and after joining up will then push on with the main body of his forces in a southeasterly direction.

5 Aug. 1944

The assembling of our own tank forces on the southern wing of the 7th Army is in progress for an east-west thrust in the direction of Avranches. The thrust will not be carried out until the night of 7 Aug. The transfer of Free French Forces from the Mediterranean area to England has just been established. The plan to land in the south of France has apparently been postponed and instead it is intended to incorporate the French in the fighting in Normandy and Brittany.

Italian Front:

The enemy continued to push closer to the south bank of the Arno. However, there were no large actions again yesterday. On the other hand strong enemy pressure was maintained in the area of Florence throughout the day. Although we were able to repulse all enemy thrusts everywhere, we had to withdraw our advance guards to the north bank of the Arno. Hard local fighting was going on here and there in the area of the 10th Army. Two attempts at penetration were blocked. The transfer of troops as well as the suspected detaching of the British 5th Army Command from the Italian front indicates landing intentions in the Italian area.

Eastern Front:

The day was marked by the enemy's attempts to enlarge his bridgeheads over the Vistula, south of Warsaw, as well as to force a break-through to East Prussia by attacks with strong tank formations.

Army Group Northern Ukraine:

All enemy attacks were repulsed in the area of Army Group Raus and the road Sambor-Sanok was cleared at several places by own attacks. A gap was left to the 17th Army in the area east of Taslo which we have not been able to close up to now. The heavy fighting in the San-Vistula triangle continued. Our own attacks against the two enemy tank armies were without success. The enemy was able to shift more forces across the Vistula south of Sandomir. A danger point is developing here for the whole eastern front.

The enemy is trying to enlarge his bridgeheads between Sandomir and Deblin and to win new ones. After hard fighting we succeeded in frustrating enemy attempts to cross, and in hemming in the existing bridgeheads.

5 Aug. 1944

Army Group Center:

4 rifle divisions with tank formation were brought into the bridgehead on the Pilica by the enemy. Countermeasures are in progress. The revolt and heavy fighting is still going on in Warsaw. East of Warsaw we succeeded in surrounding the 3rd Russian Tank Corps. Numerous enemy attacks were repulsed between Warsaw and the Bug. The Russians started a large-scale attack west of Bialystok. The break-through attempt was unsuccessful. The fighting between Sudauen and Wilkowischken was especially heavy. Concentrating the strongest possible forces, the enemy tried here to fight his way through to East Prussia. These attacks were only thrown back with heavy casualties on both sides.

Our own troops withdrew to the Dubyssa north of Kauen on account of superior enemy pressure.

Army Group North:

The bridgeheads east of Mitau and at Bauske were broken up after daring attacks causing the enemy heavy casualties. Our own attack in the area of Birsen made headway against stiffening enemy resistance and achieved our aim. The annihilation of enemy units cut off in this action is proceeding satisfactorily.

Between Duna and Schwanenburg the enemy succeeded in penetrating deep into our lines on a broad front. By employing the last reserves of alarm and construction units as well as our own returning fighting units it was possible to parry the thrusts. Again a large defensive success was scored on the Narva front. All attacks carried out with strong tank and battle plane support were unsuccessful and caused the enemy heavy casualties. The main line of resistance was held everywhere.

---

Special Items.

I. Group West received instructions to report further intentions concerning the employment of "Dackel" and to endeavor to operate a number of torpedo carriers on one night.

II. According to a report from the Naval Attache, Madrid, the British cancelled all navy-certs for neutral shipping in the Mediterranean three days ago. The Naval Staff informed Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command and Admiral, Fuehrer's Headquarters.

5 Aug. 1944

III. Chief, Sea Transport for the Armed Forces, Quartermaster General, Naval Staff, Shipping and Transport Branch sent a request to "Luftgau" Command Königsberg to adapt the air raid shelters in the ports of Königsberg, Stettin, Danzig and Gdynia as far as possible to the demands likely to arise, in view of the urgent task of supplying Army Group North.

IV. Operations Officer, Naval Liaison, Operations Staff, High Command Air informed Naval Staff of preliminary orders issued by the Operations Staff with regard to the escorting of convoys in the Baltic. According to this, ZG 26 and II ZG 76 are detailed for early operations in the eastern Baltic. Both units will receive rapid replacements from the Reich Air Fleet. The planes will be fitted out with additional tanks.

The Naval Staff informed the Naval Command, Eastern Baltic, Admiral, Eastern Baltic and the 9th Escort Division.

V. With regard to inquiries made by the Naval Command, East dated 17 June concerning the destruction of harbors and harbor installations, Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command has decided:

- "1. No preparations are to be made for the destruction of the big ports of Hamburg and Bremen.
2. On the other hand all preparations for effective blocking of the Elbe and Weser mouths are to be examined and brought to such a point that they can be blocked at a moment's notice should the enemy attempt to enter from the sea."

VI. 15 new constructions of the Hansa building program totalling 30.000 GRT are lying in Rotterdam. The Naval Staff passed information to Commanding Admiral, Defenses North and instructions to Naval Command, North to examine and to report intentions concerning the transfer of same.

---

Situation on 5 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

48 planes of 19 Group were intercepted in action. They were concentrating on the western part of the Channel.

5 Aug. 1944

The arrival of 2 convoys in the landing zone in the landing areas of Omaha and Utah were intercepted. 20 freighters and troop transports, 1 cruiser, 7 destroyers and 14 LCT's were located at 1905 in the landing area east of St. Vaast and 1 convoy of 10 freighters, 6 LST's with 6 patrol boats was reported by our own air reconnaissance steering a southeasterly course.

According to photographic reconnaissance, 2 destroyers, 30 PT boats, about 40 landing and auxiliary landing craft as well as 8 freighters of 40,000 GRT and 25 smaller vessels were observed in the outer harbor of Cherbourg. 3 freighters, 34 landing and auxiliary landing craft and several smaller vessels were recognized in the inner harbor.

The dock and quai facilities are not yet in use for unloading. Offensive activity was noticed on the night of 4 Aug. northeast of Perros at a distance of 200 hectometers, presumably between enemy naval units.

Destroyers were detected by radar northeast of Les Sept Iles and north of Ile de Bas at 1125 to 1600, which was later confirmed by report of an eye witness.

A hitherto reliable source reported from England on 20 July:

"No signs are noticeable here which indicate that in the near future landing operations are to be carried out on the north coast of France. It must be expected from several indications that the remaining divisions held in readiness for the invasion will be transferred to Normandy with all speed. This is also confirmed by all loading operations. It is believed that the advantage will be with the Allies in the pending battle of equipment. The superiority of equipment will weigh more and more heavily against the Germans who have nothing comparable and, therefore, their potential of troops and materiels will be more quickly exhausted.

From this point of view a large-scale landing northeast of the Somme-mouth is not probable. There are several indications that further operations were planned but now it appears the decision has been changed."

The Naval Intelligence Division remarked to this:

"The deep thrust by the 1st USA Army into the Brittany area and the active supply movements in the Seine Bay seem to confirm the agent's

5 Aug. 1944

report. Patten's Army Group stationed in southeastern England and consisting of 20 large formations would still be in a position to carry out a large-scale landing at another point even after the transfer of more forces to the bridgehead."

Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

There was a heavy enemy air raid on Pauillac at 1830 on 4 Aug. Mine exploding vessel "46" was sunk, the steamer DRESDEN set on fire. The office of the Port Commander, the wireless station and the oil refinery were totally destroyed. The steamer URANO and a suction dredger were damaged. The big quay was left burning.

The 24th Minesweeper Flotilla was again attacked at St. Malo by enemy fighter bombers at 1945. Minesweeper M "206" was hit.

Radar station Paimpol and Frehel were blown up, Trevignon, Penmarch, Point du Raz and St. Anne were evacuated by the infantry and blown up. Moreover, the naval supply depot Radon was blown up and the naval equipment depot La Chapelle and the island Ile de Bas were evacuated by the garrisons. The Port Commander, Brieux is proceeding to Brest after blowing up the harbor. Benodet will be held. The infantry garrison which had already been withdrawn will return. Brest will be evacuated by the civilian population. 6 officers and 153 men have arrived at St. Malo from Granville.

Employment of naval units by the army has partially been carried out.

The Port Commander of St. Nazaire has given orders for confidential books to be destroyed, and the destruction of the lighthouses at Quiberon, La Trinite and Port Navalo.

Channel Area:

Boats of the 2nd Patrol Flotilla were attacked by enemy fighter bombers off Brest at 0726. The submarine pens at Brest were attacked by 15 four-engined enemy planes at noon. No serious damage was reported. The harbor entrance to Brest was closed owing to suspicion of mines. At noon boats of the 46th Minesweeper Flotilla were machine-gunned by enemy fighter bombers in Guernsey. One plane was reported shot down. Minesweepers were bombed without result in the Dinard Roads during the morning. "Dackel" operations were carried out by 6 PT boats on the night of 4 Aug. 24 "Dackel" were launched into the target area of B.E. 3684 left upper corner and 3676 right upper corner from the route-marking buoy.

5 Aug. 1944

9 explosions in all were observed between 0357 and 0536 on a correct bearing from Cap de la Heve. Visual observation was not possible owing to fog. A 10th explosion was probably caused by a premature explosion after the safety distance had expired.

A "Dackel" operation is planned for 3 boats of the 6th Minesweeper Flotilla at Le Havre on the night of 5 Aug. and also a torpedo operation by 3 boats of the 2nd Minesweeper Flotilla in the Seine Bay. 5 patrol boat positions were manned in the Channel.

4 vessels of 1,000 GRT were escorted in the Channel Island area.

## II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

### North Sea:

Naval anti-aircraft guns shot down 2 enemy planes and probably one more out of strong enemy fighter formations entering and returning from our territory.

At noon boats of the Zuider Zee Flotilla fought off machine-gun attacks. One mine was swept off the Weser.

257 coastal mines type "A" were laid off Sylt.

At noon the battery at Ijmuiden on the Dutch coast was machine-gunned from the air without results. Patrol boat positions off the Dutch coast were manned according to plan. Minesweeper activity was partly hampered by rough sea.

### Norway, Northern Waters:

#### Enemy Situation:

10 planes of 18 Group were intercepted in action. The positions of the flotilla leader BAKU and destroyer URITZKY were established by radio intelligence as in the Archangel area. One British vessel was detected in AN 2792 by cross-bearings.

#### Own Situation:

Medium exchange of fire was reported from the Petsamo area on the evening of 3 Aug.

In the area of Hammerfest-Vardoe 3 reconnaissance planes were seen on 3 and 4 Aug. One ferry boat was attacked without success at Mehamn. 4 ships were escorted in northerly and 4 in southerly direction.

5 Aug. 1944

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

78 small vessels were intercepted while engaged in radio communication on 4 Aug. A total of 58 small vessels were sighted in Narva Bay on 5 Aug. One vessel believed to be a submarine chaser was seen operating with 4 planes in AO 3747 at 1045.

A large number of small vessels were seen in Narva Bay in the afternoon and in the evening. One boat was sunk and one damaged in an operation by our own dive bombers at 1700.

There has been a considerable increase in enemy aerial activity over the Gulf of Finland as far as Baltischport. Formations of up to 70 planes have been seen.

Own Situation:

Admiral, Skagerrak:

2 mines were cleared in the northern entrance to the Sound. In the program of the coastal mining type "A" Operation the 1st section of minefield K 9, south of Tyboroen, has been laid according to plan, consisting of 39 coastal mines type "A".

Commander, Minelayers in person left Frederikshavn at 1000 for the execution of the mine operation "Sambesi" with the OSTMARK, KAISER, Commander 5th Destroyer Flotilla, 4 destroyers and 1 mine exploding vessel.

Western and Central Baltic:

35 boats and 4 planes were engaged on minesweeping duties. A total of 5 mines were swept off Falshoef in the western part of Fehmarn Belt, in Danzig Bay and north of Hela. Convoys sailed according to plan.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

Our dive bombers, operating against enemy surface units in Narva Bay did not encounter the minesweeping formation on 3 Aug. One tanker of 1,000 GRT and 2 boats were sunk, 2 more boats were probably sunk and others damaged as alternative targets.

One of our own submarines shelled an enemy formation with 8.8 cm gun in Narva Bay on the morning of 4 Aug. The boat was forced to submerge by strong enemy air attacks and then withdrew west after depth charge attacks.

5 Aug. 1944

Boats of the Narva patrol were attacked by enemy planes in Loksa Bay at 1230. We suffered casualties and guns were put out of action. The Commander of the 25th Minesweeper Flotilla was wounded, 2 of the attacking planes were shot down. Our own fighter protection was too weak.

Our firing positions were under heavy enemy bombardment, especially Sillamae. Our batteries shelled enemy concentration areas and planes. One plane was shot down. Enemy minesweeping formations and submarine chasers were forced to turn away by the shelling from the batteries of Sillamae, Valaste and army coastal battery 509.

The 4th Torpedo Boat Flotilla with torpedo boats T "23, T "22" and T "32" put in to Helsinki at 1800.

The laying of minefield "Seeigel" IXb has been postponed for 24 hours owing to weather conditions.

The enemy withdrew forces from the area of Mitau to the south on the evening of 4 Aug. Tuckum is free of the enemy. The enemy bridge-heads of Mitau - Bauske have been cleared up.

Second degree of alarm was reported at 1700 by Naval Shore Commander, Latvia. The outer patrol positions continued to be manned. The area of Courland was placed under the Rothkirch Corps headquarters.

---

#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

Submarine U "736" left Lorient for the Channel. Submarine U "479" was shelled by an enemy formation in the Gulf of Finland while patrolling the Narva. The boat launched a "Zaunkoenig", which missed, at a motor minesweeper which broke through the minefield at the old point in AO 3644.

It has been reported in connection with the noon attack on submarine pens at Vrest that 5 direct hits did not penetrate the bunker ceiling of box 3 and D. Large pieces have been punched out from the inner part of the ceiling. One PT boat was damaged. Radio messages were partly corrupt and not complete.

No special reports are at hand from the other war theaters.

5 Aug. 1944

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

1240 enemy planes flew over northern France during daylight and attacked fortress installations. 672 enemy planes attacked western France, partly with fighter protection and raided railway installations south of Etampes and barges on the Seine in the area of Elbeuf; gunfire attacks were carried out on anti-aircraft artillery positions at Trouville and against road targets in the area of Beuzeville. 200 enemy planes flew over southwestern France attacking Pauillac and Blaye.

22 enemy planes carried out machine-gun attacks in the Ramillies area on the night of 5 Aug. 196 of our own planes were operating in the landing area dropping bombs and carrying out low level attacks with gunfire on roads. The task was carried out without losses. 159 of our planes attacked targets in the landing area on the night of 5 Aug. in which we suffered four losses. 7 night fighters were in action in western France and reported shooting down one plane.

Reich Territory:

Many hundreds of four-engined planes entered our territory with fighter cover beginning at 1010, for attacks on Magdeburg, Braunschweig, Fallersleben and other places. Industrial plants were attacked, among others the Volkswagenwerk Fallersleben. Details of damage are contained in the "Daily Report". 11 airbases were attacked by bombs but to a larger extent by gunfire; damage done to the aircraft is exceedingly small. Anti-aircraft artillery and our fighter formations reported shooting down 32 planes and probably 3 more.

50 Mosquitoes raided several places in the Rhine-Westphalia industrial area on the night of 5 Aug.

166 of our own fighters were in action during the attack on Hamburg and Kiel. According to reports up to now 16 planes were shot down and 11 more probably. 4 enemy planes had to make a forced landing in Sweden. The enemy admitted the loss of 30 planes. 35 of our own fighters were lost, 10 of which were a total loss.

Mediterranean Theater:

About 100 fighters from southern Italy attacked ground installations in Rumania and 5 air bases. "Lightnings" and a few "Mustangs" flew to Russia. Most of the Mustangs returned to Italy, 8 planes

5 Aug. 1944

were destroyed and 3 damaged on the ground at 3 of our own air bases. German and Rumanian fighters shot down 7 planes, and 1 plane was brought down by anti-aircraft artillery.

420 enemy fighter bombers, fighters and reconnaissance planes were operating over the Italian front area concentrating their attacks on Florence. About 130 twin-engined enemy planes carried out attacks in northern Italy.

Torpedo carrying Italian planes sank one freighter on the night of 5 Aug. and damaged two others. Three planes were reported dropping mines in the Danube between Weisskirchen and Orsova.

Eastern Front:

During 4 Aug. 1239 German and 2910 enemy operations were reported on the eastern front, 41 planes were shot down and we suffered 9 losses.

49 to 50 enemy planes attacked airbases in the area of Tilsit-Insterburg-Eydtkuhnen. Railway station Proscken was machine-gunned.

6 enemy planes attacked Lyck and Ebenrode on the night of 5 Aug.

---

V. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

1. Area Naval Group West:

Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

Own Situation:

4 vessels of 1,000 GRT were escorted off the south coast of France.

2. Area German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

The movements of our own shipping in the Gulf of Genoa were located by enemy reconnaissance. Planes attacked our convoy southwest of Genoa between 0226 and 0246 steering an eastern course and another convoy between 0245 and 0520 on a northerly course between Sestri Levante and Nervi without results.

5 Aug. 1944

Own Situation:

Only small damage was caused during an attack by fighter bombers on Savona. Patrol boat VP "1716" was sunk. Convoy and escort duties were carried out according to plan.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

According to an additional report dated 2 Aug. a four-engined plane was shot down during repeated air attacks on batteries in the area of Venice. Destroyer patrols were noticed north of Corfu during daylight on 5 Aug.

**At 1520 5 destroyers lay north of Corfu, 5 planes were seen close to them. The destroyers were observed for the last time at 2000.**

In the harbor of Lissa there were among other vessels 3 torpedo-carrying PT boats, 5 LCM's, 10 LCA's and 54 coastal sailing vessels; there were 10 gunnery PT boats among others in the sheltered Bay of Comiza. An enemy air raid on Garibaldi on the east Italian coast did not cause damage of any importance.

The 6th Minesweeper Flotilla was detailed to operate against the partisan base on islands off Sibenik on the evening of 5 Aug.

The execution of the mining operation "Feh" had to be broken off on account of engine trouble aboard the minelayer FASANA.

b. Aegean Sea:

Porto Lage was attacked by several enemy planes on the night of 4 Aug. Hits were reported on the naval airbase and ship-building yard.

No other special incidents to report.

c. Black Sea:

Submarine DORO was detected at 2200 135 miles east of Mangalia and submarine HANS at 0200 on bearing 116° from Pomorie. In an air raid on Sulina by 30 to 40 planes using bombs and machine-guns 2 planes were shot down.

5 Aug. 1944

The Rumanian crew on Fidonisi suffered several casualties in an air raid carried out by 2 planes. Convoys were carried through according to plan.

VII. Mine Situation on the Danube:

No minelaying or losses through mines were reported. 3 Mine-sweeping successes were accomplished on 4 Aug.

1 minesweeping plane was lost near km 554 when a mine exploded.

---

VIII. Situation East Asia:

Nothing special to report.

\*\*\*\*\*

6 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance:

Special new reports were not received.

Commander in Chief, Navy left for the Fuhrer Headquarters.

---

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

I. During the discussion of the air situation, the Naval Air and Air Force Liaison section, Naval Staff, Operations Division reported that Operations Staff, High Command, Air rejected the proposal made by the Naval Staff on fighter protection for the Elbe-Ems traffic on the following terms:

1. We do not fail to recognize the serious menace to the Elbe-Ems traffic escort and the difficulty of the impair caused by the increasing enemy air attacks.

2. Our own fighter formations are fighting defensive battles on all fronts, especially since the start of the invasion. The withdrawal of only small units of our concentrated forces operating in the focal points of the war theatres would be a waste and would question our success promising operations.

3. The escorting of supply convoys for Army Group North is the main necessity and forced us recently to withdraw further forces from the already weak protection of the Reich.

4. The demand for fighter protection therefore cannot be met at the time for Elbe-Ems convoys."

Group North as well as the Operational Staff Armed Forces High Command were informed, and by copy, the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North and Admiral Fuhrer Headquarters.

II. The Admiral of the Eastern Baltic handed in the following report on the situation on the 5 Aug.

"1. The heavy noon raid against our Narva patrol, secluded in the Loksa-Bay, proved that the enemy intended to annihilate them, but could not catch the boats on their way out or back during the last 48 hours. In number our own fighter protection is far too weak.

6 Aug. 1944

2. The enemy is sweeping mines under the protection of fighters during the whole day in the Narva Bay. The Western Group forced an attacking submarine with fighters to submerge and employed submarine chasers. When shelled from shore they turned off for the time being, using a smoke screen.

3. The use of Torpedo boats in the day operations against minesweeping formations would subsequently push the enemy away to the east, using a smoke screen, and would be followed by continued air raids on fleet without our own fighters being of great help to us. The dropping out of action of one or two destroyers must be expected with which the Russians would have reached their goal of having broken up the German naval forces before starting the out-flanking landing operations. The camouflage of the Skerries is often checked as the Russians were looking for their berths.

4. The only counter-measure against the minesweeping activity of the enemy would be to strengthen the minefields besides the occasional successful operations of dive bombers or submarines. The planned operation was postponed for 24 hours owing to weather conditions. The boats were chosen as protection.

5. It is our conception that the focal point of the enemy's offensive at the Narva front and at the coast of Estonia corresponds with that of Army Group North. The enemy again is bringing up new reserves into the battle, airforce missions were increased and the number of craft intercepted by wireless has gone up. The naval uniform is more often seen in the streets of Leningrad as a result of the orders by Stalin, concerning the concentration of naval units. The Finnish Bay is the military and political pivot.

The Army Group at least hopes to recover communications via the Schlok - Tuckum road as Russian forces were withdrawn from the area of Tuckum - Mitau."

A review on the situation was passed to the Admiral, Fuhrer Headquarters with the remark that an opinion to this would follow.

---

III. The situation in Nantes and Angers is at rest according to a report made by Group West at 0400. The enemy has felt his way up to a distance of about 30 km with reconnaissance, but withdrew again. Units were brought already on their way to La Rochelle by Commanding Post Angers. For the time being the remainder will stay in Angers on a four hours alert. It is not yet intended to move the service **offices from Nantes.**

6 Aug. 1944

All craft of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West were to a larger extent already towed away, as far as they were seaworthy. Eight vessels (tugs, waterboats and similar ones) were made ready in a hurry for a removal. If the need should arise, seven new constructed tugs not able to float yet will be destroyed. In addition 29 new constructions or vessels in repair of different types will be towed away from Nantes or will be sunk if possible to block the harbor entrance.

---

IV. Italian sailors on a tug mutineered by offering passive resistance. The affair was handed over to the security service for further attendance. When a report concerning this was made to the Fuhrer, he stated that in cases like that a demonstrative execution of the mutineers should have been made at once at the place of the happening and without any considerations.

Directions according to this were given to the German Naval Command Italy and by copy to the Admiral commanding the Adriatic and Group South.

---

V. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff.

a. The German Naval Command Italy has stated its disapproval to the proposal concerning the dissolution of the 10th Italian Motor Torpedo boat Flotilla (MAS MTB) and indicates this as being undesired. The report here at hand contains clearly exaggerations.

b. As to the setting up of batteries for naval targets the Fuhrer has ordered in complement of his orders from the 13 Jun. the following:

"1. The effect against naval targets will be the main task of all coastal batteries. The improvement of the camouflage against the sea and air must however, be completed by all means at hand in the progress of this task.

2. Batteries in barricades or in improved strongholds should be left in their places at any rate.

6 Aug. 1944

3. If the order issued by Operational Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Army, 006296/44 GK has been the cause of different interpretations in army and naval offices concerning the leaving or the shifting of a single battery to another place, the decision of the Armed Forces High Command concerning this battery should be requested. The arguments of the army and of the naval officers by it should be placed in opposition, as well as calibre, the firing-range, the camouflage, the completion, the scenery, the fire-control installations etc. should be mentioned, if possible, with drawings and photographs."

As to No. 3 above, the Naval Staff objected, as the forseen decision will cause a serious delay. The Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters will be informed by report from the Commander in Chief, Navy.

VI. Through an inquiry by the Chief, Naval Communications Division, the Chief, Naval Staff decided that our radio monitoring should try in a hurry to pierce the Turkish intelligence service.

VII. The Chief, Naval Staff reported that the Commander in Chief, Navy characterized the intentions of a member of the Deschimag to the Dockyard Control Staff of leaving Brest as a rude breach of discipline.

VIII. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division:

The Central Security Police Office received new reports from Stockholm, which should confirm the concept that the new Finnish course is striving for peace.

Quartermaster General drew attention to the fact that under these conditions the imminent delivery of four PT boats to Finland will be doubtful. The delivery at least has only got to be carried out on a special order by Naval Staff.

IX. Situation of the Army:

Western Front:

The break-through attempts of the 2nd British Army at the seam of the Tank Group West with the 7th Army were unsuccessful. The

6 Aug. 1944

penetration NE of Vire will be cleared up on the 6 Aug. through the operation of an S.S. Tank Division and with this a safe communication will be effected with the 7th Army.

The withdrawal of the left wing to the Orne was carried out according to plan.

The enemy has been feeling weakly his way forward Easterly of Mortain but since the afternoon of the 5 Aug. he is attacking our defense forces at Mayenne and Laval. The enemy is bringing up more supplies to these places.

Strong enemy forces attacked our own barrier lines in the Brittany southeasterly of St. Malo as well as Northeasterly of St. Nazaire. The enemy pushed reconnaissance ahead via Loudiac to the west in direction to Huelgoat and Pontivy and made contact with our own outer posts.

Most probably the 2nd British Army will carry on with its attack concentrating on area west of the Orne while the Americans, beside the attack in the bulging front-line of the 7th Army, were apparently striving for an advance over the line Laval-Mayenne, ahead of their own forces in a general direction south of Paris.

Italian Front:

The enemy was quiet in the whole western area with the exception of scouting squad activity.

Hard fighting occurred in the area of the 10th Army only in two limited places. One enemy break-through was cleared up in a resolute counter thrust while our counter attack was unsuccessful in the area of a second break-through.

Observation posts of the army observed the unloading of seven ships in Ancona as well as the departure of nine ships.

Eastern Front:

Army Group Southern Ukraine:

No special actions occurred.

Army Group Northern Ukraine:

Successful defense fighting occurred between the Carpathian Mountains and the Reichshof.

6 Aug. 1944

Four enemy Tank Corps are now on the western bank of the Vistula southerly of Sandomir and it may be their task to attack in a northerly direction and roll up our Vistula front. Operating on the eastern bank of the Vistula against this enemy group, our own Tank Unit proved to be too weak and is in a critical position. Our attacking spearheads had to be taken back on account of a superior enemy.

There was only unimportant enemy activity at the central Vistula front, all attacks of the enemy were repulsed.

Army Group Centre:

The 19th Tank Division was employed in a counter attack against the enemy bridgehead across the Vistula at the mouth of the Pilica and gained 6 km ground. The enemy brought up stronger forces into the bridgehead and through this the place is developing into a danger point for the situation south of Warsaw.

Barricade fighting was going on in Warsaw. Attacks by the XXXIX Tank Corps to surround the enemy forces in the area of Okuniew were frustrated. The enemy was pushed back to the south and a shorter blocking front was built. The annihilation of the surrounded enemy in the area of Radzymin and southerly of this has been completed after a very hard four days struggle. One hundred and eighty nine tanks were destroyed and 45 guns were captured. Numerous enemy attacks were repulsed between Warsaw and the river Bug.

With the help of artillery barrage and continual operations of ground attacking planes the enemy broke through at several places of our Narva front westerly of Bialystock; up to the evening these penetrations were cleared away in heavy fighting and with heavy casualties.

Through the employment of all reserves at hand and with the support of the air force we succeeded in hindering the enemy of accomplishing a crossing of the Augustow canal after laying a heavy barrage and in blocking the break-through. The fighting was still going on.

The enemy forced his way into our own positions at the straits of the lakes, easterly of Augustowo.

The attacks of three Russian armies were repulsed in heavy changeable fighting between Sudauen and West of Kauen, the aim of which was to accomplish a break-through between Gumbinnen and Romintener heath.

6 Aug. 1944

The enemy attacked with concentrated forces north of the Memel at Dubyssa and succeeded in penetrating to a depth of 12 km.

Army Group North:

Repeated enemy attacks at our own bridgeheads on the Aa at Mitau were repulsed. The enemy succeeded in breaking through at several points by employing at least 50 tanks and pushing in additional forces in the area of Birsen. Counter measures were under way. The enemy attacked on a broad front at different places between the Duna and Lake Peipus mostly with the support of tanks and ground attacking planes. He succeeded in accomplishing several break-throughs. One infantry division launched an attack against a penetration north of Jakobstadt.

All attacks at the existing focal points were repulsed by Army Formation Narva causing the enemy heavy losses with the exception of one local penetration.

---

X. Chief, Naval Staff, Operations Division reported that the Commanding Admiral Submarines will need three days for the transfer of the 25th Submarine Flotilla.

---

XI. Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division reports about the brief report concerning the events in the Brittany between the 3rd and 5 Aug. which was presented by Group West on the evening of the 5 Aug. Copy according to l/SKl 24261/44 Gkdos. in War Diary special file "Invasion 5 Aug. The report gave an unpleasant picture about the leadership in the area of the XXV Army Corps. It must be objected in all that the army carried out measures without first contacting and without giving any kind of information to the Commanding Admiral Atlantic Coast or to the Naval Shore Commander. Unbelievable is especially the blowing up of battery Paimpol as this round-about battery would have been very important in land warfare. The conducting orders by the Commander in Chief West and the orders by the Führer did not work out as expected, evidently through the unserviceable condition of the army radio. Army Command XXV is therefore not in the position to stop the withdrawing movements without relying on the naval radio communications as in its time at Cherbourg. The Commander in Chief West ordered the Army Headquarters XXV at Brest for close cooperation with the Naval Shore Command.

6 Aug. 1944

Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division reports further about a teletype from the Chief, Armed Forces High Command, which summed up principles in which the Führer ordered or established rules for the defense of fortresses and defense areas in regard to the situation in the west. Copy according to 1/SK1 2351/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in War Diary Part B, Volume V. The execution of these orders should be carried out without consideration of competence and with all means of improvisation. The experiences made at the defense of Cherbourg should be used as a base in these preparations. Operations of naval forces from fortresses manned by the Army and decision concerning the transfer of naval forces will be alone the task of the Navy. The maintenance of the Navy and the preservation of its readiness for action must be assured as long as operations were possible.

---

Special Items.

I. To the request from the Supply and Fuel Branch, Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, the Navy made a report concerning the effect of the scarcely sufficient distribution of fuel. The prevention in the building up of the PT boat arm does not harmonize with the orders issued by the Commander in Chief Navy for an equalization with the submarine arm, whose need concerning fuel is satisfied.

The fighting and tactical education of heavy cruisers by the training unit cannot be promoted in the necessary size, especially in that of battleships.

---

II. Naval Staff, Operations Division, Submarine Division informed the Naval Staff, Operations Division about the following report by Commander, Submarines, West:

"La Pallice and Bordeaux have been considered beforehand as an alternative port for the repairing of all submarines. The transfer of laborers from Brest, Lorient and Nazaire is not possible. For the repair of submarines therefore it will be necessary to employ all shipbuilding yard capacities as well as the personnel from the flotillas and submarines. The release of personnel above the transfer so far made for the employment in a fortress or at any other place is not anymore bearable for the carrying on of the submarines war."

---

6 Aug. 1944

III. The Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command has decided to the subject concerning mine fields in the Dardanelles and Bosphorus the following:

"1. Mine fields should first be laid at the mouth of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus (Code word "Fliegenpilz") when the passages of enemy warships is immediately at hand or if the enemy is starting operations against the Aegean or Balkan by breaking the Turkish neutrality.

2. The premature laying of minefields should only be carried out by orders from the Armed Forces High Command."

Naval Staff, Operations Division informed Group South by teletype 1/SK1 2355/44 Gkdos. Chfs. Copy in War Diary Part C, Volume XIV a.

Group South reported the employment of the Drache and Zeus as fast transporters for the shifting of the reinforced battalion to Lemnos, demanded by Army Group E. The development of the situation up to the present time makes an employment of the mine carrier for transportation bearable, required for the "Fliegenpilz" operation. Other vessels were not available, as all war freighters with the exception of courier boats and Bulgarian ships were not yet released.

Naval Staff, Operations Division informed the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy and Operations Officer, Naval Liaison, High Command Air Force. Copy of teletype 1/SK1 2356/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in War Diary Part C, Volume XIV a.

---

Situation on the 6 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Seventy two planes were intercepted in action by 19. group. Reconnaissances were concentrating on the western half of the Channel area off Brest and in front of the Gironde.

Seven British vessels were detected in the rendezvous area. LCG 1 was towing a torpedo on the evening of 5 Aug. in the area of Sword/Juno according to radio monitoring. The movements of ten convoys were detected in the invasion area. The majority of them were sailing for Utah.

6 Aug. 1944

Enemy targets were detected NW of Quessant, as well as in the Channel NW of Cap Griz Nez, in the sea area NW of Fecamp to SW of Le Havre, SW of Alderney, W of Morlaix and N of Lennion on the night of the 5 Aug. and confirmed by radar equipment.

Five PT boats were located on a Northwesterly course SSW of Guernsey at 0810. Destroyer patrols were located with radar location and radar interception gear during the day in the sea area 10 miles west and 20 miles southerly of Quessant, consisting partly of larger vessels, standing on and off.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

Minesweeper M "325", "271" and Patrol Boat V "725" were sunk in a renewed heavy air raid on Pauillac at 1915 on the 5 Aug. The coaling quay and the tank installations were burning. The Naval arsenal Bordeaux - Bassen was at the same time attacked and seriously damaged.

An enemy air raid was carried out against the area of St. Nazaire at 0426 combined with an attack by destroyers against our own patrolling forces. Plane tender RICHTHOFEN and M 304 were badly damaged. The effect of hits were observed, made by our own 10,5 cm artillery defense guns.

A further attack was carried out by enemy surface naval forces against convoy 4221 at 0040 off St. Nazaire. SG 3 arrived in Les Sables damaged. Two minesweepers, one patrol boat, one cable-layer and two coastal auxiliary sailing vessel were missing and have most probably been sunk. SG 3 shot down the attacking Liberator.

One mine was swept in the Le Four Canal and six mines in front of Brest.

One Submarine was escorted out and one was brought in. The Commander of the 8th Destroyer Flotilla is sailing with destroyer Z "24" from Bordeaux to Le Verdon.

In a renewed attack, SG 3 was sunk in the roads of Les Sables by a bomb hit.

Lorient was attacked continuously by enemy planes in the evening. No damage was made in the harbor. A train carrying ammunition was shot afire by planes in a low level attack at the station Jonzac.

6 Aug. 1944

Land situation in the Brittany: The batteries of Lumaire Cecembre and Cancale were in action on the evening of the 4 Aug. against American concentrations SW of Chateauneuf. The naval replacement division 70 (MEK) had contact with terrorists on its march from Lannion to Brest on the 5 Aug. No losses were reported. Instruments and troops arrived without any losses at Brest from Radar Station Primal.

The installations on Les Sept Iles were blown up on the 5 Aug. and evacuated.

The enemy's pressure increased at St. Malo on the 6 Aug. Heavy artillery fire was covering town and harbor. Three guns dropped out of action from battery Cecembre.

Minesweepers reported from the immediate surrounding of Trinite the landing of cargo gliders protected by an air fighter screen at 2200 on the 5 Aug.

Ile de Bas was again occupied at 0600 on the 5 Aug.

The light naval unit 684 is on its march from St. Nazaire to Angers. The light naval artillery unit 688 had partly contact with the enemy on its march from La Rochelle. The light naval artillery unit 687, has arrived in Angers. Parts of the naval artillery unit 681, 683 and 688 were operating in the area of the fortress of Lorient.

Channel Area:

One harbor defense boat was sunk in the Roads of St. Malo in continuous air raids on the 4 Aug. The 46th Minesweeper Flotilla Group C had an engagement with PT boats southeast of Cap Frehel when shifting position from Lezardrieux to St. Malo. One enemy craft was towed away badly damaged. One plane was shot down by the unit in front of Lezardrieux when enemy fighter bombers attacked.

The 2nd Assault Boat Flotilla carried out a thrust with three boats into the eastern part of the Seine Bay on the night of the 5 Aug. Coming from Le Havre contact was made with MBG's and destroyers as well aimed artillery fire was reported. 12 Dackel were launched by three boats of the 6th Assault Boat Flotilla between 0155 and 0220. BF 3684 upper third and BF 3676 upper quarter was the target area. Torpedo detonations were not observed on account of unfavorable wind and continuous strong artillery firing. The boats had a short

6 Aug. 1944

engagement with fast enemy craft. PT Boat S "97" was hit by a torpedo and arrived at Le Havre. For a Brief report see teletype 0015, 1210 and 1355.

Seven patrol boat positions were occupied at the Channel coast. 200 BRT were escorted in traffic between the Channel Islands.

---

## II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

### North Sea:

Strong enemy air formations with fighter protection entered the Heligoland Bight from 0943 and returned. In all anti-aircraft artillery areas the formations were shelled. One plane was reported shot down westerly of Jever. A medium air raid was made on Hamburg from 1020 to 1235. The Deutsche Werft Reihersteig was badly damaged. One drydock was sunk, two others were half sunk. One dry dock was burning; three steamers were badly damaged. The oilworks of Rhenania and Schliemann were burned out. Heavy fires raged in the oilharbor of Wilhelmsburg and Harburg. Further damage was done in the anti-aircraft artillery baseliner Neuhoef by carpet-bombing. The further dropping of bombs at Wesermunde and other places in the coastal area of the Heligoland Bight was reported without causing special damage. The Kiel-Canal is not passable, on account of the lock at Holtenau being out of order.

Patrol boat positions were occupied according to plan. One mine was cleared NW of Borkum.

The naval anti-aircraft artillery batteries at Den Helder and Scheveningen shelled during the morning and afternoon hours enemy fighter and pursuit plane formations off the Dutch coast.

In reply to the inquiry made by the Naval Staff concerning the transfer of the new constructions of the Hansa program the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North answered that the transfer will first take place after the 14 Aug. and in convoys of two to three ships twice a week owing to the missing fighter protection. The transfer of ships will take place in agreement with the Reich Commissar for Shipping. The Chief of the Staff of Air Force Reich has promised the Reich Commissar for shipping fighter protection for the 28th Jul. (should most probably mean 28 Aug. - remark by translator) for the Hansa program convoys.

6 Aug. 1944

Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Nine planes in action were intercepted by 18. group.

One British vessel was detected from Kirkenes in 286° at 0236.

2. Own Situation:

Twenty nine ships were escorted to the north and 41 ships to the south.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

Fifty nine smaller vessels were intercepted in wireless communication in the Finnish Bay on 5 Aug. A minesweeper formation of 16 boats was reported by submarine of the Narva patrol in AO 3744 at 0710 on 6 Aug. The 2nd boat reported smoke screening vessels in AO 3744 at 1421 which disappeared to the east after being fired on with artillery.

Two PT boats were seen in AO 3665 at 1113. Three larger and eleven smaller vessels were observed in AO 3744 by our own air reconnaissance on a SW course. Fourteen boats were standing off Hungerburg at about 1800.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral commanding the Skagerrak:

Nineteen boats were employed with minesweeping duties.

The mining operation "Sambesi" was carried out according to plan. The 5th Destroyer Flotilla was dismissed to Horten. Three transport detachments were escorted.

Western and Central Baltic:

Thirty four boats were employed with mine sweeping duties. One mine detonation was observed in the Bay of Kiel. The target ship ODIN was sunk by a target ship hit in the Bay of Danzig after midnight of the 6 Aug., the crew was saved.

6 Aug. 1944

One platoon of the submarine training division (ULD) was in action with the gendarmery in protectional measures against marauders at Deutsch-Krottingen.

Fifteen hundred evacuated were transferred with steamer BOLKOBURG from Memel to Gydinia.

Strong enemy bomber formations crossed Schleswig-Holstein under the protection of fighters for a raid on Berlin. Individual formations entered the Baltic, crossed Rügen and entered the area of Danzig-Königsberg. Sixty fortresses raided airbase RameL.

A formation of 100 to 120 planes raided the northern part of Kiel as well as the bridges in Holtenau and the town quarters of Wik. Lock installations were damaged. The engine house was destroyed. The traffic through the lock was at first closed, but was later re-opened again with one gate. By bombs were further hit the naval school Kiel, barrack installations at Wik, the barrack camp in the Admiral Scheer Street, the barrack grounds of the Air Force and the airbase Holtenau. One sidebeam was damaged of the Prinz Heinrich highbridge. The highbridge of Levensauer received a few hits by high-explosive bombs.

On account of a telephone report from Naval Command, East, the Naval Staff informed the Admiral Führer Headquarters, Naval Liaison Officer, Armed Forces High Command and Operations Officer, Naval Liaison, High Command Air Force about the deficiency of the locks at Holtenau. According to this the lock chambers of the new gate were not clear. The dropping of bombs inside the lock chamber must be suspected. The working of the locks might be possible by hand power after the removal of the bombs. Both gates of the old lock are not clear.

Admiral commanding Eastern Baltic.

**Two hundred and ninty four enemy planes were intercepted in total in the Finnish Bay on forenoon and afternoon of 5 Aug, of which 140 dropped bombs and carried out raids with gunfire in the area of Narvi-Kotka and on the open sea. Own formations were not in this area. About 150 planes were located between the Narva Bay and Reval.**

The 8th Minesweeper Flotilla and Six naval landing craft left port for the laying of minefield Seeigel 9b. Four torpedoboats planned to push forward from Kaunisaari to the south up to AO 3666 at 2100 with the intention of screening the mining task. The boats should be at Kaunaissari again at 0300 on 7 Aug.

6 Aug. 1944

Torpedo Boat T "22" and "32" sailed from Helsinki at 0100 for Kjefsaloe.

One mine was cleared from the Reval Bay.

The transportation services were carried out according to plan.

The following transportations were carried out in total to the east during the time from the 30 Jul. to the 6 Aug: 16,567 soldiers, of which 16,168 sailed for Riga, 150 persons, attendants of the Armed Forces and 2425 tons of Armed Forces property.

From the Coastal Defense Area Centre the following number of persons were brought back: 48,075 persons, 50 vehicles and 1300 tons of Armed Forces property.

Ground planes attacking with fighter protection raided the harbor of Dorpat five times without effort on the afternoon of 5 Aug.

---

#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

Submarine U "804" heard two detonations after attacking three destroyers in the area of BD 5514 on 2 Aug.

Submarine U "198" warded off two Hudsons in the Indian Ocean in area KP 98 on 6 Jul., sank the British freighter DIRECTOR (5,107 BRT) on 15 Jul. in KP 3568 and torpedoed most probably one large freighter escorted by three corvettes on the 19 Jul. in KP 3332. The boat launched a Zaunkönig on a liberty ship on the 5 Aug. in KE 8835, which missed the target. The torpedo was a circular runner and exploded close to the boat.

Reports from the Narva Bay boats were made previously.

In the Mediterranean, submarine U "969" and U "471" were sunk in to-days airraid at Toulon.

---

#### V. Air Warfare:

##### Western Area:

Six hundred and fifty enemy planes with fighter protection entered the Belgium/North French area during the day and raided

6 Aug. 1944

zone of defenses in depth in the area of Merville as well as railway installations in the area of Hazebrock.

Five hundred and seventy enemy planes entered Western France and attacked anti-aircraft artillery positions, road targets, bridge and ferries in the area of Druex, Rouen and Vierzon as well as the airbase Dreux.

Strong enemy four-engined plane formations entered the area of the Rhone from the south and attacked railway facilities as well as Toulon.

Fifty-five enemy air missions occurred in the occupied Dutch western area on the night of 6 Aug., most probably with mining intentions. From the area of Etaples single attacks with high-explosive bombs and ground attacks with gunfire were reported.

One hundred and fifty three of our own planes attacked ground targets in the landing area. Through the operations of 121 fighters 15 enemy planes were shot down with the loss of only four to us.

Two hundred and eleven of our own planes were in action against ground targets in the landing area on the night of 6 Aug. Seven of our own planes were lost. Three planes attacked ship targets in the Seine Bay without successes. No report is yet at hand about the torpedo attack carried out by 24 "Ju 88" in the Seine Bay. Three of our own nightfighters shot down one enemy night fighter over Northern France.

Three destroyers were sunk, one transporter probably sunk, one destroyer and two light cruisers were damaged in a torpedo attack carried out by 22 of our own planes on the night of 5 Aug. None of our own planes were lost.

---

Area of the Reich:

Fifteen hundred four-engined enemy planes with strong fighter protection were over the sea area of Heligoland at 0930, where they divided into two groups. An attack was carried out against Hamburg/Harburg with about 600 planes and another attack at Berlin and Brandenburg with about 700 planes. 200 planes flew over Kolberg and entered the area of Gydinia for an attack on the airbase at Ramel. Seventy of these planes flew on via Allenstein to Russia.

6 Aug. 1944

Fighter formations were in the area of Hannover-Leipzig-Frankfurt/Oder.

See "Daily Situation Report" for the damage done in the attacked places, especially in Berlin, Hamburg, Brandenburg, Kiel and Lubeck. Nine of our own planes were destroyed on the ground in airbase Brandenburg.

One hundred and ninety eight of our own planes were in action defending Berlin during the attack, of which 15 were lost and 16 were missing. Against these 31 own planes lost were only six enemy planes for certain shot down. Twenty four more planes were shot down by anti-aircraft artillery.

Sixty enemy planes entered our territory for an attack against Köln, Düsseldorf, Dortmund, Bochum and Gelsenkirchen on the night of 6 Aug.

The dropping of sabotage-materiel and the setting down of agents from single planes was reported from the North and SW of Germany.

Mediterranean Theater:

Two hundred enemy planes were in action in the Italian front area on the 5 Aug. Enemy aerial activity was weak owing to weather conditions. Twenty seven planes were reported carrying supplies to the partisans in the Balkan area, 20 of which were known to have come from Russia and 10 were harassing planes.

Eastern Area:

During the 5 Aug. 1533 German and 2410 enemy operations were reported on the eastern front, with 16 losses and 32 planes shot down.

Single air entries without attacks were reported from the area of Goldap - Insterburg on 6 Aug.

One plane was reported from the area of Allenstein on the night of 6 Aug.

The 5th Air Force carried out air reconnaissance above Island on 6 Aug.

6 Aug. 1944

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

1. Area Naval Group West:

Enemy Situation:

Cap Spartel reported in fog two cruisers and nine destroyers on course to the Mediterranean at 2000 on 5 Aug. Report was not confirmed up to now.

Own Situation:

No special incidents.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Eight patrol and seven landing vessels were sighted five miles WSW of Leghorn at 0700.

Own Situation:

One of our own convoys sailing to the south was attacked by planes off Sestri Levante. One fighting ferry shot down one plane.

The supervision of the minefield gap with motor minesweeper and minesweepers showed no actual **proof** that the enemy buoyed the minefield gaps.

Convoy and escort duties were carried out according to plan.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

Enemy destroyers were sighted during the day in the Otranto Strait. At least five destroyers were in the morning SW of Cap Linguetta and west of this Cap and in the afternoon ten vessels of which one was probably a cruiser, were on alternating courses.

The enemy landed on the night of 6 Aug. at Peljesac according to a report by the Port Commander Dubrovnik. Particulars are not known yet.

6 Aug. 1944

Motor minesweepers R "15" and "16" had an engagement with a gun boat on the night of 5 Aug., when sailing from Murter to Sibenik. Many hits were scored on the gun boat. One sailing vessel was sunk and one vessel was seized.

Four motor minesweepers sailed from Sibenik for the sea area westerly of Murter on the evening of the 6 Aug. for operations against partisan bases.

b. The Aegean:

The dropping of three mines into the net-barrier of the harbor of Syra was observed on the night of 5 Aug.

The harbor management of Porto Lago is strongly hindered since the 5 Aug. by a dud on the oil-quay as the blasting is not possible owing to shortage in specialists.

c. Black Sea:

Radio monitoring located as usual only little movements by the Russian Navy but increased activity by enemy naval planes.

One Russian submarine was attacked by submarine chasers without effect in the area east of Constanta on the night of 6 Aug.

Two artillery boats were attacked on route Fidonisi to Sulina without effect with gunfire from two planes.

Convoys were carried through according to plan.

According to the Army radio monitoring a Turkish destroyer dropped depth charges on submarine in 41°16' North and 29°30' East at 0810 on 5 Aug.

Group South proposed to filtrate news about the presence of Russian submarines off the Bosphorus into the hands of Turkish Intelligence Circles with the intention of preventing the enemy of making suitable reports independently from official political channels. Further particulars in War Diary Part C Volume VIII.

Under Russian pressure the Bulgarian Government demanded the withdrawal of German naval forces from the area of the Danube and Black Sea according to a report by the Central Security Police Office.

6 Aug. 1944

It was further known that the re-opening of Russian commercial agencies in Varna, Burgas, Sistoff and Russe were imminent. In agreement with the special representative for the Danube the withdrawal of Russian ships' personnel is prepared from these areas if the latter event should arise.

d. In the Danube Area:

There were no reports about mine-laying or of losses as a result of mines. Two mine-sweeping operations were carried out successfully at km 530.

---

VII. Situation East Asia.

1. The Japanese Homeland:

No new air attacks were carried out against the homeland of Japan. Appointments were made in the Japanese navy as follows: New Chief of the Staff of the Admiralty: Admiral Oikawa (was at the beginning of the war in command of the navy in Chinese waters, 1940/41 Naval Minister, and after that Commander in Chief of Escort and Submarine defense.)

New Chief of the Naval Staff (Kommandoamt) is Vice-Admiral Tada (was Deputy Chief of Air-ministry). Admiral Nomura was again appointed Chief of Yokusuka station (as rehabilitation after only a short term in office as Minister of Navy in the Tojo-cabinet.

2. The Marianen.

Heavy fighting was continuously going on at Guam. The airbase of Tyan and three places on Guam were firm in the hands of the Americans. According to a report from Tokio dated 29 Jul., the USA had in action at Guam: Eight aircraft carrier, five battleships, more than ten cruisers, 40 destroyers, 80 transports, and 300 landing vessels. The strength of the landing troops was esteemed with three weak divisions and 150 tanks.

Night attacks by Japanese troops failed on the 26 and 27th Jul. The casualties on both sides were heavy, the Japanese fighting strength is decreasing through the lack of reinforcements. The USA published their casualties in total with 6273 (1022 dead, 305 missing and 4946 wounded), 100 tanks and 42 planes and those of the Japanese with 7149 dead.

6 Aug. 1944

American landings were continued at Tinian. About one American division with 30 tanks was on shore on 25 Jul. according to a Japanese statement. The casualties on both sides were heavy. The Japanese power of resistance is declining rapidly. The total loss of the island must soon be expected.

**American landings started at Rota on the 2 Aug.**

3. SW Pacific:

A task force of two aircraft carriers, two battleships, six cruisers and more than ten destroyers attacked Palau on the 25/26 Jul. About 280 planes were employed by the Americans which partly took off from land bases. The targets of the attacks were airbases, naval plane bases, harbor installations and coastal batteries. The damage caused was small.

The American air raids were continued against the different island bases. Raids were carried out against Kawieng (New Ireland), Rabaul (New Britain), Bougainville (Solomons), Truk, Wolesi (Carolines), the Palau-group, Ulithi (West Carolines), Yap, Flores, Timor, the Nomoi-islands and Halmahera.

The air raids against the shipping carrying reinforcements, have decreased, but in return the enemy submarine activity has grown worse. The Americans have published their successes against the shipping lately (exact time not mentioned) as follows:

sunk:

by the airforce: one gunboat, one destroyer or mine-ship eleven freighters, one tanker, numerous smaller vessels.

by submarines: one small naval vessel, 28 freighters.

damaged: one tanker and several smaller vessels.

4. New Guinea:

The attacks by the 18 Japanese army in the area of Eitape-Wewack made no headway.

Changeable encounters were going on in the Driniumor valley. Cruisers and destroyers shelled the Japanese positions at the coast between Eitape and Wewack. The Americans landed in the western part of the island at Sansapor and Nansaport. The islands of Amsterdam and Middelsburg were occupied by them without any Japanese resistance.

6 Aug. 1944

Air raids were continued against the Japanese military installations in the area of Manokwari. According to American reports Manokwari was surrounded in a large circle by American troops.

Liberator bombers attacked the air bases at Sorong.

5. Indian Ocean:

Labang on Sumatra was attacked by a task force on 25 Jul. consisting of two aircraft carriers, four battleships, five cruisers and nine destroyers. The attack, carried out by 20 planes and ship artillery lasted one and a half hours. There were only a few casualties on shore, but the materiel damage was considerable. Two destroyers and one trawler were sunk, one cruiser and one destroyer were damaged and four planes were shot down by Japanese defense and planes.

American submarines shelled oil-tanks in Sibolga on the North-eastern coast of Sumatra and military installations at Port Blair on the Andamanen on 27 Jul.

American planes dropped bombs at Amboina (in the north of British India).

6. Burma:

No essential changes occurred in the situation in Burma. Changeable fighting was going on in the area of the Imphal-road, at Myitkyina and at Mogaung.

7. China:

Japanese operations along the north-south railway were continued. At the time being Hengyang is surrounded. Here the defense was strong, above all the Chinese and Americans were trying to prevent the passage of reinforcements.

According to a verbal information made by the assistant of the Japanese Naval Attaché, the enemy was using irritant gas - of course not poison gas - in the Hengyang area which forced the troops to make use of their gas masks.

6 Aug. 1944

8. Kurilen:

American air attacks were again taken up from their base in the Aleuten against Paramushir.

---

7 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance

In speeches over the Finnish radio made by the representatives of the different popular spheres it was strongly expressed that the presumed foundation of the Finnish war aim was still unchanged. Finland tried to receive help wherever help could be expected. The agreement with Germany did not influence the own interests of the country. The character of the Finnish war was still fighting for freedom, safety and democracy. The agreement with Germany was not directed against the existing constitution. It should be the aim of Finland to stick to the right for self-government up to the end of the world struggle.

---

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

I. To the sub-structure of the air situation, the Naval Air and Air Force Liaison Section, Naval Staff, Operations Division reported about air situation West, made by Operations Staff, High Command Air Force, Foreign Affairs Section.

Enemy concentrations in the western Mediterranean were continued. Strong enemy airtransport formations arrived newly in this area, most probably at Corsica and Italy.

Headquarters of the Close-Combat Corps and the attached air control authorities of the 8th British Army have been transferred from the Eastern Mediterranean to the area of Piombino. All units of the XII. USA Close Combat Corps were assembled ready for bailing out at Corsica. An American fighter brigade was believed to be stationed there. The focal point of the Air Force was by this again confirmed to be on the western side of Italy.

The concentration of radar-set-organizations in the area of Ankona has been observed since the beginning of August.

Landing intentions in the Upper Italian region were indicated according to the opinion of the Foreign Affairs Section by:

a. The repeated raids against bridges and traffic installations with focal point in the area of Nizza, Genoa and Pavia during the month of August.

b. The starting raids on airbases in the western part of Italy.

7 Aug. 1944

c. Heavy raids on installations in the harbor of Genoa.

Foreign Affairs Section drew attention to the last American raids, carried out by four-engined bomber formations against Southern France, which were decided by general weather conditions in the southern area.

There was no ground visibility in the Balkans nor in southern Germany.

The reports at hand concerning the reinforcements of the allied air force and the establishments of large supply depots at Cypem and in Syria which were in some way connected with the Turkish question, still have to be confirmed. Only the presence of four auxiliary aircraft carriers in Alexandria was confirmed.

The reorganization of the Turkish Air Force has probably reached its end with the shifting of the 2nd Air Force Division and of the 6th Air Force Regiment to the NW of Turkey. With this there were no Turkish front formations more left in southeastern Turkey, so that the total ground organization in this area was at the time unmanned.

The transfer of allied forces seemed to start with the impending transfer of a British night fighter unit with attached radar set organization according to absolute reliable quarters. There was an information at hand from Chief of Operations Branch Navy concerning our own reconnaissance. According to this weak reconnaissance forces and strong oppression of our positions in other sea areas as well as the fuel shortage forced us to a new regulating and concentrating of the weak reconnaissance forces in focal points, taking such risks under account in other sea areas.

a. The 2nd Air Force should be reinforced with long-range reconnaissance planes with regard to the impending landing in the Central Mediterranean. Reconnaissance should be made continuously from:

The west coast of Sardinia and Corsica, the Ligurian Sea inclusively Elba/Piombino, the eastern coast of Italy from Rimini to Termoli as well as the Dalmatic islands. Besides this a protective reconnaissance of the Aegean should be carried out.

b. About weekly reconnaissance was planned sectionwise of Ajaccio, Maddalena; Civitacchia, Tarent, Bari, Brindisi as well as of the convoy route Malta-Bengasi, when convoys were expected. Reconnaissance of the Northern African Coast should only be made, when convoys were to be attacked. The same regulations applied if heavy formations entered the Mediterranean from the west.

7 Aug. 1944

c. Occasional reconnaissance about monthly should be made from the Oran-ports, Algier, Bone, Bizerte, the harbors of Sicily, Naples, Malta, Alexandria and Port Said. The harbors around the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Oran harbors were urgent above all.

Five long-range reconnaissance planes were transferred already from the 5th Air Force to the 2nd Air Force. A few more planes of this type should now be transferred.

Chief of Operations Branch Navy objected successfully against the first intended withdrawal of the northwestern detachment from the 3rd Air Force.

Reconnaissance in the western area stayed unchanged, 2 Ar 234 were newly transferred.

Reconnaissance of the Atlantic was restricted to special events and was only to be carried out by orders from the 3rd Air Force. On account of the fuel situation the "Ju 290" could not carry out further flights. Protective reconnaissance of the Bay of Biscay would be carried out as usual.

A strengthening of the reconnaissance forces in the Black Sea was not intended, as this was a secondary war theatre. A detachment of "Ju 188" was at the disposal of the 4th Air Force for reconnaissance tests at random as usual.

A strengthening of the reconnaissance forces in the Finnish Bay was not necessary but on the contrary the effective force for employment of fighters and ground attacking planes was reinforced. The transfer of a ground attacking plane group from Kandalakscha to Helsingfors had been ordered.

The fuel situation of the Air Force was so serious that the fighting activities had to be essential reduced without considering the necessity of operations; an overdrawing of the contingent was not possible.

Operations Staff, High Command Air informed the Naval Staff about direction to the 3rd Air Force and 2nd to make reconnaissance of Bizerte and Tunis at once.

II. With reference to the situation in the west the report from Commander PT Boats was read concerning the Operations of Dackel. According to this 36 torpedos and three Dackel (translation doubtful - remark by translator) were launched in two operations.

7 Aug. 1944

Nine detonations were heard during the first action; this is the only not certain trustworthy support of a success. No facts could be established by radio monitoring. Request has been made for air reconnaissance at the hour of arrival of Dackel in the operational area.

Further plans of Commander PT Boats were:

After the arrival of replacements of Dackel in Le Havre every opportunity will be taken to carry out operations. The number of PT Boats available at the time being was quite sufficient for operations of all ready T3D in one night, as more than one operation would not be necessary so far by torpedo carrier. Above all the current conditions of the Seine Bay were strongly determining the operations in one night.

To the attack carried out by enemy surface forces against our own convoy off St. Nazaire, the British Admiralty reported that a British-Canadian formation consisting of the cruiser BELLONA and the destroyer HAIDA, TARTAR, ASHANTI and IROQUOIS annihilated a German convoy with escorts, in total seven ships, during morning hours of the 6th. A second convoy which was attacked later escaped into the harbor. The enemy had a small number of casualties.

III. Naval Staff, Operations Division established contact with the Admiral Führer Headquarters concerning the transfer of four PT boats to the Finnish Navy in the middle of August. The Finnish situation was still unclear. A cancellation of the delivery might perhaps disturb the favorable development of the Finnish attitude.

According to an information given by the Admiral Führer Headquarters, the Commander in Chief, Navy decided that the delivery of the PT boats will be made according to plan.

The Chief, Armed Forces High Command believed a delivery of the boats advisable.

IV. Mine Warfare Section and Anti-Submarine Section, Naval Staff, Operations Division reports about the situation in the Far East relevantly to entries in War Diary from the 6 Aug.

V. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff reported about direction from the Armed Forces High Command concerning the delivery of anti-aircraft artillery guns of the Navy to the Danube shipping. According to this 300 2cm twin and quadruple mounted anti-aircraft artillery guns should be placed at disposal in three monthly installments. The total assignment made to the Navy would not cover the needs for

7 Aug. 1944

equipping new constructions and re-equipments. Situation arising through the ordered delivery has been put to the account of the Reich Traffic Ministry for railway trains. The Naval Staff advised to offer in total 100 twin and quadruple anti-aircraft artillery guns in a two month installment.

Chief, Naval Staff agreed with the corresponding proposal to the Armed Forces High Command.

VI. Chief, Submarine Division: Five bombs of 5,5 to and a length of 7,2 m with triple base percussion fuses were dropped on the submarine bunker Brest in a bombing raid at 1215 on 5 Aug. Two hits pierced to a depth of 2,5 m. Box Emil and Dock 3 have a ceiling thickness of 5,6 m, but no bomb-catching meshes a piece of which was broken out from the inside ceiling of 2 m thickness. A ceiling of a circumballation of 3,5 m thickness was penetrated. Apparently bombs act only on ceiling penetrations and no damage worth mentioning was caused in the hall or to the boats beneath.

Conference Restricted to a very limited Circle.

VII. Situation of the Army:

Western Front:

The 5th Tank Army was attacked by the enemy continuously in the western area of the Orne up to the army boundary with local focal points. In heavy fighting he was repulsed everywhere. At one point of penetration the enemy was thrown back to the north in an energetic attack carried out by the 10th SS Tank Division.

The 7th Army was attacked by the enemy in strength of nine infantry divisions, army units and a tank division in always new waves under the protection of continuous air force support in the sector Vire to Cherence. In spite of heroic-courageous defense the enemy succeeded in effecting several break-throughs, which could be blocked in the main point up to the evening.

Enemy tank units advanced in open country in direction to Mayenne and Laval. Mayenne was occupied by the enemy, fighting was still going on at Laval.

Three infantry divisions and two tank divisions were led by the enemy into the Brittany through which the rebellion movement was set ablaze in the whole area. Groups of the XXV. Army Corps were fighting in the area of St. Malo, Dinant, St. Brieux and at the line Pontivy -

7 Aug. 1944

Morlaix against a superior enemy who had occupied many road junctions with the help of terrorists.

Enemy reports concerning our own recognized intentions, the re-grouping by the enemy and the strong attacks against the easily **ruptured** and strained front of the 7th Army forced us to attack, the postponement of which would have been unbearable anymore. Four tank divisions counter-attacked Avranches at 2000 coming from the area easterly and northerly of Mortain.

The operations in Northern France stated that the enemy command was still clinging to the plan of operating against Paris. The southerly attacking group seemed to be employed first of all via Laval and Le Mans. It must be accepted, that the enemy command wanted to avoid being tied up frontal, but wanted to make the most of the high mobility and would also start spacious envelopments.

#### Italian Front:

Fighting only of local meaning. The enemy tried to cross the Arno south of Florence without success.

The establishment of the 5th British Air Landing Division in the Italian area, up to now believed to be in England, confirmed the already stated expectation that commitment by air **landing** forces must be expected at the impending landing operation.

The transfer of the two worn out British Infantry Divisions from Italy to Egypt did not mean a change in fighting strength, as again for these two fresh divisions were brought in from the near eastern area to Italy.

#### Eastern Front:

##### Army Group Southern Ukraine:

Surprising strong enemy air force activity easterly of the Pruth.

##### Army Group Northern Ukraine:

The withdrawal movement by Army Group Raus was still proceeding according to plan. Enemy thrusts in the area of Sambor - Sanok were repulsed through the conduct of mobile attacks. An own attack was launched to close the gap between the 17th Army and Army Group Raus.

7 Aug. 1944

Heavy fighting was continued between Jaslo and Sandomir. Our own tank divisions suffered grievous losses and were partly taken back. The enemy pushed his reconnaissance westerly of the Vistula up to Nida (60 km easterly of Krakau).

The south wing of the 4th Army warded off strong enemy attacks but could not prevent the enemy from pushing up his reconnaissance forces to the Lysa-Gora Mountains.

The enemy was quiet at the Vistula front.

Army Group Centre:

Six enemy divisions were now at least at the Pilica in the Vistula bridgehead. More ground was won against these in our own attacks.

Only step by step our own forces were gaining ground in Warsaw. More attacks by dive bombers were carried out against the rebels. A state of relative quietness prevailed east of Warsaw and at the Bug front. Through the operation of tanks and ground attacking planes the enemy formed a powerful focal point. His attempts to break through failed. Heavy defensive fighting is going on at the Memel front and at the front near Kauen. All attempts to break through were frustrated. Seventy-one enemy tanks were annihilated by the 3rd Tank Army and with this they destroyed 259 enemy vehicles during the last three days. The situation has aggravated north of Kauen through the deep penetrations made by the enemy across the Dubyssa.

The mining party Meder has started its advance to the east.

Army Group North:

Two of our own bridgeheads across the Aa had to be taken back. Through the operations of our last reserves an enemy break through could be repulsed in heavy fighting north of Birsen. The enemy pushed through our repeatedly new rebuilt protection-lines between Livenhof and Schwanenburg, our own counter attacks were not successful. In comparison with this we succeeded in annihilating parts of a Russian guard division at a break through.

All was quiet on the Narva front.

7 Aug. 1944

VIII. According to an information by the Admiral Führer Headquarters, the Commander in Chief Navy has given orders that in home harbors no preparations were to be made for the time being for the destruction of harbors.

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Supply and Fuel Branch was working further on the subject and would instruct the Naval Command.

---

Special Items.

I. According to an information from the Admiral Führer Headquarters, the General Staff of the Army reflected upon the unaware transfer of two tank brigades and one grenadier division from the home land to Libau-Windau, if the supposition of sea-transportations were given. A relevant examination was asked for. Arrival port was to be in the area of Stettin/Königsberg. The tank brigade consisted of a tank unit and an armoured scouting car battalion (SPW - doubtful?) with attached normal army formations.

This case should be treated as special confidential, obtainable informations were transferred by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch.

II. According to directions from the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command concerning mine fields in the Turkish Straits (see War Diary 6 Aug.) the Commander in Chief Navy has ordered the Naval Staff also to keep the handling of case concerning No. 1 in his hands and not to hand the case over to Group South, as the political working out might fail to be observed at the given time.

Group South therefore received direction that for the laying of mine fields in any case they had to wait for orders from the Naval Staff and had to carry them out accordingly.

Copy of order 1/SK1 in 24447/44 Gkdos. in War Diary Part C, Volume XIV a.

III. Concerns: Crash boats for the purpose of mine sweeping.

The serious increase of enemy operations with mines as well as the deficit of the protecting forces in the western area and Finnish Bay and the enemy air attacks and naval engagements with allied naval forces have led to a heavy shortage in vessels suitable for the mine

7 Aug. 1944

sweeping task. The shortage could not be removed to the needed extent by new constructions of mine-sweeper and mine clearing vessels. The clearing of the sailing routes in the Heligoland Bight, the Baltic and the entrances to the Baltic from enemy mines was not only of interest to the Navy and its freedom of movements but also of vital importance to the German War Management, the Army replacements to Norway and the Eastern Area.

To this the Naval Staff, Operations Division turned to Operations Staff, High Command Air Force and with copy to High Command Air and 16 (Inspectorat of the Sea Rescue Service) with the following request:

A part of the larger air traffic controlling crash boats were according to type and efficiency of machinery well fitted for the purpose of towing mine sweeping gear as the naval developed motor minesweepers do. On account of the developed situation our own air activity at sea in total declined and as the new construction of flying boats was to a certain amount going on according to local knowledge the Naval Staff asked to examine, if on account of the above explained difficult position a certain amount of air traffic controlling crash boats could not be transferred or eventually be left to the minesweeping task.

IV. On the 20 Jul. the submarine division suggested to employ type XXI. which would show the training units at home and the commander of boats the operational and fighting possibilities of these boats by considering its type quality compared with the given defense conditions in the Atlantic. Copy according to 1/Skl 2193/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary Part C, Volume IV. Extraordinary controlling measures were ordered by the Commander in Chief Navy on account of the imposing special secretness.

V. The material at hand from the Naval Intelligence Division contained remarks of a general from the Staff of Admiral Leahy made on the war situation at the beginning of July. According to this the prior followed strategy to finish off first Japan has been changed in favor to the subduing of Germany and was first brought about through the capture of Cherbourg and the development of the situation. Since Cherbourg, Germany was No. 1. Corresponding detailed report with critical attitude from the Naval Intelligence Division can be found under 1/Skl 29745/44 geh. in War Diary Part C, Volume XVII.

VI. According to a summary concerning the situation of submarines on 1 Aug. by the submarine division, three boats type XXI and three boats type XXIII. were commissioned in July 1944.

Four hundred and twenty submarines were in commission on 1 Aug. and in addition six foreigners.

7 Aug. 1944

Twenty seven boats were lost in July, of which 19 were lost at sea and eight in harbors and all through enemy air activity with the exception of one.

On the 9 Aug. 164 front submarines were stationed as follows:

Atlantic inclusively group "Landwirt"	92	
Mediterranean:	8	
Arctic:	Arctic operations	29
	Group Centre	15
	Torpedo suppliers	2
Finnish Gulf:	12	
Black Sea:	6	

VII. The instruction of units placed at disposal concerning informations from the enemy, especially agent reports, were carried out up to now to a large extent by Operations Division Naval Staff. To carry through a central command the instruction on the progress of the enemy's situation will be in future worked out by Naval Intelligence Division.

---

Position 7 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

Seventy five planes were intercepted in action by 19 Group predominately during evening and night hours in the inner part of the Gulf of Biscay and at the Gironde mouth. Five British vessels were detected in the rendez-vous area.

The cruiser DISPATCH and the transporter DUKE OF LANCASTER were located in the landing area.

A minesweeper reported an under-water-explosion in BF 3654 at 1133.

One destroyer was located by air reconnaissance westerly of Belle Ile on NE course on the night of the 6th.

In the sector southwest to southerly of Quessant a destroyer patrol was located, standing in and off, further a large vessel 16 miles WSW of Point Duraz and a destroyer patrol 8 miles WSW of Penmarch.

7 Aug. 1944

Several war vessels were on a northerly course in the Channel at 0953 in BF 2694.

Observations could not be made from Cap de la Have on the evening of the 7th from the Seine Bay owing to poor visibility. The Submarine Division established the fact that the enemy traffic situation in the Seine Bay was newly accepted on two routes from BF 3147 in a general southwestern direction to Cherbourg and from BF 3168/69 in north/south direction to the Utah-section.

The daily supply traffic England-Seine Bay included at least nine convoys, two convoys of which were coming from the Thames Estuary to the British landing area each in strength of about 30 freighters and landing vessels. Two convoys from the Portsmouth area to the USA and British landing area in strength of about 25 freighters and landing vessels and one convoy from Bristol to the USA and British landing area in strength of about 15 to 20 ships.

The sailing ports of the at least remaining four convoys could not be made out for certain but were believed to be ports on the English south and west coast, the average strength of these convoys lies between 10 - 15 ships. The daily arrival of shipping tonnage in the Seine Bay in total amounted according to present knowledge to the average of about 200 ships, which included landing vessels, coastal freighters, large freighters and troop transporters. The percentage of different ship types seemed to change frequently.

Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

The dropping of mines off Brest was noticed. Four mines were cleared. One submarine was escorted out and one into the port.

A rifle company each from the light naval artillery unit 683 and 684 crossed to Quiberon. Ile de Bas was again occupied since 0600.

Land Situation Brittany:

The fortress of St. Malo was engaged in defensive battle. The destroying of the harbor was started. The Port command carried out mopping up actions against terrorists. All naval batteries and two naval lighters carried through a concentrated observed barrage against ground targets. Sixteen trucks (LKW) and a tankcar were annihilated, one enemy battery was put out of action. Concentrations of enemy infantry batteries were smashed up. One artillery observation

7 Aug. 1944

plane was shot down by battery Cancale. Out of actions were not caused through an enemy carpet bombing attack on the battery at Cecembre. Battery Lunaire was under trench mortar bombardment.

According to a report from the High Command, XXV. Army the activity of the terrorists has assumed a strength in the area of this Army which is equal to that of a general revolt. The participation in battles and partly military led action has been adopted to a larger extent.

Battery Paimpol was blown up on 4 Aug. The blowing up of the lock Le Lague in St. Brioux has been carried out. The smaller ports of the northern Brittany coast were destroyed. Ile de Bas was again evacuated in the evening.

Enemy tank formations with artillery support have taken back their own patrols of 20 km east and northeasterly of Brest. A shortage in mobile anti-tank guns prevailed in Lorient. It has been demanded to send food supplies in by sea routes, as the fortress was overcrowded and provisions were not sufficient. Action is underway against Vannes, occupied by the enemy. Enemy tanks with infantry have been reported from Hennebont and Point Scorff. The island of Penfret was evacuated.

Enemy reconnaissance thrusts were driven back by army troops at a distance of 50 km from the town, coming out of Nantes from the north and northwest. Enemy reconnaissance advanced up to Ancenis. The clothing depot at Ancenis was assaulted by terrorists on the 5 Aug., 60% of the depot was removed, which contained only blue clothing and no arms. According to recent reports the submarine supply depot Redon was entirely safeguarded which is contrary to original report. The explosions observed in front of Redon were in connection with army trucks.

The Commanding Admiral Atlantic Coast reported: 1/686 in cooperation with anti-tank formations occupied Segre northwesterly of Angers in an action against terrorists and burned down the place according to orders. The light naval artillery unit 687 with the 1st and 3rd company received orders on the evening of the 6th to take the enemy occupied place of Chateau Gontier and to make contact with 1/686 at Segre.

Light naval artillery unit 687 with 3 companies was employed by Lorient at 1000 on the 7. The naval artillery regiment 1 with the naval artillery unit 683 and 688 were marching from the peninsula Quiberon to Lorient.

7 Aug. 1944

The 1st company of the light naval artillery unit 684 arrived during the night southwesterly of Angers as advanced command. The bulk of the formation is expected in a camp 40 km southerly of Nantes in the evening after marching. Transportation will be tried with 2 lorries. Covered batteries from the light naval battery unit 667 were approaching on lorries to Angers. The supply train was to follow by foot from La Rochelle.

Two platoons from the 1st formation 686 were employed in the defense of Nantes. A withdrawal to Angers was planned. The staff of the 3rd. Company and the 1st. Platoon of the 2nd. Company 686 advanced to Rennes. The covered battery advanced from Nantes on the road to Chateau Briand with four 7,5 cm guns. The naval replacement division 70 moved to Brest on the 6 Aug. after blowing up Les Sept Iles. On their march back the command had an engagement with terrorists.

Sea Channel Area:

Fourteen patrol positions were occupied. 100 BRT were escorted in traffic between the Channel islands. Minesweeper M "3201" sank after hitting a mine in front of the entrance to Zeebrugge.

The battery at Cap de la Heve fired six salvos at a detected target without observing the results from 0057 to 0122.

Artillery Ferry Barge AF "68" was attacked by bombs at 0100 in St. Malo.

Three boats of the 2nd and 6th Assault Boat Flotilla sailed from Le Havre at 0130 for Dackel operation and returned at 0300. Observation concerning results were not at hand.

---

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

In the Heligoland Bight during forenoon hours probably convoy reconnaissance planes were located on the shipping routes to Heligoland. Some enemy planes forged ahead to the north of Norderney in the evening, evidently planes of the distress service at sea.

Escort tasks were carried out according to plan between the mouths of the rivers. Two mines were cleared from the western Ems. Further 156 coastal mines, type A, were laid into minefield K 3 off Sylt.

Eighty-four coastal mines Type A were laid into the minefield 20 b in front of the Dutch coast. The laying of minefield K 7 off Egmont was continued.

7 Aug. 1944

Detonations were perceived at sea on the afternoon of the 6th and on the night of the 6th at the Dutch coast between Texel and Den Helder respectively Hoek van Holland.

Through the discontinuance of the Elbe-Ems traffic 24 merchantmen with about 60,000 BRT. were tied up in Ems ports. Favorable weather conditions made the return voyage possible so far to nine ships with about 25,000 BRT.

The Commanding Admiral, Defenses North would try to start again the Ems traffic at the end of August or beginning of September and make the **most** of suitable weather conditions and of longer nights. In the longer growing nights the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North would also try to transfer the new constructions of the Hansa program from the Dutch area to the Elbe.

Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Four planes were intercepted in action by 18. Group. An uncertain bearing of 272° was taken from one British vessel off Svanvik at 2202.

An agent known to be very reliable reported on 3 Aug. that an invasion attempt in Norway was not expected anymore. Air-formations stationed in Northern England/Scotland were normal. Norwegian parachute riflemen were not equipped to answer the purpose. Members of these formations were withdrawn to a large extent and were training for the use as agents in Norway.

Also the Naval Staff believed larger operations against the Norwegian area at the time being as not probable.

Own Situation:

Four single enemy reconnaissance vessels were reported from the area of Vardoe. Seventeen ships were escorted to the North and 27 to the South.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

About 70 smaller vessels were observed in wireless communication on the 6th in the Finnish Bay.

7 Aug. 1944

According to an own submarine report, PT boats carried out three thrusts to the west in AO 3666 after planes laid a smoke screen. Two vessels each were observed indisputable. The observer was attacked with depth charges.

Two PT boats as well as fog were reported in AO 3741 at 1855. Several mine detonations occurred in AO 3741, 3742 and 3744 according to a further submarine report.

The allegedly new Russian lead hooded mine, reported from Kimskari on the 3 Aug. turned out to be an old Russian explosive buoy.

Several planes were noticed northerly of Riga at 2345 on the 6th, probably mining the Düna.

Own Situation:

Admiral commanding the Skagerrak:

Seventeen mine sweeping vessels were operating in the Approaches to the Baltic and three vessels at the western coast of Jutland. The coastal mine type "A" - action was continued. Convoys were carried out without any incidents.

Western and Central Baltic:

Thirty three boats and 4 mine sweeping planes were engaged in mine sweeping duties.

One mine each was cleared north of Hela and in the Kiel Bay. Five mines were found on shore at Heikendorf.

The heavy anti-aircraft artillery battery "Ariadne" was on station off Gydinia. VS "139" and VA "160" each shot down one four-engined enemy plane when bomber formations entered our area on the 6th, further one four-engined bombing plane was shot down by naval anti-aircraft artillery at Eckernförde.

The new southern lock at Holtenau was working since 0200 with a reserve transformer. Heavy earth submersions were noticeable near the new lock. The chambers of the lock were examined by eight divers. The northern gate was ready to work with the exception of the danger through delayed time fuses. The shipping traffic was easily accomplished by the southern gate.

7 Aug. 1944

Admiral commanding the Eastern Baltic:

The mining task Seeigel IX b was carried out according to plan.

Commander 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla was ready for action with three boats during daytime to guard the mine field and would be on station inside of the Schären westerly of Kotka and at night southerly of the Schären in the direction to Hochland. Patrol Boat "1707", three artillery ferry barges and four armed fishing vessels were stationed in Reval during daytime ready for action and at night patrolling route 97 to the east.

The 14th Patrol Boat Flotilla was in action in the Reval Bay with clearing work. Three heavy gun carriers were on escort duties in the Irben Strait and in the Riga Bay.

Torpedo Boat T "8" and T "10" were released to the 2nd Task Force after completing the escort task Utoe-Memel.

The return of the 122th Infantry Division was planned for the 5th and 6th with six transporters from Hangoe to Reval.

Steamer BREMERHAVEN carried 3368 Jewish prisoners from Riga to Danzig, steamer TANGA 1700 civilians from Riga to Danzig, steamer NORDENHAM 1483 soldiers from Danzig to Reval and the hospital ship BERLIN 1513 wounded from Riga to Swinemünde.

Dorpat, Kastre and Praaga were raided seven times by enemy planes on the morning of the 6th.

Two further attacks were carried out against the harbor area of Dorpat and Embach in the afternoon and evening, three wooden barges were destroyed. Two attackers were shot down for sure and probably one more. A further plane was shot down according to a report from Tytters.

The Admiral Eastern Baltic reported to the situation on land that the bridgehead at Mitau - Burki was again evacuated by the 18th Army Headquarters on account of lack of forces.

Northwest of Birsen the 81st Division prevented the enemy from breaking through to the north. Further focal points were situated south of the track to Pleskau. Through this the appointed divisions in the area Mitau - Birsen were overworked.

7 Aug. 1944

On both sides of Landona in the area of the 28th Army the situation was still serious. Strong enemy pressure was continued in the break through area at Galvani and at the northern bank of the Aiviekste. Two surrounded enemy regiments were annihilated northerly of Rubana.

Naval Command East fell in with its opinion on the situation report, made on the evening of the 5 Aug. by the Admiral Eastern Baltic (see War Diary 6 Aug.) in the main attitude: Combatting of the Russian minesweeper formations in the Narva Bay was to be carried out by all means as usual, torpedo boat operations were to be made in defiance of the considerations. Admiral Eastern Baltic received instruction that the timing of actions was to be estimated by himself according to situation, weather conditions etc. and his attention was drawn to the fact to inform the dismissal of the submarines at an opportune time. Any disturbance of the Russian minesweeping task was to be valued as a success. The strengthening of our own minefield system was to be carried out by all means.

---

#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

Submarine U "672" and "621" operating in the Seine area were to receive orders to return after being  $4\frac{1}{2}$  respectively  $3\frac{1}{2}$  weeks at sea. Submarines U "981", "260" and "608" were sailing on the night of 7th from Brest for La Pallice and Submarine U "309" from Lorient. The fitting out with Schnorchel was to be started in La Pallice, as far as Schnorchel were at hand. One of our submarines reported at 2051 a destroyer formation in front of Barentsburg (Spitsbergen) and received the permission to attack.

Submarine U "482" reported being attacked by enemy submarine with two torpedoes which missed off the Oslo-Fjord on the night of the 7th.

---

#### V. Air Warfare:

##### Western Area:

Fourteen hundred and fifty enemy planes to the larger extent under the protection of fighter planes entered Belgium/Northern France during daytime and attacked the area of Paris as well as railway installations in the area of Namur. Charleville, Mont Didier, the railway station Poix and the electric plant at Ghent.

7 Aug. 1944

Two hundred and fifty planes entered Western France according to a report, 30 of which advanced into the area of Lorient and St. Nazaire. Raids were not reported. Several 100 bombers with fighter protection were observed during noon hours in the area south of Paris, also no raids were reported by these planes.

Two to 300 four-engined planes entered the area between Nizza and Montpellier from the south.

Three hundred and sixty enemy planes attacked an artillery airbase and an anti-aircraft artillery position south of Rouen on the night of the 7th without doing real damage.

Ground targets were attacked in the landing area by our own commitment in the western area consisting of 162 planes, 16 of which were mortar equipped, ten enemy planes were shot down with only six own losses.

One hundred and sixty one of our own planes attacked ground targets in the landing area on the night of the 7th in which we suffered seven losses.

Eight Do "217" were in action against ship targets off Arromanches.

Thirty one night fighters reported nine planes shot down and three own losses. Twenty four of our own planes were in action against ship targets on the night of the 6th and one destroyer was damaged, as only three planes found the target in the thick fog.

Area of the Reich:

Several 100 bombing planes entered with strong fighter protection the industrial area of Upper Silesia on the night of the 7th. and raided industrial installations at Heydebreck and Kosel. A further attack was directed against the oil refinery at Trzebinia. The plants of I.G.Farben were badly hit at Heydebreck. Weaker enemy formations carried out attacks in the area of Tarnow-Auschwitz. Twenty enemy planes entered the area of Heligoland without attacking. Entries of single planes in further parts of the Reich was reported. Sixty to 80 four-engined planes were reported entering the area Wien - Pressburg on the night of the 7th. The dropping of bombs was not confirmed. It is possible that these flights were made by agents. One plane entered the area of Eger.

Mediterranean Theater:

Eighty fighter planes from Russia raided the area of Ploesti-Cattaro during daytime. Only actions by weaker enemy formations

7 Aug. 1944

were reported from the Greek and Italian area. Our own planes carried out reconnaissance flights in the central Mediterranean.

Eastern Area:

Twelve hundred and five own operations with losses and 1733 enemy operations with 18 planes shot down were reported during the 6th.

One hundred and forty three own planes were in action above the front area on the night of the 6th while 80 enemy air entries were reported from East - Prussia. Sixty enemy planes attacked the airbase Lobellen in East Prussia on the 7th.

Three enemy planes were reported from the area Mastenburg - Elbing - Kurische Nehrung on the night of the 7th without carrying out attacks.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

1. Area Naval Group West:

Enemy Situation:

Ships in the harbor of Gibraltar did not give us any special knowledge on the 5 Aug.

Own Situation:

In the arsenal at Toulon three docks, one workshop and several buildings were damaged, and the electrical central station was destroyed in an enemy air raid made at noon on the 6th. Three submarines were sunk. One submarine was damaged. Two further tugs were sunk, one submarine chaser and one crane were destroyed. One submarine chaser was damaged. The anti-aircraft artillery reported eight planes shot down, six of which were certain.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

According to air reconnaissance one destroyer was on patrol at 0722 120 miles SE of Malta steering south while at 0900 a convoy was reported about 20 miles SE of Malta consisting of 27 freighters, two tankers and four escort vessels steering course 310°. The convoy was 140 miles SE of Malta at 1745. Operations for our own planes were planned on the night of the 7th.

7 Aug. 1944

According to a report made by an Italian naval soldier one allied fleet formation was observed in the Straits of Messina at day break on the 28 Jul. steering SE course and consisting of two battleships, one aircraft carrier, two cruisers and four to six destroyers.

During the night of the 6th one enemy group of boats was detected by radar outside of our own minefield southerly of Rapello.

A few ships were located about 20 miles NW of Cap Corso at 0100.

Own Situation:

All our own ship movements in the Genoa Bay were observed by enemy reconnaissance.

Two submarine chasers and three motor minesweepers on patrol SW of Savona on the night of the 6th had to ward off in total eight air attacks.

Our own damage was slight.

Equally unsuccessful were enemy air attacks on the night of the 5th, carried out against Viareggio and on the afternoon of the 6th against anti-aircraft artillery positions at Oneglia.

Single harassing planes attacked Genoa at 0300 on the 7th. A new constructed merchantmen ship was hit by a bomb and sank on the position appointed for blockade ships.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic

According to the interpretation by the German Naval Command Italy the supervision of the Otranto Straits by enemy naval and air-force is directed against the laying of mines by our own submarines in this strait.

Five smaller war vessels were gathered in the harbor of Ancona on the evening of the 6th. Two vessels were in front of the harbor, presumably freighters. A motor sailing vessel was badly damaged off the southern corner of Istrien at forenoon on the 7th in an attack by fighter bomber planes.

As protection for minesweeper planes, G "102" warded off successfully an attack by four enemy planes.

7 Aug. 1944

The carrying out of the mining operation "Feh" was planned for the 8 Aug. by mine carrier KIEBITZ, torpedo boat of foreign construction TA "38" and TA "40".

CB "16" was commissioned at Pola on the 6th.

One naval anti-aircraft artillery battery reported ready to open fire with four 8,8 cm guns at Monfalcone.

According to an unconfirmed report intercepted by the air attache Agram, British warships westerly of the Raab and at Prag were continuously in movement since several days. Partisans in the strength of 6000 men were concentrated northerly of Crikcanica SE of Fiume. All roads, railway tracks and bridges were repaired in Slavonia as an invasion was expected in the near future. Crossing movements were supposed to have started already on the coast of Dalmatia. Preparations were reported for the landing of 40,000 British parachute troops in the area east of Fiume to NW of Diaac.

b. Aegean:

With the exception of the dropping of single bombs on Leros no special incidents were reported.

c. Black Sea:

Lively movements of enemy naval forces as well as two submarines at sea were intercepted by radio monitoring.

Two BV "138" located on target on the night of the 6th, when supervising submarines in the sea area easterly of Constanta.

A patrol raiding party with three artillery carriers was posted in the sea area Constanta on the night of the 6th. Nine harbor defense vessels were employed in observing the dropping of mines.

According to radio monitoring the Turkish Navy passed orders to all ships at 1212 on the 6th informing them that all areas east of the line Samzunhatay would be blacked out beginning on the 7 Aug. The time of the blacking out of lighthouses and beacons will still be made known.

Danube Situation:

Losses through mine hits were not reported.

Three minesweeper successes were achieved at KM 955.

7 Aug. 1944

VII. Situation East Asia:

No special reports were at hand.

---

8 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

Marshal Mannerheim has issued an order of the day to the Finnish Armed Forces stating that the war for the existence and future of the country will be carried on. Unswerving cooperative confidence would be the protection of their country for the Finnish people. The German armed help was not mentioned by a single word in the address.

According to British informations the discussions, led up to now between Stalin and the Prime Minister of the Polish Exile Government were exhausted on military questions. The Polish problems were not mentioned by Stalin. The optimism has more than soothed in the surroundings of the Polish Premier especially since it became known that the Russians were disarming those Polish formations without hesitation which they met during their operations. The Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Commerce and the Minister without Post of Cabinet Minister Imredy resigned from the Hungarian Cabinet. The both first mentioned positions were occupied by personalities, the sympathy of which is less manifested to the National Socialism than that of their predecessors.

In a radio address made by General de Gaulle on 7 Aug. he turned to the French people. In this he said: "I am allowed to state that soon a powerful French army, equipped with most modern materiel and well trained will expand itself at the Allied front in France." Everybody who is able to fight in France is requested to participate in partisan warfare.

According to a British report from Ancara the Bulgarian Prime Minister tried to elicit the views through his ambassadors of that place, whether as a price for the seclusion of Bulgaria from the war a guarantee would be given for the independence of the state inside of the prior war-boundaries. On this foundation Bulgaria would be willing to withdraw its troops from Greece and Yugoslavia and would allow later on the Allied airforce to fly across Bulgarian territory.

According to a Swedish source the former conservative Minister of Foreign Affairs Hackzell is mentioned as the new Finnish Premier and the banker Enkell who accompanied Paasikivi at the time of his journey to Moscow as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Commander in Chief, Navy returned on the evening of 7 Aug. from the Führer's Headquarters.

8 Aug. 1944

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

Commanding Admiral Black Sea was present.

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

According to a report from the Naval Command East the PRINZ EUGEN would not be able to dock at Libau. Therefore the Naval Staff, Operations Division examined the question of shifting the PRINZ EUGEN from Gydinia to "Rotbuche". A certain prejudice against Finland and expediency pronounced this measure for withdrawing the ship from Gydinia. To a certain degree the fuel situation resolved against the shifting. The Bay of Riga may be reached from "Rotbuche" just as quickly as from Gydinia.

The Commander in Chief Navy decided that the PRINZ EUGEN should stay at Gydinia.

Naval Command East and Fleet received therefore the following instructions:

"1. The withdrawal of LUTZOW has been granted for the purpose of refitting with light anti-aircraft artillery.

2. "Rotbuche" is for the time being not planned for the PRINZ EUGEN.

3. Agree with manoeuvres for the PRINZ EUGEN as well as with the occasional employment in anti-aircraft artillery protection to convoys.

4. Preparations for operation in the Bay of Riga by the LUTZOW or PRINZ EUGEN from Gydinia only in accordance with orders from the Naval Command East.

5. Change the berths of the 6th Destroyer Flotilla frequently."

II. Naval Staff, Operations Division, Naval Air and Air Force Liaison Section:

The crash of a low flying four-engined bomber in the area of building centres at the Channel coast, causing extraordinary heavy explosion, results led to the suspicion of being an unmanned remote controlled plane.

According to an information from the 3rd Air Force to Naval Command North, two Ju "88" and two F "122" were transferred to Buc for carrying out security reconnaissance above the Brittany coast.

8 Aug. 1944

Security reconnaissance above the North Sea was postponed owing to fuel situation. Flights above the sea were only to be carried out on special orders issued by the 3rd Air Force. Operations of detachment should concentrate in first line on the photographic reconnaissance at night of the Thames harbors. Preparation by the Air Force on account of the developments of the Turkish situation could not be accomplished through reasons of strength.

III. In addition to the report concerning the situation in the Eastern Baltic the Commander in Chief Navy ordered the further withdrawal of submarines from Group Centre for actions in the Finnish Bay, as surface vessels were not able to operate successfully owing to enemy air supremacy.

The Commander in Chief Navy agreed with the **judgment** on the situation given by the Admiral Eastern Baltic (see War Diary 6 Aug.) as well as the attitude of Naval Command East (see War Diary 7 Aug.) to this. Through the lengthening of the nights the situation will develop more satisfactory for our own naval forces.

IV. Group West sent the following radio message to the fortress commander of St. Malo and to the General in command of the XXV. Army Corps which was transmitted by the Naval Communication Officer at Lorient:

"The Führer has ordered:

1. Fortress has to be defended as long as one man and weapons were at hand.

2. A tribunal should be held at St. Malo after which the pleasure of the inhabitants to revolt should once and for all be eliminated.

3. If there were still reliable East-troops at disposal an absolutely free hand in counter-terrorizing should be given to them in this or other cases."

According to the brief report from Group West concerning the events in the Brittany between the 3 and 5 Aug. (see War Diary 6 Aug.) the Commander in Chief, Navy ascertained that the obtrusive problem was to hold the harbors. The ordered withdrawal of the troops into the fortresses is therefore only right and desired. The destructions of the radar location stations were a painful task. Local army quarters obviously lost contact with their superior command. The Führer issued orders to the General in command of the XXV. Army Corps to go to Brest and to contact the Naval Shore Command. Commander, Submarines West has moved to La Rochelle.

8 Aug. 1944

Quartermaster General, Naval Staff:

a. One instruction from Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command met the wishes of the military situation in the East, originating in the claim for space by the army in the easterly corps area of the Reich. Movements might become necessary in the naval section of this corps area under certain circumstances. Orders were already issued for the removal of the clothing depot, the motor vehicles formations etc.

b. With immediate effect the Naval Shore Command Latvia is placed under the direct command of Naval Command East, concerning strategy and under the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Baltic concerning administration. For the meantime the demarcation of the area Naval Shore Command Latvia/Esthonia was changed as follows: The boundary of the zone converges with the demarcation between Army Group North and Centre. The coast of Latvia north of the Duna inclusively the islands lying off this coast will be placed under the Naval Shore Command Esthonia.

c. The order concerning the destruction of harbors in the Baltic only refers to foreign ports and not to Reiches German ports.

d. To the report concerning directive by the Armed Forces High Command about the competence for the placing of Light Artillery Batteries the Commander in Chief Navy decided that no further steps should be taken. The solution was made by the Commander in Chief Navy in close conversation with the Führer.

e. Concerning the delivery of twin and quadruple anti-aircraft artillery to Danube vessels the Commander in Chief Navy has promised the Armed Forces High Command the examining of question. The Commander in Chief Navy agreed that the delivery of each 100 twin and quadruple anti-aircraft artillery should be proposed in four monthly installments.

f. Commander in Chief, Navy decided after inquiry that the production of "Dackel" should have the preference before the "Spinne". The Commander in Chief Navy broached the subject of the contingent for the naval landing craft to be used to the advantage of constructing towed bodies. This case will further be examined.

VI. Chief Bureau of Naval Armament reported about the planned transfer of torpedo arsenal center into a salt mine in the Thuringian area and asked the Commander in Chief Navy for his support in this matter by Reichs Minister Speer. The Commander in Chief Navy ordered the examination of a combination between the

8 Aug. 1944

"Dackel" and "Neger" - principle as well as the fitting up of "Dackel" and "Marder" with LUT as well as the installation of mine fuses in "Dackel". The questions were raised by the Führer.

Group West received instruction to report on "Dackel" reinforcements, proportions of turning our capacities and further intentions.

VII. The Commander in Chief Navy ordered a reference to be made to Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command concerning the report made by the Chief, Enemy Situation Branch, Naval Intelligence Division about radio address made by General de Gaulle on 7 Aug. The Naval Intelligence Division passed to the usual distributor therefore the enemy situation as follows:

"Remarks by de Gaulle made in his radio address at Algier on the 7 Aug. that soon a powerful experienced French army would unroll at the Allied front in France may be taken as reference to the enemy situation report made by the Naval Intelligence Division dated 30 Jul. As a further support that the focal point of future operations of the French forces at hand were to be expected in France. According to established facts from the General Staff of the Army, Foreign Armies West there were only till now one French tank division from Northern Africa in the British area and the withdrawal of further complete formations from the Mediterranean was not probable as indicated by the situation at sea, therefore the French Mediterranean coast seems to be the target of de Gaulle's announced action.

VIII. Situation of the Army:

Western Front:

On the western wing of the 7 Army four tank divisions carried out a thrust to the west in direction to Avranches in the early morning hours of the 7 Aug. after an advantageous sudden attack in the evening gave us back the possession of the line of departure. Early fog favoured the attack which reached a depth of 10 km at noon. Le Mesnil, Juvigny and Mortain were captured in assaults. When the weather cleared up many hundreds of enemy planes irresistible attacked our advancing spearheads so that the attack died down in the afternoon hours and heavy losses in men and materiel were caused. Our own fighter protection was of no help as these formations did not reach the battle area on account of the strongest counteractions. The Commander in Chief West being personally on the battlefield during the whole day ordered the continuation of the attack without considerations. Two tank divisions were withdrawn from the area easterly of the Orne and brought up, accepting every risk.

8 Aug. 1944

In the area of the 5th Tank Army the enemy started an attack after heavy barrage easterly of the Orne. He succeeded in forming a bridgehead southerly of Grimposa. Counter attack was started.

At the eastern wing of the 7th Army the enemy attacked on both sides of Vire, the main line of resistance was torn open and pressed in for several of km at several places. Vire itself was abandoned.

In the deep flank of the 7th Army the enemy succeeded with his tank spearheads in gaining more ground to the east and he captured Parnnes, Louc and Brulon. Parts of the 9th Tank Division had to be employed in an attack against the enemy advancing to the east and therefore could not participate in the main thrust on Avranches.

In the Brittany the enemy attacked the fortress of St. Malo with strong forces. All attacks were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. Single enemy penetrations were cleared up. With a stronger tank group the enemy advanced across the line Morlaix-Carhaix in the direction of Brest and reached Chateaulin with his spearheads. More tank groups of the enemy were pushing ahead to Vannes in the direction of Lorient.

The enemy will try by outflanking the western wing of the German forces to take the area of Le Mans and with a further group take possession of the Brittany fortress.

Moreover the beginning of an attack by the British Army from the area southerly of Caen must soon be expected. If the enemy is acting boldly he will try by a thrust of the 2nd British Army to the south and by an operation from the area of Laval to the north to outflank the total German attacking groups and to annihilate them.

#### Italian Front:

Only fighting actions of local importance on both army fronts. The enemy pushed the demarcation line between his right and left army further to the west up to the area of Emboli. To all appearances he further seems to withdraw the 5th American Army with the 1st American Tank Division and the 34th American Infantry Division from the front area for the use elsewhere. (landing operations in the Genoa-area?)

#### Eastern Front:

#### Southern Ukraine:

No special incidents to report.

8 Aug. 1944

Northern Ukraine:

The withdrawal movement of the 1st Tank Army to the position in the Carpathian Mountains was carried out according to plan. Actions with changeable results took place in the area of Sanok.

Southwesterly of Sandomir the two Russian tank armies started a thrust to the north and crossed the road Sandomir-Opatow. The situation was very tense.

Everything was quiet at the Vistula front and in the area of Warsaw. A few important streets were re-taken in the city.

Army Group Center:

A strong enemy break through was removed in a bold counter attack northwesterly of Wilkowischken, 30 guns were captured.

At the Dubyssa the enemy was still pressing to the west towards Tilsit with seven tank and rifle corps. An operational break through could again be prevented.

Army Group North:

The attack carried out by one tank corps in the area of Birsén was intercepted in heavy fighting. The front was taken back between Birsén and Jakobstadt. Fighting with far superior forces was still going on between Jakobstadt and Schwanenburg. Deeper penetrations could be blocked.

Defense fighting in **regimental** strength occurred southerly of Lake Peipus at the Narva Front.

Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

a. The question whether the transfer of valuable ships from French western coast ports to Spanish ports is advisable will first of all be examined in political view by the Foreign Office.

b. According to an information by the Admiral Führer Headquarters, the General Staff of the Army surprisingly intends to transfer two tank brigades and a rifle division from the homeland to Libau/Windau if the transportation could be provided and requests an examination of question. Loading ports will be in the area of Stettin-Königsberg. The tank brigade consists of a tank formation and an SPW battalion with attached standard units. The Admiral Führer Headquarters called for an estimate to be given at once in which way

8 Aug. 1944

and time sea transports could be carried out from their view point, stating, if the need should arise, the required limitation of other tasks. This case is special confidential.

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch, carried out the examination which is already at hand. Embarkation port will be Stettin, Gydinia and Danzig without influencing the supplying of Army Group North.

Available were at least twelve troop transporters with a total comprehension of each a rifle division or each two tank brigades.

Embarkation time in harbors including the embarkation of troops standing by will not require more than 24 hours. The harbors were for Libau - Stettin, for Windau - Gydinia. Needed marching time will be about 24 hours. The total operation will therefore require at the most three days. Windau is suitable of handling six and Libau seven ships. "Tiger" tanks could only be transferred by naval landing craft therefore they were undesired. Therefore just so motorized rifle divisions were desired, as the loading of horse-drawn divisions would be too difficult and time would be lost.

The twelve troop transporters mentioned were at the time being employed with the transport of troops, evacuates and wounded. The time needed to get the ships ready at the embarkation ports will be three to four days. Should the evacuation of the announced 20,000 Jews and about 18,000 Latvians be pressing the target ships of the Commanding Admiral submarines must be made available for this time. This last item was rejected by the Commander in Chief Navy.

Admiral Führer Headquarters was informed.

This action received the code name "Doppelkopf".

---

### Special Items

I. The Naval Staff informed Group West, the German Naval Command Italy and by copy Group South, the Fleet Command, the Naval Command North, East and Norway that through the developments of the land situation in the Brittany-Normandy a larger enemy landing operation must be expected daily at the French Southern coast.

II. Commander Submarines West and all submarine flotillas received the following order by radio from Commander in Chief Navy and Commanding Admiral, Submarines:

8 Aug. 1944

"1. The main task for submarines in harbor is the completion with "Schnorchel". This task should be carried out as long as possible by all means with toughness, firmness and silence.

2. Submarines without "Schnorchel" should first be permitted to sail when the harbor is in immediate danger. In this case experienced surplus submarine personnel and dockyard specialists should embark if not needed anymore at place.

3. It must be accomplished that the dockyard work is carried on even if the fighting reached the gates of the fortress."

III. Concerning the Situation in the Eastern Baltic:

1. Operations Staff, High Command, Air informed the Naval Staff about direction to the 1st Air Force and 6th concerning convoy protection of supply convoys for Army Group North between Pillau and Riga: Presumably convoys will sail in both directions at intervals of about four days. The Command of the 6th Air Force will patrol the south, the Command of the 1st Air Force will patrol the Irben Straits and east of this. Convoys sailing south and north were timed above all, so that they would pass the distance south of the Irben Straits during the night hours. It is intended to send the control ship for night fighters TUGO along to guide the attached fighter formations.

The convoy will be permanently protected by the strength of a FLIGHT. Above this a sufficient strong reserve must be held in readiness for additional operations, should the enemy attack. In addition a signal communication service as well as a perfect working interception service and radio monitoring service must be organized for this purpose working together in close cooperation with the Navy. An officer commanding the fighter mission should be sent along with every convoy and if the need should arise also a plane fighter ship (Jafu). As long as enemy attacks were not made and not expected, the air protection will not be carried out above all. Particulars should be arranged between the command of the 6th Air Force with the Naval Shore Command, Central Baltic and between the command of the 1st Air Force with the Admiral, Eastern Baltic. High Command Navy will attach a liaison officer to the command of the 6th Air Force.

Naval Staff, Operations Division informed Naval Command East, relevantly and by copy the Admiral Eastern Baltic, the Naval Shore Command Central Baltic, the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch, the Fleet Command and K.Gf.2.

2. Concerning the "Weissdorn" operation the Naval Staff informed the Admiral Führer Headquarters as follows:

8 Aug. 1944

"1. a. Commanding Admiral Submarines will need at least three days for execution.

b. During this time the following actions will be completed: sever of all routine manoeuvres, preparing the ships for transport task, the pulling down and loading of all installations and materiels on land, the preparations for destruction, the blowing up and sinking of all installations and ships, which cannot be taken along, the embarkation of personnel to be evacuated and the departure of the transportation units.

c. The Commanding Admiral has provided the code word "Hannibal" for his own area, which will be followed by preparations for "Weissdorn", this will mean more time for loading purpose.

2. For the carrying out in general of these actions in the area of the fleet 24 hours will be sufficient."

3. Operations Staff, High Command Air set up a fighter operational echelon for the action "Birke" from the air reserve group (sea) which were to operate under the 5th Air Force for patrolling the sea area of the Bothnian Bay - Aaland Sea - Northern Baltic in close cooperation with the Naval East. Naval Command East was informed by the Naval Staff.

4. Army Group North informed the Naval Staff of the order to attach the Staff of the Army Command Baltic Countries. Copy according to 30 002/44 Geh. in War Diary Part C Volume III.

According to this the Army Local Commander General Ruff was appointed local defence officer of Riga and is placed under the XVI. Army Command.

IV. The Naval Staff transmitted the following inquiry from Group South to Admiral Fuhrer Headquarters and by copy to the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command Navy asking the Admiral Fuhrer Headquarters for relevant inquiry:

"All the 30 naval landing craft of the 1st landing flotilla as well as the vessels of the coastal defense flotilla can be employed for transportation purpose across the sea - Danube. Six artillery carrier of the 3rd Artillery Flotilla will be added for transportation and anti-aircraft artillery presumably there were no other urgent naval operational tasks at hand. Above this there were till further notice 30 naval landing craft at Braila for reconstruction which were in use as mine exploding vessels by the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea and Danube and may be employed till their commission at any time. Appendix: The coastal defense flotilla consists of about 30 vessels of which 24 were armed fishing vessels. The remaining vessels were similar in size and armament."

8 Aug. 1944

V. Naval Staff, Submarine Division instructed the Naval Staff, Operations Division by copy about directive to the Commanding Admiral Submarines, to the Commander, Submarines Mediterranean etc. concerning the reorganization of the submarine warfare in the Mediterranean. The submarine situation in this area does not justify anymore a double organization as Commander Submarines and the 29th Submarine Flotilla as well as the appointment of a Captain in charge of submarines. Hereby an appointed submarine Staff Officer (U-Asto) was to be named. To Commanding Admiral, Aegean.

Commander, Submarines Mediterranean received further direction to move to a more suitable place with his commanding staff, should an imminent elimination through enemy landings happen and plans should be reported. Surplus experienced submarine personnel should be sent home at once.

VI. From the war economic situation report of June 1944 presented by the Naval Armament we understood:

The railway management situation in the Reich was not influenced by air raids in the same proportion as in the previous month. On the other side there was a larger engrossment by the armed forces involved through the invasion as well as the events in the east.

The output of coal in the Reich was a little below the amount of the previous month. Influenced by the invasion the output in the occupied countries declined further. The decline compared with the month of June 1943 amounted to 47%.

The iron and steel production was on the same level as in the last month.

The ore output and preparations were interrupted in Sudvaranger (Norway) by air raids.

Through the rising number of objects which must be protected by smoke screens difficulties arose in the providing with smoke acid.

The providing of the Armed Forces with fuel was impaired more than in the last month by air raids against the German producing installations as well as against the Romanian and Hungarian mineral-oil industry. Serious intrusions had to be made on our stock. The deficit in plane fuel amounted to 70%, on carburettor (doubtful - Versager or Vergaser? Remark by translator) and diesel fuel 31% calculated on the intended amount, which should have been produced. The importation from Romania equalled only 34,5% of the normal month March.

8 Aug. 1944

As far as the program for armament priority was concerned the amount was reached in the main also in June in spite of air raids. The shortage of fuel developed into a hindering factor for completion.

VII. Chief Bureau of Naval Armament as agent for constructions of the Commander in Chief, Navy announced further reducing measures for the 3rd quarter of 1944 caused through the war situation and through damage done in air raids. According to orders by the Führer the construction of hydrogenation plants, the reconstruction of traffic installation and plants of the iron providing industry as well as the execution of the fighter program were placed in the foreground. Only the important constructions mentioned in a special minimum program can be fully carried on in the near future. Only a small number can carry on with the constructions already started. For the time being the majority of all constructions including bunker for troops and other anti-aircraft building will suffer. Immediate report was ordered if disadvantages were noticeable of war deciding importance caused by the building program. Enactment according to 1/SK1 29835/44 Geh. in War Diary Part B Volume V.

---

Position 8 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Eighty eight planes in action were intercepted by the 19th Group. Two British vessels were detected in the rendez-vous area.

The arrival of eight convoys in the landing area was reported.

From the landing area one vessel was reported burning in the area of Gooseberry at 1608 to which every available help was given.

Destroyers and cruisers were on patrol during the whole day between Ile d'Yeu and Ile de Croix. Vessels were detected, probably on patrol off the Channel coast to Gris Nez, between Le Treport and Dieppe as well as off Fecamp and in the Seine Bay besides NW of Quessant to the south of Trevignon.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

Battery Tailefer on Belle Ile shelled single destroyers at

8 Aug. 1944

forenoon and at noon which returned to bombardment and under a smoke screen turned off. Radar station Belle Ile was shelled by enemy destroyers and dropped out.

Mine exploding vessel "134" was sunk off Lorient at 1707 in a bomber attack. An attack against torpedo boat T "24" was without effect. At forenoon the submarine chaser squad 1416 was engaged with superior enemy forces during the march La Trinite - Lorient, the battery of Talut and Grognon shelled the disappearing enemy. Our own vessels staid undamaged.

Mine exploding vessels were released by Group West in Brest and Lorient with the exception of one for the Naval Shore Commander respectively Port Commander as floating batteries respectively for employment of their guns on the land front.

Without further explanation this measure was not intelligible as the affairs of the naval warfare were strongly affected. Group West was asked for its attitude.

Nine mines in total were cleared off Brest and St. Nazaire.

Contrary to belief radar station Frehel was not yet blown up, radar station Gouin was dismantled.

#### Land Situation in the Brittany:

Well armed terrorists also in possession of heavy infantry weapons appeared as independent fighting groups or as escorting infantry of American tank formations. The situation was unchanged in the area of Tours-Rennes-St. Nazaire. Enemy tank spearheads reached during the day the area of Le Mans. The town itself was captured by the enemy in the evening. Heavy fighting was continued at St. Malo. All attacks were repulsed with the exception of one little penetration on both sides of the railway track which is now under the concentrated fire of the naval artillery and of the two artillery boats. The evacuation of the sector Cancale was planned for the night. The Port Command St. Malo reported the destruction of harbor installations and dock gates according to plan on the 7 Aug. in the presence of heavy enemy shelling. All marines were employed at the land front. The determined part which the navy played in the defensive engagement up to now is fully recognized by the commander of the fortress. The ammunition of the Army will only last for further three days. Besides tank close-combat weapons, ammunition for machine weapons as well as anti-tank guns and handgrenades were needed. The navy suffered no shortage in ammunition.

8 Aug. 1944

The blowing up of harbor installations were completed on the 8 Aug.

Repeated enemy attacks with strong enemy tank formations and partly with mounted infantry were driven off in the section NNW to ENE of Brest. A stronger tank formation advanced up to Chateaulin and joined here an own fighting group and parachute rifle division. Enemy advances were driven back by anti-aircraft artillery in the area of Lorient. After several changes Hennebont stayed in our hands. Advancing enemy tanks were reported on the road Scorff - Hennebont. A heavy shortage of mobile anti-tank guns was reported from the fortress. The naval yards of Lorient reported the working of the submarine repair shop again at 2215 on 7 Aug.

Sea Area Channel:

PT boats were not employed owing to poor visibility. In a late report from the 7 Aug. it was stated that the 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla experienced a short lasting PT boat engagement at 0250 off Fecamp. Several salvos of harassing fire were given by Cap de la Heve in the early morning hours at detected targets without observing any results. Partly under enemy barrage the hospital ship BORDEAUX embarked 270 wounded and sailed for Helier at 1430 on 8 Aug.

Eleven Patrol boat positions were occupied off the Channel coast. Dackel operations were planned on the night of the 8 Aug. in the Seine Bay by three PT boats of the 2nd PT boat Flotilla and torpedo operations by the 6th PT boat Flotilla. The command of the fighting units also intended the launching of twelve Kommando - and 16 Ladungslinsen in the Seine Bay.

In a routine report about the fighting on the invasion front Naval Group West reports that the air force local hospital at Cherbourg with its accommodation for 1000 patients was underquartered as through its position it is not easily discovered and within reach of wounded transports coming from the front.

The 3rd High Command, Air reported to this that the above mentioned informations were obviously made on a misunderstanding as the management of the Air Force local hospital was transferred already in March 1944 to a gallery so that a quartering in the hospital was out of question. Copy according to 1/SK1 29 999/44 Geh. in special file "Invasion 8 Aug."

8 Aug. 1944

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

Escort duties in the river mouths were carried out according to plan. Patrol boat positions in the Heligoland Bight and in front of the Dutch coast as well as mine sweeping duties were carried out without any special incident. One mine was cleared in front of the Elbe. Seventy two mines were layed into the coastal mine type "A" minefield K 9 at Zantfoort. One radar fitted vessel was detected in the evening in front of Hoek.

Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Ten planes in action were intercepted by the 18. Group. One plane of the 16. group reported an aerial torpedo attack at 1441 on the north-convoy in AN 3196.

One British vessel was detected easterly of Peter Head at 1755.

2. Own Situation:

Our own convoy to the north was attacked off Egersund at 1430 by 50 Mosquitos and Beaufighters with torpedoes, rockets and gunfire. There were casualties on board of the convoyed vessels. Four planes were shot down. The convoy arrived complete.

Thirty six ships were escorted to the north and 17 ships to the south.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

1. Enemy Situation:

Four minesweeper divisions and 79 naval vessels were detected by our radio monitoring in the Finnish Bay in wireless communication on the 7 Aug. Thirty five vessels and one minesweeper formation were seen in the Narva Bay during this day. Besides this, two PT boats were in AO 3742 steering westerly course.

Minesweeper vessels were observed at work in AO 3717 at noon on the 8 Aug, and four medium sized ships were seen at 1500 northeasterly of Lavansaari. Our planes attacked the vessels seen in the Narva Bay.

8 Aug. 1944

One larger tugboat started burning at 0930, a smaller vessel received a hit from nearby. One motor minesweeper was hit at 1355. Other motor minesweepers were attacked by gunfire.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral in Command of the Skagerrak:

The coastal mine type "A" operation in front of the western Jutlandic coast was continued. The Danish steamer RIKKE (1432 BRT) sank in the southern entrance to the Sund on the 7 Aug. after striking a mine.

Enemy reconnaissance planes were reported over the Danish area advancing up to Copenhagen at noon on the 8 Aug. No special incidents further to report.

Western and Central Baltic:

The management of the lock gates at Holtenau had to be closed down for a few hours in the evening on account of cable damage.

The PRINZ EUGEN, EMDEN, HELA, H 27 and three transporters were escorted. Steamer STEUBEN sailed with 1360 wounded from Pillau to Swinemuende.

Admiral in command of the Eastern Baltic:

One mine was cleared from the Reval Bay. Six boats of the 5th PT boat Flotilla carried out manoeuvres on the night of the 7 Aug. westerly of route "Orange". Thirteen troop transporters, one tanker and one minesweeper were escorted.

Steamer MOERO carried 1537 soldiers from Danzig to Riga in special transports. The steamers CELEBES and SUMATRA sailed from Riga. The quartering and the ports of destination were not reported.

---

IV. Submarine Warfare:

The three submarines which sailed from Brest for La Pallice were to operate against enemy blockading vessels.

No special reports were at hand from the other operational areas.

8 Aug. 1944

V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Fourteen hundred enemy planes with fighter protection entered Belgium/Northern France and attacked strongholds and traffic installations. Western France was entered by 1350 enemy planes with fighter protection and battery positions as well as air bases were attacked. It was reported that 75 enemy planes entered the area of western France on the night of the 8 Aug. without showing any activity and 355 enemy planes entered the area of Belgium and raided the area of St. Omer - Doullens.

Our own actions during the day were carried out by 238 planes which attacked in five missions artillery, planes and fighter bombers. Through the pressure of air fighting 50 of the planes had to leave off from their task immediately after their start.

One fighter plane shot down two enemy fighters and in it lost two of our own planes.

One steamer of 10,000 BRT. and one harbor defense vessel "293" were sunk on the night of the 8 Aug. in an attack against the shipping carried out by eight "Do 217". One hundred and thirty planes were operating against ground targets in the area of Avranches on the night of the 8 Aug. Twenty six of our own planes carried out night raids in Western France.

Area of the Reich:

Single reconnaissance planes were during daytime over western, central, southern Germany and Silesia. Twenty to 25 mosquito planes carried out attacks in the area of Cologne and Bonn on the night of the 8 Aug. Single planes were reported over Northern Germany.

Mediterranean Theater:

About 400 enemy planes were operating in the rear Italian front area, attacking traffic targets, railway bridges, electric plants and locks. Sixty-five twin and four-engined planes coming from Southern Italy carried out attacks in the area of Vienna on the night of the 7 Aug. In other spheres of the Italian and Greek territory the enemy operated only with weak formations respectively with single planes.

Our own planes carried out reconnaissance flights in the Western Mediterranean.

8 Aug. 1944

Eastern Area:

Seven hundred and ninety one own operations with ten losses and 1992 enemy operations with 18 planes shot down were reported during the 7 Aug.

Ninty eight own and 96 enemy operations were counted during the night.

About 20 enemy planes were reported during the day from the area Heilsberg - Bischofsburg - Goldap, but no attacking operations were made.

Lyck and Ebenrode were attacked on the night of the 8 Aug.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea:

1. Area Naval Group West:

Enemy Situation:

No special reports were at hand.

Own Situation:

Our own Air Force reported an enemy submarine NE of Mallorca respectively south of Marseille on the night of the 7 Aug. and early on the 8 Aug. According to army reports three enemy submarines were off Nizza at noon.

Eight enemy fighters attacked the harbor of Nizza on the afternoon of the 7 Aug. Steamer CONDE started to burn.

The enemy submarine westerly of Ciotat was attacked with depth charges without observing results on the night of the 9 Aug.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

An escort vessel and a freighter were reported by radio monitoring at 1230 about 100 miles NNW of Benghazi steering SE course and at 1404 a troop transporter and 11 freighters as well as four escort vessels and one patrol boat were 160 miles SE of Naples on SE course.

8 Aug. 1944

Apparently a fighter directing vessel was stationed 27 miles west-erly of Alghero at 2219 on the 7 Aug.

One vessel was reported at 2315 on the 7 Aug., 17 miles northerly of Bastia and 15 to 20 ships were northerly of Porto Ferraio at 0010 on the 8 Aug. presumably sailing for Leghorn.

Stirring activity of night fighter bombers was established in the Gonva Bay.

Radio monitoring intercepted radio messages in the area of Naples - Salerno on the 7 Aug. which probably referred to a landing manoeuvre.

Own Situation:

Only little damage and casualties were caused by an enemy night fighter bomber attack with rockets and bombs on a northerly sailing convoy on the height of Sestri Levante. One plane was shot down.

One submarine chaser and one minesweeper were damaged slightly in an attack on Imperia on the morning of the 8 Aug. The breakwater was hit at Sestri Levante. One barge was damaged.

Convoy and escort duties were carried out according to plan.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

Five enemy vessels were seen at the island of Solta steering for the western coast of Lissa at 2345 on the 7 Aug.

Two of our own naval landing craft and one motor minesweeper were engaged by four enemy gun boats, while on their way from Zara to the north by the island of Vir at 2215. Both naval landing craft sank during this engagement. The motor minesweepers arrived at Zara slightly damaged. One enemy gun boat exploded, a second one sank after running aground.

Four large and one small enemy motor launch arrived at Zaglava at 1400 on the 8 Aug. after sailing to the south through the Sreden-canal.

The mining operation "Feh 2" was carried out according to plan off Umago early on the 8 Aug.

8 Aug. 1944

b. Aegean:

The battery of Corfu-North shelled one enemy destroyer patrolling in the west early on the 7 Aug. with 10 salvoes. Targets turned off. (Targets or target? Remark by translator).

Four enemy planes attacked shortly after midnight Porto Lago. No damage was done. The wreck of the torpedoed motor sailer DOXSA was towed into the Suda Bay. The salvage of the remaining cargo was arranged.

c. Black Sea:

The enemy naval Air Force was furthermore active. Two submarines must be expected still on the west coast.

One naval landing craft convoy was attacked by two enemy fighters with gunfire at Sulina at 0409 without being damaged.

Romanian naval landing craft reported at 2300 to 2330 on the 7 Aug. that planes entered the area between the Sulina mouth and Stampol mouth probably for mining purpose. About 16 planes entered the sea area of Constanta in the same night where the dropping of mines must also be suspected. Our own fighters shot down one plane.

Convoys were carried out according to plan.

Four motor minesweepers left Constanta for the Bosphorus to pick up steamer JOHANNA.

Group South reported that the planned shelling of Odessa was ordered on the night of the 11 Aug. by three artillery carriers and four motor minesweepers under remote escort. Two Romanian destroyers will be on rendezvous positions at day-light on the 11 Aug. for the returning formation.

d. Danube Situation:

The dropping of mines or damage caused by hitting mines were not reported. Two minesweeping successes were reported from Km 532 and 1736.

---

VII. Situation in the Far East:

No special reports were at hand.

---

9 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance

The new Finnish cabinet was set up. Prime Minister Hackzell, Representative and Defense-minister General Walden and Foreign minister Enckell. Five social democrats were in the 15 headed cabinet who do not conceive by this their parliamentary strength. The modesty is obviously instinctive.

The Polish negotiations in Moscow were prorogued without mentioning a date and do not seem to have led to an agreement.

The conference of allied forces for organization of the international safety which was planned for the 17 Aug. was postponed for a week as desired by the Russians.

---

Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief Navy at 1120.

I. Naval Staff, Operations Division, Naval Air and Air Force Liaison Section reported about the proportion of forces at the Eastern Front, which presents a manifold numerical superiority by the enemy. During one month the Russians constructed 505 new air bases.

II. According to a weather forecast made over a long period only the weather in the North Sea will be unfavorable to landing operations.

III. Conference Restricted to a Very Limited Circle:

Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division: The Admiral Führer Headquarters asked for a review of Wertes Hochland and Tütters under the hypothesis that the waters to the north were unlimited at the disposal of the enemy.

Naval Staff, Operations Division proposed the following answer:

"1. The efficiency of the Seeigel minefield can only be fully maintained as long as the northern and southern wing touches our own coast and as long as the Hochland and Tütters are in our own possession. Should this hypothesis be abolished a new minefield must be rebuilt easterly of Nashorn between Grosswrangel and Helsinki-Skerries. Reference to 2092/44 Chefs dated 11 Jul. (to Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy.)

9 Aug. 1944

2. The possession of Hochland and Tutters is of a certain importance should the Finnish respectively the northern Esthonian coast be lost, as the break-through possibilities of the Russian navy will be hemmed in and therefore the assumed possibilities of attacks by our own airforce and submarines will be more advantageous. In addition to this it will be necessary to take over the batteries on Hochland. (Eight-15,2cm, three-12cm)

3. Should the hypotheses for the efficiency of the Seeigel cease according to 1. the rebuilding of the minefield easterly of Nashorn will be pressing. The continuation of "Tanne - Ost" will only then answer the purpose if additional and sufficient forces will be available. Commander in Chief, Navy agreed.

The review obtained by the Admiral, Fuhrer Headquarters concerning the value of the Baltic Islands is attended to.

---

I. Situation of the Army:

Western Front:

The enemy started his expected large scale attack in the area of the 5th Tank Army after increased artillery barrage and carpet bombing on the early morning hours of the 8 Aug. easterly of the Orne concentrating on both sides of the road Caen-Falaise. Through the employment of over 600 tanks and fighter bomber formations he succeeded in breaking through our front and achieved deep penetrations. The formations kept ready for marching off at the attacking wings of the 7th Army had to be employed in the removal of the threatening break-through. It will be tried to rebuild a new front in the line St. Salvain - Hautmesnil - Bretteville and to annihilate the further southerly penetrated units.

Also the Panther formation of the 9th Tank Division had to be employed in clearing up the situation at the 5th Tank Army owing to the heavy casualties.

The enemy bridgehead at Grimbosq could not be removed in spite of operations by own led up forces. In the area of Vire and south-westerly the enemy attacked again in the easterly section of the 7th Army on the whole front. The attacks were weaker as on the previous day on which the enemy suffered heavy and bloody losses. But during

9 Aug. 1944

the day they increased and in the evening the enemy succeeded in obtaining two larger incursions southerly of the Vire and at St. Germain.

Our own attack at the western wing of the 7th Army proved again after first successes efficacious resulting from the overwhelming employment of fighter bomber and newly brought up tank reserves. The old plan of attack is still rendered valid. It must depend on the further development of the situation whether the plan will be feasible. The preparations for this were started.

The attack by the enemy across the line Domfront - Mayenne at the open wing of the 7th Army was everywhere repulsed respectively intercepted. The enemy succeeded against this in a thrust of breaking through the line Laval - Chateau - Gontier to Le Mans and after exasperate fighting with the weak garrison of same to take the town. Quickly brought up reserves of all branches blocked the roads which led from Le Mans to the east and northeast.

According to plan the enemy attacked in Brittany St. Malo the garrison of which defended itself heroically. The attack on Lorient and Brest also seems to be imminent. The revolt by the population of the Brittany was growing stronger in force and uniformity. The strength of the enemy was esteemed in the Brittany with two tank divisions and three infantry divisions. Further forces were brought up.

Italian Front:

No actions of importance occurred.

Eastern Front:

Army Group Northern Ukraine:

The 1st Tank Army marched into the Hunyadi position. (Carpathian Mountains). The enemy was only following hesitatingly. Heavy fighting deployed at Sanok.

To cover the Carpathian front the enemy inserted the 4th Ukrainian front which was previously in command on the Crimea.

At the Army Group Northern Ukraine the focal point of the fighting was still as before on the western bank of the Vistula at Sandomir. A further guard army was brought up to there by the Russians from Romania. They threw back the 4th German Tank Army across the road Sandomir - Opatow in heavy fighting. An attacking group was concentrated for counter attack consisting of two tank divisions and

9 Aug. 1944

one tank grenadier division under the command of the III. Tank Corps in the area northeasterly of Cracow.

Army Group Center:

The own attack against the enemy bridgehead at the Pilicamouth into the Vistula was only of little success.

Fighting was continued against the rebels at Warsaw. Traffic was only possible with armored vehicles.

While the enemy was quiet at the front between Warsaw and the Bug his attacks were concentrating on the area southerly of Bialystock. At least 20 enemy divisions were attacking here. Heavy and changeable fighting continued.

No fighting occurred at the front between Bialystock and Kauen. The enemy again penetrated the German lines westerly of the Dubyssa. Counter measures were there under way by the attack of a Tiger formation. 66 tanks were yesterday put out of action, thereby bringing the total up to 389 since the 4 Sept. (Tr.N. should obviously mean August.)

The enemy seemed to form a new attacking focal point in the gap between Army Group Center and Army Group North with two armies and one tank corps in the area of Schaulen of which probably the direction of the drive may be Memel - Tilsit.

Army Group North:

The enemy is pushing closer up to the own main line of resistance. Our own withdrawal movement between Birsen and Jakobstadt was followed by the enemy with strong infantry and tank formations which tried to push across the Memel. Counter attacks have started. Enemy attacks on a broad front northerly of the Duna were repulsed.

A surrounded enemy formation southerly of Schwanenburg was relieved by massed enemy attack, the attack was intercepted.

No real fighting occurred at the front of Army Formation Narva.

9 Aug. 1944

Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division: The port commander of St. Malo Captain Endell made the following situation report on the 8th at 2230.

"1. Men of the mining command under the leadership of Lieutenant s.g.(W) Fuchs carried out all explosions according to plan during hours of lasting heavy enemy artillery shelling and proved the highest readiness for action.

2. Continuous operations of all naval batteries, especially Cecembre the gun crews of which surpassed themselves in a constant artillery fight. Especially battery Parame stood the test. In spite of the heaviest attacks by artillery and infantry weapons, tanks and trench mortars the base was held. Only one gun was left ready for action.

3. The inner town and cite were under artillery fire and bombing attacks in the afternoon and in the evening. Heavy fighting in the streets occurred at Parame. The far superior enemy advanced slowly. Fort de la Varde, St. Servan and St. Malo were firm in our hand.

4. Successes: A break through of the main line of resistance was prevented at Roche Neuf by artillery fire. Tank and infantry concentrations in cooperation with shore employed naval units were repeatedly destroyed. One battery was put out of action. One heavy and five light trench mortars were destroyed."

---

Special Items:

I. Brittany:

Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command has issued the following direction:

"1. In spite of the sufficient disposition of ammunition, weapons and tools from the homeland the Commander in Chief West nevertheless again reports a shortage of particular species, especially armor-piercing ammunition and tank close combat means. On account of the recall of ready transports and of the most important goods the shortage may be caused by the transport situation. The Commander in Chief has to secure the transportation for the urgently needed shortage goods without lack of any consideration by rejecting other transports or preference recalls and has to supply the troops by making the most of all means.

9 Aug. 1944

2. The Commander in Chief, West has to employ all imaginable means to complement the stores of the fortresses in the Brittany with armor-piercing ammunition and tank close combat weapons as in the present situation decisive consequences will depend on them. The Naval Staff was asked to issue the needed orders for the employment of naval forces and as the case may be for submarines to carry out the providing across sea. Carried out supply operations were to be reported presently to the General Staff of the Army Quartermaster General."

Concerning this the Naval Staff Operations Division transferred the following order to Group West:

"1. Orders for the employment of submarines were issued by Naval Staff, Submarine Division.

2. Further measures concerning the supplying were to be made by Group West in accordance to the importance of the affair.

3. Intentions to 2.) and current results to 1.) and 2.) were to be reported.

## II. Concerns the Eastern Baltic:

a. The Naval Command East informed the Naval Staff of the decision made by the General Staff of the Army that the 600 men naval personnel held up at Libau will be transferred to Reval.

b. Concerning the "Doppelkopf" operation the Admiral Führer Headquarters transmitted the following:

"1. Embarkation of only one tank brigade at Danzig - Gydinia on the 15 Aug. Possibly also reinforcements about which the General Staff of the Army will be informed in due time.

2. The Chief of the General Staff still lays the biggest stress on secrecy and will issue special orders for deception and camouflage of operation.

3. The General Staff of the Army will dispatch an officer of the tank brigade to Bismarck."

c. The Naval Command East reported the details of the plans concerning the execution of the "Weissdorn" and "Rotdorn" operation. Completion according to 1/Skl 2329/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in the files of I OP 1/Skl.

Quartermaster General will be attending to subject as far as necessary.

9 Aug. 1944

Emphasized was:

The request of the navy presented no real difficulties except the providing of net protection. For the shifting in general 24 hours were regarded as sufficient.

The "Weissdorn case A" operation will not be practicable by the Naval Command East for the submarine weapon or it should be that through the delivery of larger contingents to the army camps or barracks were cleared.

III. In realization of the wishes of the General Staff of the Army Group South received directive to employ naval landing craft for the evacuation across Seodonau (see War Diary 8 Aug.) and to contact Army Group Southern Ukraine. This Army Group received relevant directive by the General Staff of the Army.

IV. Naval Command, Norway presented the operational order for the weather observation enterprise "Haudegen". Task: Organization and occupation of a weather observation and radio transmitting station on Northeast Land (Spitsbergen) and the delivery of weather reports.

The execution will be carried out by the weather ship BUSCH which will be transferred camouflaged as a coastal guard ship from a home port to Narvik. The sailing order will be given by the Naval Command Norway by the code word "Mondschein". Escort duty will be carried out by one submarine during the outward and return voyage and also during the stoppage.

Copy according to 1/SK1 2359/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in file I North 1/SK1.

V. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff, Fleet Branch reported:

"The following flotillas are respectively will be ready for action shortly after completion at the yard:

1. The 24 PT Boat Flotilla (10 boats), and the GRADO (ex Italian MS boats)
2. Eight coastal defense vessels Reval
3. The 22nd PT Boat Flotilla (eight coastal defense vessels) at Lignano by Triest.

On account of the order concerning the stoppage of B 4 deliveries to the navy an investigation was ordered and has started whether the above mentioned vessels could be inverted to Otto-fuel. The date of the employment for these boats depends on the result of the investigation. The employment of these vessels is therefore not possible

9 Aug. 1944

at the time. It was emphasized that if Otto-fuel would be used a decrease in efficiency of 15% would take place, which means that the coastal defense vessels would only have a maximum speed of 18,7 knots and the boats of the 24th PT Boat Flotilla 27,2 knots.

On account of the decrease in the maximum speed, the 24th PT Boat Flotilla can only be used with the support of our own Adriatic coast and in the area of the islands. The 22nd PT Boat Flotilla and the coastal defense vessels were according to 2. and apart from this only ready for employment with the close support of our own coast under possible considerations and careful handling of enterprise. Practically coastal defense vessels only signify "Mobile torpedo batteries" in front of our own coast and have a very insufficient artillery fighting strength."

VI. According to information from the general in command of reconnaissance planes the He A3/A5 does not answer the purpose for naval reconnaissance for the submarine warfare.

Fighter formations were not at disposal for actions.

Patrolling tasks were only possible in a restricted circle of 1,000 km depth.

Experiments made with the Me 264 were abandoned for the time being as the V-pattern for testing purposes was destroyed through enemy action.

End of August the first He 177's will be available for reconnaissance. An effective force of 36 planes of this type may be expected up to the end of October. This number should be kept ready for action if no larger losses should occur.

Commanding Admiral, Submarines was informed about the limited range.

---

Position 9 August.

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

The air activity was still stirring at the 19. Group. Eighty five planes in action were intercepted. Six British vessels were detected in the rendez-vous area.

9 Aug. 1944

Alderney observed three patrol boats in BF 3554 on southerly course at 2200 on 8 Aug. Three destroyers were on patrol 12 miles SW of Ile de Croix steering 220° at 1250 on 9 Aug. Several targets, probably destroyers, were reported 5 miles northerly of Les Sept Iles on 200° course at 1409.

Numerous vessels were observed on NNW course in BF 3552 (NW of Cherbourg) at 1615.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

No losses were caused in a fighter bomber attack at the 2nd Minesweeper Flotilla in Benodet on the morning of the 8 Aug. Two planes were shot down.

Minesweeper M "366" and "367" were sunk off Noirmoutier in an attack carried out by 30 fighter-bombers on the 10th. Minesweeper Flotilla. Minesweeper M "428" had to be abandoned burning, also minesweeper M "438". Serious losses in personnel were reported as well as two planes shot down.

The XXV. Army Corps reported the evacuation of the point of resistance and Port Quiberon on account of personnel shortage on the evening of the 8 Aug. The Port was not destroyed.

The 6th Mine Exploding Flotilla was attacked without effect off Brest at 1819. The dropping of mines was observed in the Loire and Gironde-mouth as well as off Brest. Thirteen mines were cleared off Brest.

Situation on land in the Brittany:

About the report made on the evening of the 8 Aug. by the port command St. Malo was reported:

The reprieved demand of surrender made by the Commander of the American Forces at 1000 on the 9 Aug. was not answered.

Enemy tanks were reported in Parame at 1007 according to report from the port command. The naval victualling office was surrounded.

The 3rd Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery Brigade destroyed in total 41 tanks armored vehicles as well as several trucks in the fortress area of Brest on the 7. and 8. and put one enemy battery out of action.

9 Aug. 1944

One searchlight was destroyed in an enemy air raid carried out at noon on the port and anti-aircraft artillery positions NE of Brest, two planes were shot down. One plane was also shot down during mining operations in the roads. Eleven outer searchlight positions were transferred to the rear. Four cargo sailing vessels landed in the area of Landernau in the afternoon.

The battery Hamburg in the fortress area of Lorient is again in our hands. The crew was strengthened by the infantry company. Four 12,8 cm anti-aircraft artillery guns were out of action. The battery Grognon shelled ground targets and located targets. Mine exploding vessel "19" was employed as mine exploding and anti-aircraft artillery battery in Tudy port on Ile de Croix.

The passage across the anti-tank ditch on the Quimper - Lorient road was blown up at 1400. Plouharnel and Quiberon were free of the enemy.

The light naval artillery unit 683 was employed at the northern front, the light naval artillery unit 688 was held in reserve.

Disturbing efforts of the intended destruction program must be expected in the area of Nantes as proved by the conduct of the dockyard management and workers as well as by the unreliability of the police. Therefore the 1st Army Command issued orders to start with the harbor destruction at forenoon. Group West agreed with the blocking operations of the river.

The 2nd Staff and parts of the 2nd Light Naval Artillery Unit 686 arrived in Pontchateau. The 4th battery of the Naval Artillery Unit 687 was operating at Angers. The 8th Naval Smoke Detachment is in action at Nantes in ground defense.

The enemy is attacking Angers with tanks, artillery and motorized infantry since noon of the 8. The blowing up of the bridges was prepared.

New reports were not at hand from the fortress St. Nazaire. Port Command of Lezardrieux reported at 1150 on the 8 Aug. the following:

Surrounded by mines since the 7 Aug. The Commander of the battery Paimpol reported no actions up to now. The crew of the E-battery and the harbor patrol Paimpol was in action at Paimpol. The lock and the weir were blown up.

9 Aug. 1944

Sea Area Channel:

The Lock installations and the anti-aircraft artillery train Tancerville were attacked by fighter bombers without results on the evening of the 8 Aug. A fighter bomber attack was carried out against the 36th Minesweeper Flotilla off Dieppe on the night of the 8 Aug. Damage was not reported.

The 14th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla had several of times contact with enemy forces in the area of Cap Antifer to Cap de la Heve during the same night. In front of Cap de la Heve the 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla had several PT boat engagements. One armed fishing vessel was sunk by a torpedo.

Boats of the 46th Minesweeper Flotilla and boats of the 2nd Patrol Boat Flotilla were engaged during Channel island escort duties with enemy gun boats from 0620 to 0810 southerly of Jersey, partly on closest range. Two enemy vessels were destroyed. Further hits were observed. The convoy arrived at 0930 at Helier. Four of our own vessels were damaged. The losses in personnel belonging to the army and navy were relatively small.

Several detonations and a fire were observed in front of Dieppe at the same time on the night of the 8 Aug. which probably means a mining success in the DM (?) minefield.

The hospital ship BORDEAUX docked according to plan in St. Helier.

The batteries at St. Adress, Cap de la Heve, Army Coastal Battery 2/1253 at Fecamp and 1/1254 northerly of Cap de la Heve carried out in total eight surprising shellings of detected targets which turned off.

Twelve "Kommando" and 16 "Ladungslinsen" were in action from the 211th small battle Flotilla on the night of the 8 Aug. Ship concentrations were attacked in the Orne-bridgehead at Courseulle. The place of employment was the Dives-mouth. Weather and visibility were favorable. The attack was carried out by three groups from the north, east and south. The targets were reached completely in spite of massed enemy influence through naval artillery and anti-aircraft automatic artillery weapons. Five freighters, one LST, one escort vessel were sunk respectively torpedoed. Further detonations may mean a larger success. Four commando vessels did not return. Two of these were sunk near the entrance to Trouville by enemy fighter planes.

9 Aug. 1944

Three PT boats launched ten "Dackel" from the position route-marking buoy Le Havre between 0350 to 0408. Cap de la Heve observed a continuous flare shelling and about 800 short bursts of fire from sea targets between 0130 to 0500. A heavy detonation was observed in 240° at 0450.

A special command of the Air Force observed a jet flame northeasterly of the Orne-mouth at 0425 and a jet flame and detonation northerly of the Orne-mouth at 0457.

Seven patrol boat positions were occupied off the Channel coast.

The 2nd and 6th PT boat Flotilla entered Le Havre at 0445. "Dackel" operations were planned by three PT boats and torpedo operations by a file against the destroyers in the Seine Bay on the night of the 9 Aug.

The minefield L 23 was laid according to plan on the night of the 8 Aug. The plans for the night of the 9 Aug. were the laying of the flanking minefield L 22H and the laying of coastal mines type "A" in minefield off La Panne.

---

## II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters

### North Sea:

One mine was cleared northerly of Baltrum and two in front of the Elbe. K 21 Minefield was laid westerly of Flushing and the K 9 Minefield in front of Zantfoort was continued. Including these 5000 coastal mines type "A" were laid in the area of Holland.

Commanding Admiral, Defenses North informed the Reich Commissar for Ocean Shipping that the traffic with the Ems will be possible again with slower steamers about the end of September if favorable weather conditions prevail and that the transfer of the Hansa new constructions will be tried twice a week in convoys of two to three steamers after the 14 Aug.

### Norway, Northern Waters

#### 1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty six planes in action without concentrating on any area were intercepted by 18. Group.

9 Aug. 1944

2. Own Situation:

The number of planes shot down by patrolling vessels, naval anti-aircraft artillery and coastal batteries was raised from four to eight when an enemy air attack was made on an own convoy on the 8 Aug. The steamers and six escort vessels were slightly damaged by gunfire. The losses in personnel amounted to about 20% of the steamer crews. Own fighter planes were not in action.

Seventeen ships were escorted to the north and 20 ships to the south.

For carrying out the mining operations in the Barents Sea the Commander, Submarines Norway planned the operation Butt, Lachs, Hering, Sprotte, Forelle and Dorsch by each one submarine with each 12 TMC. (torpedo mine construction type "C").

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

Three minesweeper divisions and 50 naval vessels were located in the Finnish Bay in wireless communication on the 8 Aug. Eight motor minesweepers, two PT boats, one Patrol Boat and 27 motor vessels and each three small boats and barges 35 pontoons, 28 wooden pontoons probably for the rebuilding of the harbor installations of Hungerburg were observed by air reconnaissance on photographs taken of the Narva Bay on the 8 Aug.

Five PT boats were on patrol in the Wiborg Bay towards midnight of the 8 Aug. according to Finnish reports.

On the 9 Aug. ten vessels were observed at 0518 four miles east-northeasterly of Vigrund, two PT boats at 1145 in AO 3742 on west-erly course and three vessels at 1646 in AO 3744 on northerly course.

Our patrolling vessels northeasterly of Kokskaer were attacked by the enemy air force with aerial torpedoes at 0050 on the 9 Aug. One plane was reported over the Reval Bay probably laying mines.

9 Aug. 1944

2. Own Situation:

Admiral in Command of the Skagerrak:

One mine was cleared northeasterly of Schultz-Grund. A mine field section of 241 coastal mines type "A" was laid in 2 lines of succession southerly of Thyboroen into the minefield K 2.

Western and Central Baltic:

Thirty two vessels and two mine sweeping planes were engaged with mine sweeping duties. One mine was cleared from the Kiel Bay.

A detonation of a mine or time fused bomb occurred at 0840 between two steamers at anchor in the Kiel harbor without causing damage.

The LUTZOW docked in Gydinia at 1900. The 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla is in Libau on a six hour alert.

Escort vessel VS "304" was attacked by three enemy reconnaissance planes westerly of Backofen.

Single Russian reconnaissance planes entered the area up to Memel. Among others the KOLN, EMDEN, JACOBI and destroyer Z "39" were escorted.

Admiral in command of the Eastern Baltic:

One mine was cleared NW of Reval. The Narva patrol was on duty with four minesweepers and two patrol vessels. Submarine Nielsen was escorted by motor minesweepers and artillery ferry formations into the new operational area 60° north and 29° east for operations against enemy convoys.

Five watchings (mine or buoy) were observed in AO 3551 which makes it probable that submarine "521" hit a mine.

The transfer of the 122nd Infantry Division was carried on. One transporter each was escorted from Hangoe to Reval on the 8 and 9 Aug.

In special transports were carried from Danzig to Riga by steamer MOLTKEFELS 1015 soldiers, by steamer BRAKE 325 tons of ammunition and by steamer ROBERT MOHRING 761 soldiers. Steamer NORDENHAM sailed from Reval to Swinemunde with 820 wounded and 123 soldiers and evacuates.

9 Aug. 1944

Army Group North received supplies on the 5 Aug. in total of 6737 tons to Riga and Reval, on the 6 Aug. 3391 tons and on the 7 Aug. 5051 tons.

Naval Artillery Barge MAL "22" and "23" were attacked in Dorpat at Lake Peipus at 0715 on the 8 Aug. by six enemy planes. Naval Artillery Barge MAL "23" was hit by a bomb and suffered losses in personnel. Naval Artillery Barge MAL "22" was only slightly damaged.

Further air attacks were carried out without effect on an armed police boat and on Kastre.

The 52nd Defense Division was attached to the Command Courland. Placed under this command were the fighting unit Maeder, the SS Tank Brigade Gross, also for defense against landing operations, the Naval Shore Command Libau and the local defense officer Windau.

---

#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

The submarine bunker La Pallice was attacked with super heavy bombs at 1302. One hit only caused a hole of 1,5 m depth on a 6,2 m ceiling above a vertical curtain. A 2,7 m thick ceiling strengthening was penetrated and torn off by another hit. The head of the exploded bomb staid on the old 3,5 m ceiling which sagged slightly. The submarine repair was only insignificantly impaired.

Submarine U "763" and U "953" sailed from Brest to La Pallice and submarine U "766" to Bordeaux, from St. Nazaire sailed submarine U "281" to La Pallice and submarine U "437" to Bordeaux.

Submarine U "385" sailed from St. Nazaire to operate in the Channel. The shifting caused strong enemy employments in BF 64.

AT "85", "82", "64" and "67" were assigned to the unit "Greif" operating in the Arctic in strength of 4 boats.

Submarine U "290", "1000" and "1165" were further ordered to operate easterly of Group Center.

No special reports were at hand from the other theaters of war.

9 Aug. 1944

V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Twelve hundred and fifty enemy planes entered the area of Belgium/Northern France and raided stations, railway installations, airbases and railway bridges. Three hundred and fifty enemy planes entered the area of the Somme mouth in western France singly and in small groups without attacking any targets. Two hundred planes attacked oil stores in the area of Rouen as well as the Seine shipping.

More than 300 enemy planes attacked airbases in the Belgium/Northern French area on the night of the 9 Aug. Moreover the mining of the sea area Den Helder and Vlieland was reported. One hundred and four enemy planes attacked anti-aircraft artillery positions with gunfire in western France.

Flying across into the Reich area 60 high-explosive bombs were dropped on the airbase Eindhoven.

Two hundred and forty seven own planes were in action in three missions at the front area engaging fighter-bomber and artillery spotting planes. One hundred and eight own planes raided Avranches, St. Tilaire and Brissy with good results, three planes were lost. Ship targets were attacked westerly of Brest by four Do "217" and a direct hit with HS 293 was observed.

Forty-three of our own night fighters were employed without results in western France.

Area of the Reich:

Eight hundred to 1000 bombers with fighters leading the way entered the area of the Reich northerly of Trier. From these one bomber division of about 300 planes was called back. The others flew on into the area of Karlsruhe, Saarbrücken and Strassburg. One formation of about 100 bombers with strong fighter protection branched off in the area of Karlsruhe to carry out low level attacks on air bases in the area München - Augsburg - Ansbach. The other formations carried out with predominance large area attacks at traffic targets and at the same time low level attacks at airbases in southern and western Germany. Saarbrücken, Karlsruhe as well as Luxemburg, Pirmasens, Ulm, Strassburg, St. Vith were attacked, further the air bases Boblingen, Echterdingen, Ansbach, Ettingen, Fürstenfelsbruck and Schongau. Eighteen planes were destroyed on the ground and 28 were damaged. Further damage done was mentioned in the "Daily Situation Report".

9 Aug. 1944

Four hundred bombers with fighter protection entered Hungary in two groups coming from the south and attacked air bases and one naphtha refinery in the area of Budapest and Raab.

Thirty mosquitos attacked without effect anti-aircraft artillery positions in the area of Munster with gunfire on the night of the 9 Aug. Single mosquitos flew across the area of NW and central Germany.

Central Mediterranean Theater:

About 120 four-engined enemy planes under the protection of 50 to 60 fighters attacked five air bases in the Romanian area on the 8th Aug. coming from Russia.

Four hundred fighter bombers, fighter and reconnaissance planes attacked traffic targets in the middle sector of the Italian front and in the southeasterly part of the Po-plain. One hundred twin engined planes sank a tanker in an attack on the harbor of Savona. Further attacks were made at places on the Riviera.

Among others it was reported that 24 planes were carrying supplies to the partisans in the Balkan area, 25 naval distant-patrol planes were operating with focal point in the Gulf of Genoa, 25 night fighters were at the Italian western coast and 20 nuisance raiders dropped bombs on the air bases at Forli and Ravenna.

Our own planes carried out reconnaissance flights on the 9 Aug.

Eastern Area:

During the 8 Aug. 729 own and 2410 enemy air operations, during the night of the 8 Aug. 509 own and 250 enemy operations were counted at the eastern front. Three of our own planes were lost, 21 enemy planes were shot down.

Twelve enemy planes entered from the east the area of Ortelsburg - Lyck, Insterburg - Heilsberg - Tilsit and Goldap on the 9 Aug. without attacking. Six enemy planes were reported from East Prussia and the dropping of several high-explosive bombs was reported from the area of Gumbinnen.

9 Aug. 1944

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea:

1. Area Naval Group West:

Enemy Situation:

Seven freighters and three escort vessels sailed from Gibraltar for the West on the afternoon of the 7 Aug. Three transporters, 14 freighters and one tanker passed through the Gibraltar Straits on a westerly course on the evening of the 8 Aug.

Europe Point sighted 86 ships at noon on the 9th on easterly course of which 56 were freighters, seven tankers, one a destroyer, 16 corvettes and six escort vessels.

Own Situation:

Three enemy targets probably submarines were shelled by the coastal battery off Nizza at forenoon on the 8 Aug. and were forced to turn off.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Ten ships were seen 5 miles northerly of Porto Ferraio at 2235 on the 8 Aug. A southerly steering convoy was observed in front of Bastia on the afternoon of the 8 Aug. Three medium sized freighters were seen in the harbor of Leghorn at noon on the 9 Aug.

The air activity in the Genoa Bay was stirring according to radio monitoring.

Own Situation:

One block-ship was sunk and a patrol vessel damaged in an attack carried out by fighter bombers at St. Remo on the forenoon of the 8 Aug.

The tanker SPLENDOR (12,175 BRT) was sunk in an attack carried out with bombs and gunfire at Savona. One plane was shot down by a patrol boat.

Convoy and patrol duties were carried out according to plan.

9 Aug. 1944

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

Three fighter bombers attacked PT Boat S "623" and "626" in front of Venice at 0645. One attacker was damaged. PT boat S "626" had casualties and slight damage.

Saseno reported at 1950 in southerly direction and in 30 miles distance two ships on NW course and at 2000 in western direction and also in 30 miles distance six ships on westerly course probably freighters.

A sabotage attempt and an attack on the guards of the Mining and Barrage Command Cattaro was evaded on the night of the 7 Aug.

b. Aegean:

Torpedo boat of foreign construction TA "19", on its journey from Vathi to Carlovasi (Samos) sank 500 m in front of the harbor Vathi after a heavy detonation at 1800 caused probably through a submarine attack. With the exception of five men the crew was saved.

A large fire started in the naval artillery arsenal at Patras which was under control in the afternoon.

c. Black Sea:

About eight enemy planes entered the sea area of Constanta from a northeasterly direction between 0100 and 0300. The dropping of mines was not observed but might be expected.

One E-mine was cleared from the submarine training area easterly of Constanta.

Submarine U "9" started its return voyage from its operational area on the 8 Aug. Steamer JOHANNA coming from the Bosphorus docked at Burgas in escort of four motor minesweepers on forenoon of the 9 Aug.

---

VII. Situation in East Asia:

No special reports were received.

---

10 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance

Special new reports were not received.

---

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief Navy at 1115.

I. According to the inquiry made by the Admiral Führer Headquarters concerning the review of the importance of the Baltic islands for the Baltic Warfare, the Naval Staff Operations Division was of the following attitude:

1. The Baltic islands, Hangö and the Aaland islands must be esteemed on certain principles as they were the strategical positions for the control of the approaches to the Finnish and Bothnian Bays as well as of the adjoining sea areas of the Eastern Baltic.

2. At the time being the Baltic islands were without fortifications and practically without garrison. As it cannot be expected that the needed forces will be placed at disposal by the army or air force the presumption for full strategical operation is not given.

3. The case of a Russian occupation which might also be possible on account of our own present weakness in a surprised landing from the air would have a serious reaction on our own position in the Eastern Baltic as the enemy would be able to prepare positions in a short time especially the setting up of air bases. The additional possession of the Esthonian and Latvian coast would give the enemy advantageous berths for naval forces (cruisers, destroyers) between the islands and the mainland.

4. Of particular effect will be according to No. 3

a. The Naval Warfare in the Gulf of Finland.

b. Convoy traffic from and to the Bay of Riga as the control of the Irben Strait and Moonsund is complete.

c. The sea transportation from and to the Finnish and Bothnian Bay. Reference should be made to the special importance of the ore traffic, the replacements for Army Group North and Mountain Army Headquarters Staff 20 and as the case may be to the accomplishment of evacuation measures.

d. Manoeuvre area for our naval forces submarines.

5. Recapitulating therefore it must be requested that the Baltic islands must be held as long as possible to prevent the enemy from using them.

10 Aug. 1944

Commander in Chief, Navy agreed.

II. Naval Staff, Operations Division, Naval Air and Air Force Liaison Section reported in connection with the air situation report that 6300 V1 were launched up to the 2 Aug. From these were maximum 20% duds respectively shot down.

Further 15 "Mistel" will be ready for action after the 15 Aug.

Further ruptures in the fuel production required therefore essential heavier restrictions in the total flying service. Orders issued for this will have the following influence in the area of the General Staff of the Air Force attached to the Commander in Chief Navy:

1. Air reserve training unit sea: Flying operations were only to be carried out for priority training flights and only so far as DK 1 (special Diesel fuel - remark by translator) may be used.

2. Ship borne flying group 196: Employment of flying operations only on orders from the Commanding General Denmark respectively by planes stationed on board of a ship by orders from the competent officer in command at sea as far as employment is necessary to the own guidance of a battle or protection. No more training operations.

3. Courier detachment High Command Navy: Flights for courier and travelling purpose will only be made by orders from High Command Navy. High Command, Navy will be responsible that the reducing measures were carried out.

4. Plane Formation Sea: will make plane replacements to the front but as the case may be only by special orders from the General in Command of the Air Force attached to High Command, Navy.

5. All other flights which were not mentioned above or the carrying out of which might be doubtful needs the approval of the General in Command of the Air Force attached to Commander in Chief Navy.

III. According to informations from the Admiral, Fuhrer Headquarters symptoms were reported of the rebellion beginning on the 9 Aug. in the total area of the General Government.

IV. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff:

a. Decision will be needed up to the 15 Aug. as to the delivery of the four PT boats to the Finnish Navy. Commander in Chief Navy ordered a further report on the 15 Aug.

10 Aug. 1944

b. The organization for mine defense on German rivers was arranged in agreement with the Army and the General Inspectorate for the Economy of Water and Energy. The responsibility of the Army was verified. Experts will be placed at disposal by the Navy. The former Commanding Admiral, Defenses North, Admiral Stohwasser was nominated to this post. Besides this training experts for army personnel and if necessary the transfer of experts for a certain period was taken in view.

Commander in Chief Navy agreed.

The adjourning of Naval Shore Command Crete was proposed with regard to the altered situation and tasks.

The proposal was rejected by Commander in Chief Navy on account of the application from Naval Staff.

V. Chief Bureau of Naval Armament reported that the Navy had to deliver several 100 tons of telephone equipment from the depot inventory for the outfitting of new army divisions.

Commander in Chief Navy ordered a check up on naval inventory of certain kind, based on certain principles to prevent the holding back of important articles which might be needed elsewhere urgently at the time.

VI. Chief Naval Intelligence Division reported about the failure of the Polish negotiations at Moscow, about the Finnish discretion when discussing peace problems with the German Military Attache, about the Bulgarian peace currents and the Hungarian cabinet difficulties.

Conference Restricted to a very limited Circle.

VII. Situation of the Army:

Western Front:

The burden of the enemy large scale attack relaxed a little easterly of the Orne on the road Caen-Falaise on the 9 Aug. The enemy succeeded in enlarging his break-through to the south and southwest. Again 90 enemy tanks were destroyed.

The enemy attacked on both sides of Le Plessis westerly of the Orne, tore the front open on a breadth of 6 km and was able to gain five km ground in a pointed wedge. On own counter attack with "Tigers" suffered grievous losses.

10 Aug. 1944

The employment of all available reserves and forces was intended by the 5th Tank Army to annihilate the enemy who advanced from Granville to the south and to block the break through at Le Plessis.

The enemy attacked again with superior forces southerly and south-westerly of Vire and achieved a deep break through. Counter attack was planned. The clearing up of this break through is the supposition for the attack of the tank formations in direction to Avranches.

The enemy carried out strong frontal attacks against our attacking groups in the area of Mortain and tried to avoid them in the deep flank.

The enemy was again driven off on the southern wing of the 7th Army in the line Domfront-Mayenne. The enemy pushed his reconnaissance ahead to the southeast, east and northeast up to 30 km beyond Le Mans.

The garrison of St. Malo is fighting embittered for every foot of ground under the symbolical leadership of Colonel von Aulock, in the Brittany. The enemy started to attack the fortress of Brest and Lorient while he employed his own far ahead pushed reconnaissance up to now only locally in front of the fortress of St. Nazaire. Counterthrusts against tanks were only confined possible and liable to heavy casualties against modern equipped tank formations reinforced by terrorists and leaders who knew the country and on account of training reasons and equipment of our own mixed formations with the deficiency of mobile anti-tank guns, assault guns and combatting means. The troops from the east proved to be predominately unreliable.

Angers is under attack since the afternoon of the 8 Aug.

Italian Front:

The enemy was bringing up bridge materiels for an Arno crossing southerly of Florence.

The enemy started a larger attack with at least six battalions and supported by numerous tanks at the Adriatic coast. The enemy succeeded in advancing up to the main line of defense and accomplished local penetrations. But the enemy could be intercepted on the line Monterado - Francavilla - Monti. Twenty three tanks were destroyed. The fighting is still in full progress at the time being. Our own losses were serious.

10 Aug. 1944

Eastern Front:

Northern Ukraine:

The enemy is strengthening his attack westerly of Sanok. Our own forces were brought up to there. The focal point of the total fighting at the central eastern front was again yesterday in the area southwesterly of Sandomir. The enemy tried to gain ground to the south as well as to the north on the western bank of the Vistula. The attacks were intercepted in heavy fighting. By this the enemy area of penetration could be narrowed by counter attack southerly of Opatow.

The enemy advanced from his bridgeheads Annapol and Josefa at the Vistula front and gained little ground.

Army Group Center:

Our own attack carried out by three divisions against the enemy bridgehead southeasterly of Warka made only little headway. Embittered fighting is going on at Warsaw. The rebels received supplies from the air. We were able to improve our own front at Okuniew.

The withdrawal movement by the 2nd Army was carried out according to plan. Only local fighting at the northern wing of the 2nd Army and at the 4th Army.

At the 3rd Army the division "Grossdeutschland" succeeded in recovering parts of the lost Eastern Prussia position easterly of Wirballen.

The enemy attacked again without interruption with several army corps northerly of the Memel. He occupied the burning Raseinen. Again 20 tanks were destroyed.

Forces of unknown strength were advancing to the west northerly of Schaulen. Akmene was taken by the Bolsheviks; no changes occurred in the situation at Autz.

Army Group North:

Scouting squads from Riga and Windau established contact at the coastal road running along the Bay of Riga northerly of Tuckum. A thrust of weak German forces at Tuckum from the west met heaviest opposition in the town. Our own troops withdrew several of km to the west.

10 Aug. 1944

The enemy attacked with weaker forces as on the previous days in the area of Birsén but nevertheless succeeded in realizing several penetrations.

The enemy carried on his preparations at the known focal points between Düna and Lake Peipus for the continuation of his attacks. His attacks made yesterday were warded off everywhere.

The Russians carried on their re-grouping in front of the total army formation Narva.

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

To the inquiry made by the Admiral Fuhrer Headquarters concerning the significance of the Aaland islands the Naval Staff, Operations Division had the following attitude:

1. On account of the deciding importance of the Aaland islands for the sea connections to Finland and to the Bothnian Bay it will be the principle task on all events to keep the Russians away from the islands.

2. If Sweden is not willing to guarantee or in the practical case of need preserve the neutrality of the Aaland islands according to the Aaland Convention a German move of occupation must follow in the case of danger.

3. Disadvantages through Swedish reprisal measures

a. By the total blocking of the Swedish waters western of the Aaland are small, when the islands are in our possession,

b. The withdrawal of Swedish tonnage from the ore traffic will be important as the ore import will not be maintainable in the needed volume. (The share of the Swedish tonnage in the ore traffic amounts to 50% at the time being.) In this case the retrogression of the coal import from Germany will be a certain pressure against Sweden which will, however, be easier bearable by Sweden as the resignation of iron ore to us.

4. The Naval Staff is of the opinion that military measures against the Aaland islands in the case of danger brook no delay and should therefore be prepared further as the ore traffic practically could not be maintained on military and political reasons if a Russian occupation of the Aaland islands should take place.

10 Aug. 1944

5. The disagreement in the Swedish politic rests on:

a. The unchanged aim to hinder an encroachment of the German-Russian fighting on to the Aaland islands and into the proximity of Swedish territory.

b. The refusal of gurantee of the Aaland neutrality according to convention as directed against Russia.

6. The renewal of the submarine blockade is necessary at the southern entrance to the Sund and was up to now carried out in silent agreement with the Swedish navy also inside of Swedish territorial waters. The change in the situation caused the Swedish navy now to lay the blame of decision on political parties which amounts to a refusal of the German demands.

Commander in Chief Navy drew attention to the important meaning of a complete barring of the Sund against submarines. Arrangements should be made with the commander net barrage unit which practically would attain one's end without engrossment of political offices.

---

Special Items:

I. Concerns Eastern Baltic:

a. The following plans were reported for the near future by Naval Command, East:

1. The 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla will stay in Libau on a six hour alert.

2. The 6th Destroyer Flotilla will stay in the Bay of Riga according to instructions.

3. At the time being PRINZ EUGEN is in Gydinia on a three hour alert till LUTZOW is ready for action. Then the alert will be loosened at Gydinia in alternation with the Air Force for operations in the Riga Bay according to the situation. The "Rot-buche" operation is not planned for the time being for the PRINZ EUGEN. In the progress of readiness the accomplishment of manoeuvres by the PRINZ EUGEN is considerations by the fleet. Occasional employment as in anti-aircraft artillery protection for large convoys to Army Group North is planned.

10 Aug. 1944

4. Two torpedo flotillas will carry out escort duties from Libau in the case of employment of the PRINZ EUGEN.

5. The 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla has a 6 hour readiness at Gydinia. Manoeuvres were at the estimate of the fleet in the shape of readiness. Employment as escort protection (anti-aircraft artillery protection) reserved.

6. According to a report from Naval Command, East the 6th Destroyer Flotilla believes the changing of berths at corresponding times during the day to be of little effect as the total area for the four destroyers is very limited and as no veiling is possible against investigation from the air and from shore. The very flat coast gives no protection. The air situation is quiet for the present. A departure from this sea area will be necessary after the first recognition as no own anti-aircraft artillery protection exists against high flying planes and only a limited protection is at hand against low flying planes.

b. The Naval Command, East first of all intends to wait for a development of the situation.

c. The Naval Command, East ordered the subordinated offices to clear up single questions concerning the directing of convoys and convoy times. The Naval Staff asked Operations Staff High Command Air accordingly to clear up particulars concerning the 6th Air Force with the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Baltic and not with the Central Coastal Defense Command. Convoy traffic respectively reinforcements to Army Group North were carried out at the time being as follows: usually single passages, occasional passages by ships in company.

The protection of the traffic in the Eastern Baltic and the Riga Bay is carried out as follows:

Troop transports, hospital ships and tankers with anti-aircraft artillery defenses received a ground mine escort Irben Straits/Riga Bay from the departing harbor to the arrival harbor.

Transports with materiel received a ground mine escort according to the situation with the exception of tankers without anti-aircraft artillery.

II. The application from Commanding Admiral, Defenses North made on the 28 Jul. concerning the strengthening of the naval forces was solved by the Naval Staff as follows:

10 Aug. 1944

1. The heavily strained situation of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North made on the 28 Jul. caused through losses and damage was understood.

The Naval Staff met the wishes by leaving the total 21th Mine-sweeper Flotilla after the conclusion of the dockyard period as well as the assignment of the "Wallenstein" craft at his disposal.

2: Further assignments of vessels from other areas were at the time not possible as:

a. Serious losses were suffered in the event of the invasion by the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West which cannot be replaced.

b. The supplying of Army Group North across the sea required additional forces caused through heavy losses in the Finnish Bay by Naval Command East.

c. The Naval Command, Norway had to withdraw forces from the Finnish Bay and Eastern Baltic.

3. As soon as the situation permits the Naval Staff will make replacements for the disabled forces of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North.

III. To an inquiry in connection with the "Dackel" production the Bureau of Naval Armament, Torpedo Branch reported that 200 "Dackel" will be delivered up to the end of August.

Group West reported the possibility of workmanship to be at the time 20 "Dackel" daily at the torpedo arsenal West and twelve at Le Havre and 20 under certain conditions. The difficulty lies in the irregular arrival of the "Dackel" and partly in the bad conditions of the arriving torpedos. Nine torpedos were brought in the average daily on their way to Paris for reinforcement. The group planned to employ ready "Dackel" at once. The forthdrawing to improve the possibilities of success by observations at Franceville was ordered. Preferable transmission of the reconnaissance results should be secured by the choice of success promising target areas. Air reconnaissance is only seldom. The reconstruction of river tank boats lying at Rouen into naval torpedo batteries was ordered to release PT Boats from "Dackel" missions.

IV. The German Naval Command Italy asked for more aerial mines construction type "B" to mine the Italian eastern and western coast.

10 Aug. 1944

The air mines construction type "B" intended for the use at Venice, Genoa and Spezia were partly laid on account of the development of the land situation as a crossbeam to protect the flat coast against outflanking landings. The distribution of each 80 aerial mines construction "B" for Ravenna, Chioggia, Imperia and Savona was asked to be delivered at Venice and Genoa.

Naval Staff, Operations Division issued orders accordingly.

The mining and Barrage office received orders to make this urgent distribution before applying to other aerial mine construction "B" demands.

V. The Army Group, placed in southern England received a new Commander in Chief in the USA General de Witt according to the report on the enemy situation given by the General Staff of the Army on foreign armies west, dated 9 Aug. The strength of the army group was calculated to consist of 32 large formations and moreover of six air landing divisions and parachute units in the strength of a further division.

Two French divisions from the 1st Expeditionary Corps were transferred from the Naples area to the Tarent area for embarkation to England according to reports from reliable quarters of the General Staff.

The General Staff concluded from this that operations on a large scale were not planned at the time and was supported in his conception through reports concerning the disbanding of certain formations in southern France and the transfer of the 1st French Parachute Rifle Regiment from Corsica to the area of Rome.

Naval Intelligence Division remarked to this that the reported embarkation of two French divisions from Tarent to England still had to be confirmed. The surveillance of the Gibraltar Straits has not noticed relevant troop transports to England up to now. Enemy tonnage in freighter and transporters was regarded as existing for the transfer of two to three divisions. The Naval Intelligence Division informed the Chief of Operations Branch of Military Office Navy, Central Security Police Office, the 2nd and 33. Air Force of the importance of the extensive reconnaissance of all ship movements in the Western Mediterranean.

10 Aug. 1944

Situation on the 10 Aug.

I. Situation in West Area:

Enemy Situation:

The air activity was further very energetic at the 19 Group where 71 planes were intercepted.

Four British vessels were detected in the rendez-vous area.

Our own air reconnaissance reported four destroyers southwesterly of Ile de Croix steering 30° and one cruiser and three destroyers southeasterly of Ile d'Yeu steering 120° at 2150 on the 9th.

One cruiser and three destroyers were sighted WSW of Camarat at 0822 and six destroyers by Ponfret at 0933 on the 10. The Bay of Benodet was patrolled by four destroyers at 1045. One battleship and several other vessels were NE of Ile de Vierge at 1100. Enemy destroyers tried to enter Concarneau at 0947.

In the Channel Alderney observed on the afternoon of the 9th nine vessels steering south and 52 vessels including transports and passenger boats steering north further five PT boats and a large vessel also steering north course which evidently seemed to be traffic with Cherbourg. WNW of Cap de la Heve the RENOWN passed out of sight on a northerly course at 1800 on the 10. Twenty three transporters with a large number of escort vessels were reported 18 miles westerly of Cap de la Heve steering southerly course.

Two convoys were northerly of Cherbourg probably entering the port one convoy of which consisted of 13 transports with 16 escort vessels. The departing convoy consisted of two LST and two escorts.

Group West again returned to the photographic reconnaissance made of Cherbourg at 1930 on the 4 Aug. and confirmed the interpretation made at the time that yet no embarkations of amounts worth mentioning were made on the repaired wharf areas or at the newly constructed mooring jetty.

Convoy traffic and convoy escorts were located in the narrow Channel passage on the night of the 9th. on the northerly respectively westerly courses.

PT Boats were detected southwesterly of Boulogne, in the eastern part of the Seine Bay and WSW of Guernsey. Destroyer patrols were established at the western and southern coast of the Brittany.

10 Aug. 1944

Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

One submarine chaser and two patrol boats made contact with enemy destroyers at Ponfret in the forenoon hours.

Torpedo Boat T "24" and five minesweepers sailed from Lorient at 2200 on the 9th for St. Nazaire and arrived there at 0600 on the 10th. One mine each was cleared off St. Nazaire and in front of the Gironde.

Enemy planes attacked La Pallice in seven waves with about 100 heavy bombs at noon on the 9th. The effect of the bombs on the submarine Bunker was reported. Mine exploding vessel "16" was hit by a bomb beneath the water line and will dock. Mine-exploding vessel "175" received slight damage. The naval casualties were small. Most of the bombs fell into the water in an attack made on Brest at 1947. The supply ship SPICHERN was badly damaged, two planes were shot down.

Casualties and little damage were caused in a fighter bomber attack at the 2nd Minesweeper Flotilla. One plane was reported shot down for sure and probably two more.

Situation on the Land in the Brittany:

The area of Cap de la Varde and the citadel in the territory of St. Malo were in German hands at 2200 on the 9th. Fighting was continued in the outpost area of Cap de la Varde and in the area of Parenne. Battery Parenne was held in spite of heavy fighting. One gun is ready for action. The batteries at Cecembre and Grand Bey were heavily shelled by enemy artillery. The Naval batteries were employed continuously against targets on land. One enemy attack at Le Briantais was frustrated. St. Malo was still fighting on madly for each square foot of ground. The crew had 60% in heavy casualties. The Commander of the fortress reported his plans not to withdraw one step. Battery Cecembre shelled at 1000 several PT boats. Situation in Brest at 0400:

Enemy tanks were combatted at Gouesnou. Strong American formations were in the area of the air base North, Army coastal battery Landed shelled two destroyers at 1820 of the 9th, which turned off. The garrison of Ile de Bas, Naval Port Command Brioux and two light anti-aircraft artillery platoons from Granville were on their march to Brest. The Staff of the 24th Minesweeper Flotilla arrived

10 Aug. 1944

at Brest and was employed as fighting group. Just so arrived the garrison of Ile de Vierge.

Lorient reported at 0000 on the 10.

The enemy brought up further 15 cm tank batteries and strengthened his infantry. The larger part of the attackers were still terrorists. Enemy artillery harassing fire was covering the whole area of the fortress.

Battery Hamburg and the place Hennebont were occupied by the enemy. Naval anti-aircraft artillery formation 806 was fighting against tank concentrations in the west. Several tank and infantry attacks were repulsed. Infantry attacks were repulsed at the eastern sector. The battery "Pkuharnel" fought during the day against terrorists. Mine exploding vessel "19" delivered all weapons to the land front according to the latest decision of the fortress commandant. The ship is intended to be used as a harbor barrier. Counter attacks against the tanks could only be carried out in a limited proportion, as there was a shortage in mobile anti-tank guns, assault guns and tank armor piercing weapons. The 2nd Company of the 7th Submarine Flotilla was employed with army formations at St. Nazaire on the 9th.

Four submarines were loaded with anti-tank weapons and requisitions of missing materiels for the supplying of St. Malo, Brest, St. Nazaire and Lorient.

Sea Area Channel:

Two PT boats from Le Havre operated in the eastern part of the Seine Bay against destroyers on the night from the 9th. The attack was unsuccessful.

After following chase sea target and star shell firing the trip to the landing area was interrupted. After getting rid of the destroyers the boats were attacked by fighter bombers with gunfire and suffered a small number of casualties.

The further sinking of a loaded transporter of 8000 BRT. was additionally reported through the operation of Linsen on the night of the 8th.

Three PT boats launched eleven more Dackel into the target areas of BF 3676 upper half, 3684 upper half and 3685 1 S in front of the route-marking buoy Le Havre between 0449 and 0510 on the 10th. The

10 Aug. 1944

precision of the launching may have been probably injured through the fighter-bomber attack at 0505. Four far away detonations were observed at Cap de la Heve between 0555 to 0636 in direction of the launching. One detonation was observed close to a patrol boat, destroyer or minesweeper at 0730 in 272°. The glare of fire and in addition a dark mushroom of smoke was observed near to two destroyers at 0736 in 260°.

A further detonation was perceived far off between 0755 to 0802.

A new Dackel operation and the transfer of the 10th PT Boat Flotilla from Ymuiden to Ostende is planned for the night of the 10th.

Five hundred BRT. were escorted in the traffic between the Channel islands. Eight Patrol Boat positions were occupied off the Channel coast.

Several fighter bomber attacks were carried out against our own patrol forces off Le Havre and between Calais and Ostende on the night of the 9th, two planes were shot down.

Minesweeper M "265" belonging to the 18th Patrol Boat Flotilla was damaged seriously.

All other damages were only small. The total casualties amounted to 4 dead and 19 wounded. For a brief report of the engagement see teletype 0805, 0730 and 0735.

---

## II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters

### North Sea:

The Jade-Ems convoy was heavily attacked by 30 enemy planes in the Bight of Heligoland at 2106. The German steamer SANTOS (5943 BRT) was sunk. Patrol boat VP "1107" and minesweeper M "323" were damaged. Five planes were shot down. The convoy returned from the Jade after the attack. With this the attempt to reopen the Ems traffic failed again for the time being.

Ten detonations at sea were perceived off the Dutch coast between Den Helder and Cadsand from 2315 to 0145 on the night of the 9th.

10 Aug. 1944

Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Twenty one planes in wireless communications were intercepted by 18th Group.

Air reconnaissance reported one merchantman of about 8000 BRT. and several smaller fishing vessels in the Skaale-Fjord at 0820, as well as one merchantman of about 6000 BRT and several fishing vessels in Thorshaven at 0825.

Own Situation:

The exchange of medium sized fire was reported from the area of Petsamo on the evening of the 8th.

Twenty five monoplanes of an unknown type and seven Spitfire entered the area of Aalesund - Gossen and attacked batteries and air base Gossen at 1400 on the 10th. Also the radio bearing station Vigra and Giskoey were attacked and damaged. Also attacked were the batteries Bjoernoey and Vigra as well as a dredger in the Depsoe-channel. Mine dropping was observed close to the channel. Clearing operations were ordered.

Fifty enemy planes attacked again the area of Aalesund - Gossen at 1855 to 1950. The types Boston, Thunderbolt, Spitfire and Matlet were recognized. The dropping of four mines was observed at Lepsoe. Motor minesweeper R "89", minesweeper M "560" and M "5620" were attacked in a low level attack with gunfire. Motor minesweeper R "89" was totally lost through the detonation of ammunition. The two minesweepers suffered only minor damage and had crew losses.

Two enemy fighters were shot down in the attack made at the fuel station and at the army coastal batteries Bjoernoey and Vigra. No reports were received about convoy operations.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Thirteen patrol boats were reported on position AU 3742 on the

10 Aug. 1944

evening of the 9th. and an enemy formation in AO 37646 at 1500 on the 10th.

The probability of mine dropping was reported from the Finnish recourses in the area southerly of Kirkomansaari.

Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Twenty one vessels were in action in the Baltic entrances with minesweeping duties. Net layer "2" was slightly damaged in dry dock at the yard Frederikshavn probably by an adhesive mine at 2127 on the 9th.

The coastal mining type "A" operation was not continued owing to weather conditions.

Western and Central Baltic:

Thirty six vessels, one mine exploding vessel and five planes were employed with minesweeping duties. One mine was cleared easterly of Greifswalder Oie.

The steamer WARTHE sailed with 153 soldiers and 2390 prisoners from Memel to Danzig.

The town and air base Memel were attacked by two enemy planes with gunfire on the afternoon of the 9th.

Twelve enemy planes proceeded to Libau in the evening but were again forced away. The probability of mine dropping by eight Boston was reported from the sea area Libau. The steamer FRANKFURT was attacked without results.

Admiral in Command of the Eastern Baltic:

One mine was cleared by the 1st Minesweeper Flotilla north-erly of Narvi while escorting submarine. Seven more mines were cleared at AO 3348 after departure of the submarines. Two mines were further cleared northwesterly of Reval.

The coastal mine "A" operation was continued through a minefield consisting of 142 coastal mines "A" at Valaste.

The transfer of the 122nd Jaeger Division from Hangoe to Reval was completed. In total were transported 9979 men. 3407 horses

10 Aug. 1944

and 2065 vehicles as well as 2111 tons of armed forces property. The steamer MOLTKEFELS carried through the sea transport from Danzig to Riga with 1015 soldiers and 43 vehicles.

3620 tons of replacements for Army Group North were brought to Riga on the 8th and 1894 tons to Reval, in total 5524 tons.

One submarine was sunk on Lake Peipus at Ensbach in an air raid. 1 armed police vessel was damaged.

---

#### IV. Merchant Marine Traffic:

In a brief report No. 13/44 the Naval Intelligence Division reported from the Führer Headquarters among others about the ore shipment at Lulea from the 19 Jun. to the 1 Jul. 44. and about the bad prospects for the ore shipment with Finnish ships. The Spanish Government proclaimed an embargo of departure for all members of nations connected with the war which were handed over to consular authorities in the Spanish prerogative as shipwrecked personnel.

---

#### V. Submarine Warfare:

Submarine U "270" sailed from Lorient for La Pallice as the last of the VII c-boats.

Submarine U "218" sailed from Brest for mining operations in the Channel and submarine U "353" for transfer to Bordeaux.

Submarine U "272" was unsuccessfully attacked by enemy plane at 1400 on its march through the Scharen to Drontheim.

The arrival of submarine U "181" was additionally reported from Penang on the 8 Aug.

No special reports were received from the other operational areas.

10 Aug. 1944

VI. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Eleven hundred and fifty enemy planes entered Belgium/Northern France and carried out attacks in the areas of Namur, Charleville, Albert, Laon, Creil and Rouen as well as against fortress installations in the area of Hestin - St. Pol. Moreover the air bases Mont Didier and Le Bourget were attacked.

Four hundred and eighty six enemy planes entered Western France and raided road targets in the area of Elbeuf, Chartres, Orleans, Fontainebleau, Argentan and Dives.

Three hundred four-engined enemy planes entered southwestern France and attacked submarine base Bordeaux, airbase Laleu and the harbor area of La Pallice.

Fifty enemy planes entered Belgium on the night of the 10th without aggressions and 135 four-engined planes entered Western France also without reports of attack.

One hundred and eighty four of our own planes fought against fighter bombers and artillery spotting planes as well as against road traffic in the area of Brissy, Murtain and Le Mans in five missions.

Eighty seven of our own planes were employed in actions against ground targets in the same area on the night of the 10th.

Naval targets were attacked by four Ju 88 and 3 Mistel planes protected by 14 Me 109 in the sea area of Asnelles. One ship was hit. One Ju 88, one Mistel and two Me 109 were lost.

Further 30 planes attacked naval targets in front of Asnelles with bombs and one merchant ship was hit and burned. Three of these planes were lost. Two He 111 supplied St. Malo and St. Nazaire.

Thirty five of our own night fighters were in action in western France and shot down one plane.

Reich Territory:

Two fighter formations attacked during daytime traffic installations in the southwestern German area and damaged seven railway stations, tracks, engines and trains.

10 Aug. 1944

Railway installations were attacked by ten planes in the area of Aachen. Thirty enemy planes carried out the reported attack on our own ems-convoy.

Berlin was raided by 30 to 40 Mosquitos on the night of the 10th. Thirty planes dropped bombs in the area of Bremen.

Mediterranean Theater:

About 510 twin-engined fighter and reconnaissance planes were operating against air bases and railway targets in the Italian area. The railway bridge across the Po northwesterly of Alessandria was efficiently damaged.

Ploesti was again attacked on the night of the 9th. Partisans were supplied by ten planes in the area Prestina - Nisch which came from Russia.

The same task was carried out by 18 planes in the Balkan area which came from Southern Italy.

Eastern Area:

Eleven hundred and twenty three of our own and 1815 enemy operations were counted during the 9th. Thirteen losses and 41 planes shot down were reported.

Two hundred and sixty three of our own fighter planes attacked the bridgeheads at Baranow and Magnus Zew with good bombing accuracy on the night of the 9th.

---

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

1. Area Naval Group West:

No special reports were received.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Our own reconnaissance did not succeed in essential perception. Probably three vessels were detected by radar in the western entrance of the Bonifacio Straits at 0410.

10 Aug. 1944

Own Situation:

Convoy and escort duties were carried out according to plan. The Italian western coast had a second degree of alarm from 2300 of the 9. to 0745 of the 10. owing to a report by a reliable man, reporting enemy landing intentions in the Imperia sector.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

An infantry unit observed ostensibly 20 enemy ships in northwestern direction northwesterly of Cattaro at 2130 of the 9th. This report was not confirmed. On account of this report one convoy returned to Cattaro.

Two enemy vessels were observed off Lagosta steering a course for Peljesac at 2010 according to a further report.

Our own army reconnaissance noticed enemy forces at the NNW coast of Peljesac on the 7 Aug.

Six enemy PT boats with the help of pneumatic boats landed about 20 men of different nationality in the surroundings of Ossero (Cherso) at 0100 on the 10th among which were also coloured men. The post and telegraph offices were destroyed. The bridge Lussin-Cherso was blown up.

According to reports from the fortress brigade Corfu the enemy occupied the islands Fano, Samotraki and Erekussa northerly of Corfu on the 9th. Our own air reconnaissance reported no observation of the enemy nor vessels.

Harbor Defense boats mined the harbor of Pesaro according to plan on the night of the 9th. The mining of the inshore waters had to be interrupted owing to weather situation.

A boat of the sea distress service was sunk southeasterly of Venice on the afternoon of the 9th. in a fighter bomber attack.

b. The Aegean:

The sinking of torpedo boat of foreign construction TA "19" was caused by a submarine.

Three torpedos were launched at the harbor Carlovassi (Samos) at

10 Aug. 1944

1930 on the 9th. which destroyed the eastern breakwater and lighthouse. One convoy was attacked on its way from Santurin to Iraklion by an enemy submarine off Iraklion which turned off after a short engagement with an unsuccessful low level attack by planes on forenoon hours of the 9th. The Air Force refused support in action.

The convoy steamer TONI with one motor minesweeper was attacked without success at Milos by an enemy submarine.

In connection with the fire in the artillery arsenal Patras it was reported that the installations were destroyed to the greatest extent. Destroyed were about 400,000 cartridges of rifle ammunition, the total stock of German and partly Italian hand grenades, as well as 50% of the Italian 2 cm ammunition and a smaller stock of 7,6 cm ammunition. The destroyed ammunition arrived to the largest part newly on the previous day. An investigation was started.

According to a report by the Naval Shore Command Crete a supply transport on Crete was attacked by bandits on its way back which was protected by armored cars and 30 men of the staff company of the Naval Shore Command. Eight men were killed and six wounded.

The use of the oil quay and the refuelling at Leros is not possible at the time as the dud close to the oil pipe line in Porto Laga since the 5 Aug. was not yet removed.

c. Black Sea:

No locations were made by our own reconnaissance between Odessa and Sevastopol on the night of the 9th. Radio monitoring located moderate activity of smaller vessels and naval planes.

One minesweeper success was realized during clearing operations NNE of Constanta.

Under the command of the Commander 3rd motor minesweeper Flotilla the beforehand considered formation sailed according to plan at 1935 from Sulina to shell Odessa.

Four PT boats followed at 1715 from Sulina to protect the flank. Formation consisting of three gun carrier and six motor minesweepers was attacked by 15 enemy battle planes about 40 miles southerly of Odessa at 1738. Continuous air attacks followed at about 1824. One motor minesweeper was totally, a further partly out of action. The operation was therefore cancelled and the sailing into Sulina was ordered. Convoys were carried out according to plan.

10 Aug. 1944

The Danube Situation:

Mining was noticed at Km 1458 and 1461 on the 8th. The dropping of mines was not observed on the 10th. Three tugs sank through striking a mine and four were damaged. One mine-sweeping success was made on the 9th, but none on the 10th.

---

VIII. Situation in East Asia:

No special reports were received.

---

11 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

No special new reports were received.

---

Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy at 1125.

- I. In connection to the report dealing with the Black Sea Situation the Commander in Chief Navy ordered to renew the cancelled operation for the shelling of Odessa.
- II. General Ramke, Officer in command of the III. Parachute Corps was appointed fortress commander in the fortress area Brest according to informations received from the Admiral, Führer Headquarters.
- III. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff.

a. The Führer ordered:

By all means it must be arranged that all formations and units belonging to the eastern armed forces which were or will be transferred to the area of the Reich immediately accept the forms of military disciplines, as the German people expect from their Armed Forces. It has to be stopped at once that these units roam about without orders and without work in partly German villages while men and boys are building positions and women and girls are working on the fields.

All units belonging to the German Eastern Armed Forces on Reich territory and so far in private quarters should be transferred at once to training camps in the eastern frontier area where they should be newly organized if not obviously and exclusively released by explaining orders from their superior officers.

Willing helpers, civil personnel and in special women of eastern tribes were to be dismissed at once from troop formations.

Officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the units transferred to the training camps should be combined separately to these three groups and should be classified by the Armed Forces for new commissions etc. by cancellation of the existing service relationship.

Vehicles, horses and other tensile forces were at the disposal of the Chief Bureau of Army Armament and Commander of the Replacement Army.

11 Aug. 1944

To this the Bureau of Naval Armament ordered the following:

1. Concentrations were preferred at the nearest naval replacement division and snip manning division without considering **accommodation possibilities**. Troop training centers should only be molested in the case of need.

2. Male and female volunteers and camp followers should be transferred to the collecting camp of the Reich Defense Commissioner for Building Positions or as the case may be to the disposal of the Commissioner General for Labor. Every contact with the population has to be expelled.

3. Other camp followers including women should be expelled and should be placed through collecting camp at the disposal of the Commissioner General for Labor.

4. In particular also the registration of single soldiers who lost their unit should be guaranteed. Corresponding communications should be made with local Army Headquarters.

5. Participate with the second Admiral.

6. Conscious or careless offences will be court-martialized.

7. Measures should be carried out in the shortest possible time. Report the execution.

b. The situation in the western area in connection with transportation aggravated further. All transportations westerly of the Seine and northerly of the Loire were cancelled or will be by-passed. Only limited transportation possibilities exist at the time being to southern and southwestern France. Backlock 1071 trains. From these eight were for the Navy. The transportation of small battle weapons from Rudolstadt to the west were carried out up to now without friction.

An extraordinary shortage in rolling material is perceptible in the Reich which was never known before caused by the heavy transportation to and from the east.

Two trains carrying coal and one train carrying fuel arrived at their destination in Bordeaux.

11 Aug. 1944

c. The responsibility for all crippling measures and destructions in the western area was entrusted to Reich Minister Speer according to an order from the Führer.

d. Group South again proposed to promote the Naval Shore Commander to the rank of a divisional commander. The Commander in Chief, Navy again ordered a verification between the Naval Staff and the Department of Naval Personnel.

IV. The Chief of the Department of Naval Personnel reported the death of the commanding Admiral of the French southern coast, Vice Admiral Wewer, caused through heart failure.

V. Chief Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff: Roosevelt spent the days from the 26th to 29th Jul. in conferences with General MacArthur, Admiral Nimitz, Halsey and Leahy at Honolulu about the proceeding phases on the Pacific war. Press commentaries raised the question whether MacArthur received orders for an attack against the Philippines. Roosevelt personally stated among others that the Pacific Fleet increased immensely, it enclosed 100 aircraft carriers and thousands of other naval vessels of all types.

The Allied Headquarters notified the fishermen to carry on again with fishing at 2100 on the 10 Aug. in waters of the freed coast lines as far as they received permission by the local allied authorities. The fishermen were warned that they would fish on own risk at coastlines in front of German occupied areas between the western Frisian islands and Bayonne.

Conference Restricted to a very Limited Circle:

VI. Situation of the Army:

Western Front:

As a result of their heavy tank losses the 2nd British Army carried out only weak attacks which were in general driven off. The bringing up of enemy tank forces into the area of penetration northerly of Falaise was continued.

We succeeded in narrowing the area of penetration at the 7th German Army southwesterly of Vire and to capture a few villages by assault. The supposition was provided by this to rebuild a new line of defense in the direction of Viessoix - Maisoncelles - Beauficel.

11 Aug. 1944

There, weaker attacks of the still strong enemy were beaten back in the area of Mortain.

One American strong unit of three infantry divisions, one tank division and motorized cavalry formations from Le Mans now wheeled inwards to the north across the line Mayenne - Beaumont - Bonnetable La Fertée - Bernard at the southern flank of the 7th Army. Through this contact has been made with the British troops lined up at Falaise and the intentions of a double side envelopment of the two German armies is clearly perceptible.

The operations of strong bomber formations in the area of Le Mans indicates the plans of the enemy to acquire ground quickly to the north.

The weak forces of the LXXXI Infantry Corps were not able to intercept the tank spearheads of the enemy. A strengthened parachute regiment was dispatched to the southern flank.

Heavy fighting was continued in the Brittany for the fortress St. Malo, Lorient and Brest without the enemy achieving deciding successes. Landernau near Brest was lost.

Italian Front:

The enemy is making further crossings and attacking preparations at the Arno southerly of Florence. The enemy is following up in this area of penetration at the Adriatic coast.

Eastern Front:

Army Group Northern Ukraine:

The enemy is further on trying to cut the road, running along the northern side of the mountains by a thrust in direction of the Carpathian Mountains westerly of Sanok. Changeable fighting is continuing.

Enemy attacks were warded off in the area southwesterly of Sandomir. Our own counter attack was started by the first units of the III. Tank Corps.

Our own counter thrust against the Russian bridgehead at Annapol was unsuccessful.

Army Group Center:

11 Aug. 1944

Today's fighting was concentrating on the area of Bialystock. The enemy remained quiet in the area of Maseinen under the impression of his heavy losses.

Our own attack at the bridgehead near Marka gained only small ground successes in spite of very heavy fighting. One artillery corps with 420 guns and a mortar division with 312 mortars were employed by the enemy as reinforcement for the infantry divisions fighting there.

Fighting was continued against the Poles at Warsaw. Enemy preparations were observed for a large scale attack at the front between Warsaw and the Bug. Stronger single attacks were repulsed.

The enemy attacked further on the sector boundary between the 2nd and 4th Army with superior infantry forces, tanks and ground "strafer" and realized serious penetrations. The blocking up to now is only barely sufficient.

Panzer Grenadier division "Grossdeutschland" (morried infantry men) occupied more enemy positions at Wilkowschken and restored a front shortening. The division destroyed there in the last two days 69 tanks and 61 anti-tank guns.

The enemy was quiet in the fighting area of Maseinen after losing the equipment of two tank corps. A full defense success was obtained through this by the IX. Army Corps in six days of fighting.

The front had to be taken back a few Km westerly of Tuckum.

#### Army Group North:

Between fighting the front had to be taken back between Birsen and Jakobstadt.

Heavy fighting subjected to changes occurred northerly of the Duna at Trentelburg and Laudona.

The enemy **attacked** after heavy preliminary bombardment southerly of Lake Peipus supported by numerous tanks and by the Air Force.

He was able to tear open the front at a length of 20 km and his tank spearheads arrived in front of Werro. The 122nd Division, transferred from Finland will be employed here.

Everything is quiet at the Narva Front.



11 Aug. 1944

III. Concerns Mediterranean Theater:

a. Group South and the German Naval Command Italy submitted a plan for the blocking of the Adriatic. Copy according to 1/Sk1 I E 2402/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in file I E/1/Sk1.

The Naval Staff, Operations Division decided to this:

1. The situation up to now is essentially settled by the facts that the laid minefields and the newly planned blocking systems will support our own sea traffic along the coast.

These minefields will not be a difficult obstacle for the enemy in case of landing as:

(a) It is possible to evade them partly by location  
(b) They are outside of the defense possibility of our own coastal batteries.

2. Shortage of mining materiel and the carrying capacity of mine carrier demand the forming of focal points at special endangered coasts suited for landings. These are in first line the area Cattolika - Ravenna (outflanking landing) and Gulf of Fiume. (thrust into the Danube area).

3. Minesweeper M "108" is intended for the assignment in the area of Cattolika - Ravenna. A new planning of minefield system within range of the batteries would answer the purpose. An additional coastal mine type "A" minefield is desired.

4. The Gulf of Triest is suitable for contaminating the ground on a large scale from Salvore. The intermingling of anchor cable mines and LMR (?) on strengthened chains with massive anchor is advisable.

5. A strengthening of the Gulf of Fiume minefield is advisable. The employment of EMF (?) mines at an adjusted depth of ten to twelve meters is possible owing to the little swell in the area.

6. Agree to the plan of minefields at the coast of Dalmatia and Albania.

7. The Naval Staff proposed to the Armed Forces High Command to strengthen essentially the defense possibilities of Fiume and Triest by minefields within range of batteries and to

11 Aug. 1944

disregard the blocking of the open Istrian coast as the area of Istria with the exception of Tschitschen-Boden is not suitable for landings on a larger scale owing to the lack of communications with the interior. Decision was not yet made.

8. Reexamine plans for minefields accordingly.

b. The Naval Staff informed the Admiral, Führer Headquarters that the mine carrier DRACHE and ZEUS would be ready to sail at 1800 on the 12 Aug. to accomplish the "Fliegenpilz" operation. The departure is safeguarded and will only take place on special orders from the Naval Staff, Operations Division.

IV. Bureau of Naval Armament, Torpedo Branch informed the Naval Staff of attitude concerning direction of the Commander in Chief Navy about further constructions of Marder and Dackel as follows:

1. The fulfilment of the existing torpedo demand from the Commanding Admiral Small Battle Units is not yet completely covered without drawing from the planned submarine stock respectively surface forces.

2. At the time the new demand of 100 Marder each for October/November and December corresponds to 750 G 7e and in further construction of Dackel in total of 500 pieces corresponds to 300 G7e which means holding in readiness further 1050 G 7e. (G 7e = special kind of torpedo) Transl.)

3. The needed acceleration of construction of G 7e which is urged in a hurry cannot be reached in a short space of time. The holding in readiness of these 1050 G 7e is therefore only possible through encroachment of the planned surface-respectively submarine stock or through reducing the demands of the Commanding Admiral, Small Battle Units.

4. The advance work for the manufacture of Marder and Dackel was started by the Bureau of Naval Armament, Torpedo Branch according to No. 2. The needed decision of the Commander in Chief Navy concerning the total situation of torpedo construction will soon be made.

V. The Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division reported under the 31 Jul. 44. about the building program of the U.S. Navy during the time from the 1 July 1940 to the 30 Jun. 1943.

Copy according to 1/SK1 30 435/44 GEH. in War Diary Part D, Volume 8 c, Reports concerning Foreign Navies.

11 Aug. 1944

Situation on the 11 August.

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Forty six planes were intercepted in action by 19th Group. Four British vessels were located in the rendez-vous area.

According to radio monitoring the arrival of four convoys were located in the landing area and the probable arrival of three more convoys was established.

Three destroyers were on patrol southwesterly of Concarneau on the evening of the 10th. according to observational reports. Three large ships with level upper decks were observed at the same time 25 miles SE of St. Mathieu. PT boats were off Brest at 0045. Destroyers and larger vessels were detected respectively observed during day in the sea area westerly of Brest, southwesterly of St. Nazaire, southerly of Ile d'Yeu, southerly of Ile d'Re and off the Gironde.

The usual ship concentrations were observed in the Seine Bay. Alderney observed numerous vessels of an unknown type at 1730 in BF 3528 on SE course.

The Americans have taken over the reconstruction of the Cherbourg harbor in spite of opposition from the British, according to a report from an agent of the Reich Security Head Office from the beginning of July. The time needed for reconstruction was calculated with 9 weeks.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

The dispatching of submarines from Bordeaux with supplies for the fortresses in the Brittany is planned. The sailing did not take place on the night of the 10th. as the 1st Army Headquarters Staff only supplied five tons on board up to the evening of the 10th.

Three Hummer vessels arrived in Brest from St. Brioux at 1330 on the 10th. The vessel sailed up the adjoining coast and staid during daytime between the cliffs.

La Pallice was heavily raided at 2130 on the 10th. Carpet bombing was made at the submarine bunker Bordeaux at 2210. Nine hits on the ceiling were without esential effect.

11 Aug. 1944

The demolition of the harbor Nantes was started. The battery Crognon on the Ile de Croix shelled for 1½ hours detected targets without any known results in the early morning hours of the 11th.

A small mine exploding vessel loaded with coal and ammunition sailed from St. Nazaire to Lorient, a coastal sailing vessel sailed from La Palaix to Lorient and steamer NOIRMOUTIER from Les Sables to La Pallice.

One mine was swept off the Gironde mouth.

Four boats of the 8th Minesweeper Flotilla sailed from Royan with supply escort for St. Nazaire and Lorient at 2030.

Long distance patrol up to Belle Island was planned for destroyer Z "24".

Steamer BORDSEE and a patrol boat will sail with return goods from St. Nazaire to La Pallice under the protection of a strong escort. Torpedo boat T "24" will strengthen the convoy. Mine exploding vessel "157" with 2 patrol boats will transfer valuable return goods from Brest to Lorient.

Land Situation Brittany:

St. Malo:

New reports were not received. According to a report from the Naval Shore Commander Brittany the personnel of the naval offices showed special bravery and willingness when employed as infantry against an enemy equipped with the latest weapons in spite of their unadequate equipment and limited experiences. All air raid bunkers were refitted for defense. Twenty enemy batteries were located in Rance-East.

Brest:

New reports were not received.

Lorient:

Fully manned and all ready for action was again reported at midnight by battery "Hamburg". Everything was quiet on the night of the 10th. Mine exploding vessel "19" off Port Tudy was attacked with bombs on the 9 Aug. and avoided the well aimed dropping bombs through a mounted flame thrower. 40 bombs dropped in the distance of 10 to 100 meter by the side of the target.

11 Aug. 1944

St. Nazaire and Nantes:

The demolition of the harbors is in full motion and will most probably be completed on the night of the 10th. Mine-sweeper M "384" was destroyed by own squad owing to the lack of towing facilities.

The following bases outside of the fortresses were occupied by our troops: Lezardrieux, Paimpol, L'Abervrach, Aber-Benoit, Le Conquet, Audierne, Concárneau, La Ita-estuary, Etel-estuary and the battery "Plouharnel".

Sea Area Channel:

Our 14th Minesweeper Flotilla had an engagement with enemy PT boats off Cap Antifer at 0145 on the 10th. Our own vessels were not damaged.

At 0024 on the 11th the army coastal battery 2/1254 and battery "Cap de la Heve" each fired two salvos of harassing fire at two detected targets which turned off after shelling.

From 0358 to 0400 the army coastal battery 3/1254 fired two salvos at detected targets off Cap de la Heve.

Dackel operation was carried out according to plan. Two detonations were observed at 0612 near Cap de la Heve between 220° to 240°. The observation posts could not report results owing to poor visibility.

Minefield "L 22" was laid westerly of the Somme mouth and minefield "K 5" off La Panne.

The town and harbor of Trouville was raided by enemy bombers at 0850. No serious damage was caused.

Battery 1/1254 was raided with bombs and gunfire at 1405 without effect.

Enemy naval artillery shelled Houlgate and Mont Canisy without effect from 1545 to 1645.

Eight patrol boat positions were occupied off the Channel coast.

The employment of torpedoes is planned by the 2nd and 6th PT Boat Flotillas off Le Havre with each three boats on the night of 11th.

11 Aug. 1944

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

Fifteen enemy planes, probably convoy spotting planes were reported patrolling the convoy routes northerly of the Eastern Frisian Islands on the evening of the 10th. Returning enemy planes were shelled by heavy anti-aircraft artillery in the area of the Heligoland Bight on the night of the 10th.

Convoy tasks in the different estuaries and to Esbjerg were carried out according to plan. Minesweeper tasks off the Schelde had to be cancelled owing to rough sea. Three convoys of about 33,000 BRT. were carried through in the Yssel Meer and in surrounding waters off Zeeland.

Norway/Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty two planes in action were detected at 18th Group.

According to radio monitoring the flotilla leader BAKU, two destroyers, two submarines and one minesweeper were at sea in northern waters.

The enemy planes of the type Maryland which were intercepted when raiding Bjoernoey Straits were classified as carrier fighters. The 5th Air Force received orders from the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command to scout the area for carriers and to attack them.

Three anchor cable mines were swept by minesweeper unit in the entrance of the Baast fjord.

Battery Vigra and Bjoerneey as well as minesweeper M "5619" and patrol boat VP "5706" suffered slight damage in the reported air-raid carried out in the area of Aalesund - Gossen.

Eighteen ships were escorted to the North and 28 ships to the South.

11 Aug. 1944

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Three minesweeper divisions and 66 naval vessels were detected in wireless communication on the 10th in the Finnish Bay.

Seven boats were on position in AO 3746 and one boat in AO 3741 on the afternoon of the 11th.

Own Situation:

Eighteen boats were employed according to plan with minesweeping duties in the entrances to the Baltic.

Admiral in Command of the Skagerrak:

Nothing special was reported.

Central and Western Baltic:

Twenty seven vessels and nine minesweeping planes were employed with minesweeping duties. One Russian mine was salvaged northerly of Gydinia and was detonated on shore. Two mines were swept in the Riga Bay.

Fifty six fishing vessels with about 70 Lithuanian refugees and 30 armed policemen sailed from Sventoje. The boats fired during embarkation at a German custom patrol, which wanted to prevent the vessels from sailing. Three boats were recaptured by Minesweeper M "445" in AO 5975 in the evening. One cutter was sunk and the two other cutters were brought to Memel. Apparently two boats escaped. Further cutters were recaptured in the evening by the escort ship NEISSE.

Signal Reporting Centre Naval Command, East, Pillau was commissioned at 1200 on the 11 Aug.

Escort duties were carried out without any special incidents.

Admiral in Command of the Eastern Baltic:

One mine was destroyed by a submarine in AO 3744.

In special transports steamer WARTHELAND brought 120 soldiers, 366 evacuates and 160 tons of army property from Reval to Gydinia; steamer MONTE ROSA 2500 evacuates, steamer LAPPLAND and MOERO 2000 OT Russians (Organisation Todt) from Riga to Danzig, steamer ROBERT

11 Aug. 1944

MÖHRING 341 wounded from Riga to Swinemunde, steamer SUMATRA 1654 soldiers, 89 vehicles and 785 tons of army property from Riga to Königsberg.

The following ships sailed to the East: Steamer TANGA transferred 953 soldiers, 93 horses, 84 vehicles and 220 tons of army property from Königsberg to Riga, steamer BREMERHAVEN transferred 1305 soldiers and steamer BERNHARD ESSBERG 785 soldiers and 110 tons of ammunition from Danzig to Riga.

Reinforcements to Army Group North were made on the 9 Aug. of which 304 tons went to Riga and 6673 tons to Reval.

Naval Shore Commander Latvia reported to the army situation that the local defense officer Windau strengthened group Gross with a new battalion in force of about 500 men in the area of Talsen.

According to a report from the naval liaison officer attached to Army Group North the arrival on the 10 Aug. of about 1000 dead weight tons of ammunition only covers 50% of the daily requirements at the time as ammunition supply for this army. According to statements by Army Group North sufficient ammunition trains arrive in the loading ports but there is a shortage of tonnage. The naval liaison officer draws attention to this shortage owing to the icing-up of the harbors. A three months supply of ammunition ahead of schedule is needed. Statements will be examined. It is likely that the minor quantity is due to shortage of rolling stock.

---

#### IV. Merchant Marine:

1. The shipping representative of the German Embassy Stockholm reports that several Swedish shipping companies refuse to send their ships to the Ems as long as there is not sufficient fighter protection provided for the convoys. The Naval Command North was informed accordingly by the Naval Staff, Operations Division and indication was made that Germany is still unceasingly and largely interested in the employment of Swedish tonnage in the ore and coal traffic and through these reasons it is also important to transfer the tied-up ships from the Ems.

2. Eighty nine barges are at present on the Danube and 16 barges further will be conducted to this area. Most probably a passage through the Dardanelles is not possible anymore and as there is no employment for this kind of vessel in the Black Sea

11 Aug. 1944

the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch advises the transfer of these vessels to the Reich Commissar for Shipping for use on the Danube. Through this the possibility is given to recover again the crews which are released naval soldiers.

---

V. Submarine Warfare:

Submarine U "621" arrived at Brest from its area of operation in the Seine Bay. Owing to a breakdown in the wireless system the boat reported now the sinking of four ships of 22,000 BRT. and the torpedoing of a fifth of 7,000 BRT. The defense has strengthened and was especially strong off Brest and in the western entrance of the Channel. With this the boat completed its second successful action in the operational area of the Channel.

Five of our own submarines arrived today in the landing area according to dead reckoning.

Submarine U "650" and "445" were each loading 70 to 80 tons of mixed and armor piercing ammunition at St. Nazaire. The boats sailed on the evening of the 12th. The sailing to St. Malo as requested by Armed Forces High Command is not possible.

The submarine bunkers at Brest and Bordeaux withstood a certain amount of hits on the ceiling without larger damage in heavy air raids.

Submarine U "518" changed its operational area in the western Atlantic to Hatteras. No special reports were received from other operational areas.

---

VI. Aerial Warfare:

Western Area:

About 1000 enemy planes entered during daytime Belgium/Northern France and attacked among others Lens as well as an Air Force communication and signal installation in the area of Beauvais and a railway bridge at Etaples.

11 Aug. 1944

One strong bomber formation with fighter protection attacked air bases and anti-aircraft artillery positions in Western France among which were also two dummy air bases.

Enemy air activity was rather weak in the occupied western areas on the night of the 11th.

During the day our own actions included: Engagements with fighter bombers and artillery spotting planes in the area of Avranches by 57 planes. Seventy three of our own planes attacked with noticeable effect Juvigny on the night of the 11th. Twenty seven planes laid mines in the Seine Bay. Fifteen planes were in action against anti-aircraft artillery in the landing area. Three of our planes were lost in total during this night. One enemy plane was shot down.

Reich Territory:

One hundred and fifty enemy planes attacked Mühlhausen in Alsace during the forenoon hours. Traffic installations and factories were hit. Saarbrücken and Strassburg were attacked in the afternoon. Both raids must be marked as medium raids. For the first time also residential quarters were effected in the ancient parts of Strassburg. The cathedral was damaged.

Fifty to 60 Mosquito planes raided Berlin on the night of the 11th.

Mediterranean Theater:

Enemy reconnaissance was weak in the Aegean and Balkan area.

About 500 four-engined bombers with very heavy fighter protection were operating from Southern Italy in an attack on Ploesti and Campina. Refineries, railway and track installations were badly damaged at Ploesti. But the loss in production is small. Twelve planes were shot down by anti-aircraft artillery. Eighty six of our own fighters were in action.

Fifty five planes were reported supplying partisans in the Balkan area on the night of the 10th. of which 15 planes came from Russia. Fifty planes from Southern Italy raided Kraljevo. Five planes were observed dropping mines into the Danube between Smederevo and Moldova.

Eastern Area:

Seven hundred and eleven own and 1847 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front on the 10th in which we suffered two losses and eleven enemy planes were shot down.

11 Aug. 1944

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

1. Area Naval Group West:

Enemy Situation:

No special reports were received from the Gibraltar area. According to an agent's report from Madrid, Anglo-American naval forces sailed from ports of the Northern African coast with troops and materiel on the 10 Aug. for an unknown destination.

Photographic reconnaissance of Mers el Kebir at 0842 confirmed the presence of seven destroyers, one maintenance ship, two tankers and two freighters. The harbor was smoke-screened. Three heavy cruisers arrived at the same time in Arzeu, two destroyers probably of a larger type, one probable destroyer in dry-dock, four escort vessels, four submarines, twenty one freighters, one tanker and one hospital ship were at Oran. Further about 100 pieces of gangway sections. Three freighters were at anchor in Oran-Roads.

Own Situation:

One plane was shot down by naval forces in an air raid on Savona in the forenoon hours of the 10th. Radar station on Cap de Mele SW of Genoa was damaged in a fighter bomber attack.

Three motor minesweepers carried out a reconnaissance thrust into the Arno mouth without results on the night of the 10th. Motor minesweeper of foreign construction RA "243" ran ashore easterly of Mentone. Salvaging will be tried.

Convoy and escort duties were carried out according to plan.

2. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

Three PT boats and one small landing vessel were at anchor off Ancona on the evening of the 10th. Fifty New Zealanders were again landed by five PT boats at Oszero on Cherso at 1700 on the 10th. who blew up again the bridge. At 1800 the PT boats departed again.

11 Aug. 1944

One motor sailing vessel sank at its berth at Corcula after an explosion, caused most probably through sabotage on the forenoon hours of the 11th.

A further motor sailing vessel is overdue since its trip to Zara on the 30 Jul.

Port Albona was attacked by partisans at 2130. Special reports were still missing.

The steamer GIUSEPPE DORMIO (1.008 BRT) hit a mine at Fianona belonging most probably to our own minefield.

Two of the three boats, belonging to the 24th E-boat Flotilla went aground off Sibenik. The demolition measures at Pesaro as well as the laying of mines in the area of the immediate harbor were completed.

b. The Aegean:

The escort steamer TONI and motor minesweeper R "34" were attacked by enemy planes on the night of the 10th on their way from Milos to Suda. Motor minesweeper R "34" sank at about 0130 through a bomb hit. The attacking plane was shot down by the steamer TONI. The steamer suffered casualties. The steamer TONI was shelled by a submarine at 0455 apparently without effect.

c. Black Sea:

Eight PT boats, nine larger and eight smaller motor gun boats, five coastal vessels, two smaller vessels, three ferries, 25 troop landing vessels and twelve supporting landing vessels were located at Odessa on the 10 Aug.

Submarine U "9" arrived at Constanta escorted by two motor minesweepers.

Convoys were carried out according to plan.

The steamer JOHANNA sailed from Burgas to Varna.

d. Danube Situation:

The dropping of mines was observed between Km 1049 to 1170 and between 469 to 861. Two tugs sank at Km 1064.

11 Aug. 1944

Six minesweeper successes were achieved.

---

VIII. Situation in Eastern Asia:

Special reports were not received.

12 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance

No special new reports were received.

---

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

I. According to an information made by the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters the Fuehrer remarked that our losses at Lake Peipus should be replaced. Naval Staff, Quartermaster General will instigate further measures.

II. Group West presented the following judgement of naval situation in the Gulf of Biscay northerly of the Loire:

"1. The cruiser and destroyer groups between Brest and Ile d'Yeu were permanently increasing. On the 11 Aug. they were off the Gironde. The plans were to isolate the fortresses, to cut-off reinforcements across sea and to enter the harbors of Benodet and Concarneau which were not defended by batteries. The supervision was increased by the 19th Group of which 90 planes were intercepted. Increased operations of enemy air force formations was noticeable at sea.

2. Plans for our own actions include a very large risk. Minesweeping and escort duties were carried out only just in the harbor entrances. Reinforcements were made by vessels belonging to Commanding Admiral, Defenses West, Submarines and coastal auxiliary sailing boats and these only on independent trips. For the time being small coastal steamers are still sailing to St. Nazaire and in special cases to Lorient. Traffic to and from Brest is planned with mine exploding vessel "157" in spite of the heavy risk.

3. Measures against the enemy: Aggravated orders were issued to the coastal artillery; orders were issued for close teamwork of coastal artillery with Commanding Admiral, Defenses West. The appointment of a Chief in command of the Fleet was arranged by the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West for the Naval Shore command Brest. The 3rd Air Force was ordered to carry out sorties with the third bomber formations 100 and in connection with fixed radio stations against the naval forces. But the third

12 Aug. 1944

bomber formation 100 has at its disposal only 10 planes and only a small amount of liquid fuel stock. Close teamwork is guaranteed between the third bomber formation 100 and the 4th escort division. No reconnaissance is possible at sea owing to fuel shortage, this means a specially heavy burden for the tasks of the Commanding Admiral, defenses West.

4. The casualties up to now indicate the difficult position. In spite of all the forces of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West carry through all tasks without considerations and leaving aside the high risk."

III. Commanding Admiral, Aegean sent a situation report by radio to Commander Submarines Mediterranean on the 7 Aug. and by copy to Group South which was also listened in by the Naval Staff. According to this the further transfer of the harbors Fethiye and Marmaris opposite Rhodos, Bodrum opposite Koos, Kuellum opposite Leros, Kusadasi opposite Samos and in special of Cesme opposite Chios must be expected after the severing of relations between Germany and Turkey. In addition the enemy will concentrate his air bases in the area of Smyrna. Most probably Cisle will become the British submarine Base. The Turkish navy up to now scarcely appeared in the Aegean. Detected were a few PT boats, mine-layers and once destroyers. The eastern Aegean is especially endangered if hostilities should start between Germany and Turkey.

Penetrations for an attack by enemy naval forces must be expected from the SE against Rhodos, Koos (airbase) and Leros.

In the NE a break-out of Russian forces respectively a break-in of British transports carrying supplies into the straits may be expected.

The occupation of weakly defended islands (Nios and Mythilene) by affirmed Greek formations standing by on the continent should be taken into account.

Our own naval forces are very weak. At the time being they were: One torpedo-boat of foreign construction, three motor minesweepers, one submarine chaser, and since the 8 Aug. five light speed boats (LS = Leichtes Schnellboot). The transfer of one additional PT boat flotilla from the Adriatic was requested. Operations of own submarines is believed to be very successful if used in unaware manner. The directing should be carried out as in the Leros-operation by the Commanding Admiral, Aegean with the submarine Staff

12 Aug. 1944

Officer. The sea area is of course restrained by our own and by the expected laying of mines through the enemy, but offers favourable forced changes for targets, which need deep water and detecting possibilities are difficult for the enemy. Heavy supply transports should be selected as the Turkish railway system is not efficiently working.

The Turkish fleet consists of the JAVUS (ex GOBEN), two old cruisers, six destroyers (four further destroyers were promised by the British) nine submarines, eight mine-layers, eight motor mine layers, 13 minesweepers (of which two were motor minesweepers) and two old gunboats.

Bases: Ismit (Marmara Sea) with a 25,000 tons dry dock and main shipyard as well as Smyrna. A few good but undeveloped bays are situated southerly of Smyrna.

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

a. Weather situation in the West will stay unsettled till the 15 Aug. and then will make room for quiet high pressure weather but again will become unsettled after the 20 Aug.

b. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command decided as to the management of French merchant shipping. For particulars see War Diary Part C, Volume VIII.

V. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff:

a. The report from the Naval Liaison Officer to Army Group North concerning shortage of tonnage for ammunition replacements (see War Diary 11 Aug.) is again absolutely inconclusive. A relevantly sound report was made by the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch.

b. According to informations from the Central Security Police Headquarters the coastal reinforced frontier guard control service will be taken over at once by the Security Service.

The Commander in Chief Navy confirms, that it should be stuck to the plan of attaching this organization to the navy as it was up to now.

c. The special representative of the Danube supports the following opinion in agreement with the inspectorate of the Mine-sweeping Service.

12 Aug. 1944

"1. The concentration of the Danube traffic in convoys as a protection against mines is not possible as there are not sufficient minesweeping vessels available. The whole Danube traffic would unbearable be delayed. Besides the protection would only be restricted as the mines mostly work on an actuation period so that also convoys would be of no help.

2. The traffic will be maintained on the Danube with the restrictions that I shall bar the traffic in single sections according to the situation after observed heavy dropping of mines with the intention of concentrating all minesweeping resources in this section.

The best counter-actions against a traffic rupture (VM? through actuation period mines) lasting weeks would be a daily and if possible early search of the endangered sections by mine sweepers especially minesweeping planes. On my application the Chief of the Armed Forces High Command allowed us 600 cbm fuel per month for this minesweeping action only."

Group South should at first state attitude to a renewed application of the Special Commissioner concerning the providing of military escorts on account of the passive resistance of the Hungarian people.

VI. Chief, Naval Communications Division, Naval Staff: Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command ordered that the means of communication in surrounded fortresses should be concentrated. It should not be apprehended that these measures would be of disadvantage to the navy.

VII. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff: Further reports from the Mediterranean indicate an impending landing in Southern France. The attacks on radar locating stations are extremely suspicious and perhaps the beginning of the operation might be expected already on the 13 Aug. In close connection and deserving considerations might be the arrival of Churchill at Rom. Particulars concerning the visit were not yet known.

The Naval Attaché Stockholm reports to the Finnish question:

"According to Swedish opinion the preceding history of the governmental recasting in Finland has proved that also at the present time no acceptable peace offers from Moscow were at hand. The continuously led negotiations would have arrived at a conclusion if the Soviets would have agreed to an essential alleviation of their demands for an unconditional capitulation."

12 Aug. 1944

Also the Swedes advise the Finns today that their country should await a collapse of Germany rather than cause the same. The theory that Finland should try to survive Germany cannot be expressed in public as the Finnish Government fears apart from this, that they might be pressed from Berlin to confirm expressly the continuation of the Ribbentrop agreement. But the meaning of the governmental crisis was to cancel this agreement. In Stockholm it is believed that the Finnish politic towards Germany strives for keeping the German troops in the country as long as they were needed and to enjoy the German supplies undiminished to the moment when a special peace treaty seems suitable. Unceasing negotiations were continued with Sweden about future supply transports to Finland after the rupture with Germany. It is said that also the Americans have agreed to this project. They know that if Finland would depend only for supplies from the Soviet Union it would soon be sovietized from within. The danger of a spreading of the communistic influence in Finland is esteemed very high at present. Defense Minister General Walden is regarded in Finland as the outstanding person against the anti-communistic fraction. He is respected here as the real successor of the growing old Mannerheim. Procope is said to have assured that the course of Walden would be protected by important economical circles in the United States even under the supposition that frictions should arise with the Soviets. An authority from the Romanian General Staff reports as a result of the last visit of Antonescu at the Fuehrer's Headquarters that Romania is strongly impressed by the assured confidence. Fighting will go on and mobilization is at full range.

Conference Restricted to a very Limited Circle.

VIII. Report by Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division concerning the plan of actions for fighting resources up to the 15 Sept.

Sixty Marder were ready for operation in France. Action was planned on the 14 Aug. Further flotillas will be ready for action in the end of August. Decisions have a few days time if operation should be made as the case may be at the Southern French coast.

The 1st Molch Flotilla will be ready for action at Gettorf on the 20 Aug. Operations are still being worked out.

The Linsen flotilla in the Seine Bay was again reinforced.

Biber will be shipped on the 17 Aug. at Lübeck with destination Seine Bay.

12 Aug. 1944

One man assault boats were conducted from Italy into the area of Paris for the present to be employed in the Seine Bay.

Decisions were not yet reached about the operation of three MAS vessels which will have to be transferred to their destination by water ways.

The first 13 battle swimmers will be ready for action in the Seine Bay on the 13 Aug.

Italy was nearly deprived of all small battle weapons.

Commander in Chief Navy: The Operations must be concentrated on the area of the Seine Bay. Targets can be expected there. The area of attacks with "Molchen" and "Bibern" must also be transferred to Cherbourg.

Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

a. Commander PT boats reported to Group West his belief that the enemy had recognized that the launching of Dackel was carried out in the area of Le Havre. Opinion expressed by Group West is expected.

b. The remaining Japanese troops defending Guam have been pushed into the northern corner of the island according to a report from the Naval Attache Tokio, dated 10 Aug. The two air-bases in existence were used by the Americans. Through this the outer defense line of the Empire which was always characterized as decisive has been practically forced. Only both ends of the island chain, Bonin and Palau with base Yap were in Japanese hands. Both groups are suffering heavy air raids. Landings were considered imminent. Two islands of the Bonin group were shelled by naval forces on the 4 Aug.

All other positions outside of the mentioned line and still occupied by the Japanese as Wake, Bougainville, Truk, Rabaul and Western Guinea were by-passed by the enemy and were without value to the total defense without offensive battle resources.

Hard work is done to construct an inner defense line from the Riu Kiu islands via Formosa to the Philippine islands on which the communications with the Southern area depended.

12 Aug. 1944

The Japanese Admiral Staff recently does not believe Okinawa, but the Philippine islands to be the probable next target of the American advance; [and/or] Landing operations on Amsterdam and Middleburg in Western New Guinea as well as the holding in readiness of five American divisions in the area of New Guinea.

Air raids at the homeland were expected from the Marianas beginning at the end of August. The mood of the Japanese people is profusely despairing. Voices were increasing which demand a copying of German [strategy or tactics?].

X. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff reported about the abandoning of the office Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Submarine and Anti-Submarine Weapons. A part of these duties will be taken care of by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Fleet Branch, the rest by the Naval Staff, Submarine Division.

The Commander in Chief, Navy agreed to this.

XI. Army Situation:

West Area:

On account of the heavy menace to the southern wing of the 7th Army the Fuehrer ordered to call off the attack in direction on Avranches and at first to annihilate the American divisions which advanced across Le Mans to the north.

On the 11 Aug. the enemy attacked with local focal points on both sides of the road Caen - Falaise, at Chenedolle, north and NW of Sourdeval and at Mortain. He achieved penetrations which were blocked in heavy fighting. The western salient front arc of the 7th Army will be withdrawn a few Km on the night of the 11 Aug. to release tank forces needed for the planned operation against the XV. American Army Corps.

On the open southern wing the enemy captured with tanks Alencon, Essay, and Mortagne in the evening hours and in connection with this the presence of the 2nd French tank division was established. The enemy seems to cling to his plans of a double outflanking movement against the established front of the 5th and 7th Army. It is aspired to delay the enemy thrust up to the intended counter-attack.

The combining of the British-American airborne divisions and transport formations to one air army indicates an enemy attack on a large scale and as the case may be in the area of Chartres.

12 Aug. 1944

Combat Zone St. Nazaire:

Enemy tank reconnaissance was forced by our own artillery fire to withdraw. Our front line runs from: Le Goust - Canals - Bouvron canal Brest - Nantes - Villaine to the river's mouth.

Combat Zone Lorient:

The enemy keeps quiet. Enemy artillery harassing fire. Our own reconnaissance is active.

Combat Zone Brest:

Weaker infantry attacks against the air base North were repulsed as well as the attacks with tank support against Plougerneau.

Combat Zone St. Malo:

The embittered fighting is still continuing. All further attacks were up to now repulsed.

Five to 7000 laborers were on strike at the Paris railway workshops. Counter measures were under way to put an end to this strike.

By far-sighted arming and insertion of closed French resistance groups in the battle parts of the American Army Group, at the time still tied up in western Brittany will soon be able to disengage and will be brought up as reinforcements to the focal points.

Besides this it must be expected that the enemy command will bring up further forces from Great Britain in the needed numbers to follow up his present successes as the decision searching character of the operations there is indicated by the transfer of General Eisenhower's Headquarters from Great Britain to France.

Italian Front:

No important fighting occurred. All signs indicate that an enemy landing on a large scale is immediately at hand in the Mediterranean theater. Whether this landing is going to take place in the Genoa area or at the Southern French coast or at both places is also not clear.

12 Aug. 1944

Eastern Front:

Northern Ukraine:

Our own counter attack is progressing satisfactorily south-westerly of Sandomir. If our own forces will be strong enough to obtain an effective success is undecided.

Army Group Central:

Our own attack at the enemy bridgehead Warka is only making little headway. Single heights and villages changed their occupier up to four times.

The embittered struggle at Warsaw is continued.

The enemy attacks is still concentrating on the central part of the eastern front in the area of Bialystok. Here the enemy tried to take the marshy strait of Osowiec and then to separate Eastern Prussia from the occupied Poland by a further thrust to the west. An operative break-through was prevented by heavy fighting which caused us many casualties.

No fighting occurred at the Eastern Prussian boundary nor at the Memel front.

Army Group North:

Attacks on a broad front were in the main repulsed in the area of Birsen. Hard fighting continued northerly of the Düna. The enemy is still attacking with twelve divisions southerly of Lake Peipus and gained further ground. The situation there is strained.

The Fuehrer's orders from the 11 Aug. concerning the warfare in Northern France is filed under 1/SK1 2412/44 GKdos. Chfs, in War Diary , Part B Volume V. According to this it is still intended to carry on with the attack up to the sea and then to the west and in the case of need beyond Margenne and northerly after a successful operation against the XV American Army Corps.

---

Special Items:

I. According to information by the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters

12 Aug. 1944

and in connection to report concerning the cancellation of operation against Odessa the Fuehrer asked for the date when the first submarine of type XXIII would be ready for action in the Black Sea. Receiving the answer: "not before the end of the year" the Fuehrer ordered to examine question of further transfers of 250 tons submarines.

What follows will be arranged first of all by the Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff.

II. In alteration of the information from the 11 Aug. the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters was informed by Naval Staff, Operations Division that the mine carrier DRACHE is ready to sail, but ZEUS will first be available 48 hours later as the transportation of troops to Mudros was delayed owing to the weather.

III. For the purpose of informing Reich Minister Speer through the Chief, Armed Forces High Command concerning the influence of contingent shortening of fuel, Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command received the following summary according to wish from Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch, stating the influence of the contingent restrictions of fuel on the Navy in the month of August of this year:

"1. From the operational and tactical sphere:

Fleet could only be operating in success-promising actions or if absolutely strategically necessary. Convoy escorts were weakened, submarine chaser operations were limited. The laying of minefields was hindered.

2. From the supply and reinforcement sphere:

The tasks of supplying Denmark, Norway, the eastern area and the islands in the Mediterranean could not be carried out in full capacity. The working of the tugs was at times limited. Disturbances and delays occurred in the different supply proceedings through the far reaching restrictions concerning the cancellation of car transportation. Urgent long distance traffic across the country was only seldom possible. The traffic in the straits of the Polar Sea was limited.

3. From the training sphere:

The training of fighting groups and training formations of the navy cannot be promoted in the usual way. The training of PT boat crews is hindered by sailing restrictions. The artillery

12 Aug. 1944

training was cut down and was strongly effected through the missing targets. Limited training is only received by offensive formations in the southern area. The practical training of the submarine cadets received incisive restrictions.

4. From the sphere of ship constructions and building intentions on land:

The testing of new constructions was restricted to a minimum and the execution was partly delayed. Nearly all building plans which were still continued suffered partly under heavy delays. The Southern area reports especially delays of "Ajax", Crete improvements and batteries."

---

Situation on the 12 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Seventy four planes in very active reconnaissance were detected by 19th Group. The western part of the Channel, the coastal area of Brittany as well as the inner Biscay Bay up to the Gironde estuary were the area of actions. Numerous observation reports were made by own surface vessels and submarines in the area between Ile de Croix and the Gironde mouth.

Two British vessels were detected in the rendez-vous area as well as one British freighter in BD 8470.

Enemy targets were detected in the area of Gris Nez to Etaples NNW of Antifer, NW of Le Havre to the Orne mouth, westerly of Jersey, in the sea area of Quessant, westerly of Pt. Du Raz, westerly of Noirmoutier and in the sea area of Cassiron to La Coubre.

Four destroyers were observed on northerly course at 0843, 28 miles westerly of St. Mathieu.

No observations were made during daytime by Cap de la Heve. Two large vessels were seen at noon on southerly course in BF 2691 12 miles westerly of Guernsey. Four PT boats were reported on a northern course 12 miles SW of Guernsey.

12 Aug. 1944

Twenty six vessels of an unrecognized type steering a course leading to the harbor were observed near Alderney at 1555 in BF 3552 NW of Cherbourg.

NNW of the Orne mouth were observed: at 1700 one cruiser, eight destroyers, four transporters, three freighters, three naval vessels steering south at 1900 one cruiser, one tanker, one transporter, one maintenance ship, six tank loading ships and several other vessels steering north, at 2030 twenty freighters, two monitors, four destroyers, one minelayer, one cruiser and nine patrol vessels.

Thirty to 50 transporters and one man of war of an unknown type were observed by Alderney off Cherbourg at 1845 on northerly course. Large transporters on the same course were off Cap de la Hague at 1930.

Alderney was shelled apparently by a battleship with 38 cm guns from 1425 to 1645. Through the hazy weather conditions the type was not recognized. At 1800 the vessel turned off to NW.

Cruiser FROBISHER was detected by radio monitoring in the morning 190 miles SW of Beachy Head. One submerged submarine was reported at 1626 by a patrol vessel in the Sword area. A number of targets were detected by radar equipment from Cap Antifer as base of reference.

One convoy arrived in the landing area at 1020. Also six other convoys were mentioned in the landing area.

According to a report from the Reich Security Head Office the following ship movements were acknowledged at Norwegian quarters in London on the 7 Aug:

Cardiff: 29 ships of 128,000 BRT and three transporters of 19,000 BRT were in this port.

Plymouth: 43 ships of 289,000 BRT and six transporters of 39,000 BRT.

Exmouth/Exeter: 29 ships of 110,000 BRT and one transporter of 5,000 BRT.

Portsmouth: 34 ships of 141,000 BRT and five transporters of 27,000 BRT.

Torbay: 35 ships of 47,000 BRT.

Southampton: 98 ships of 705,000 BRT inclusively transporters.

Bristol: 27 ships with 169,000 BRT and six transporters with 41,000 BRT.

12 Aug. 1944

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

The 7th Patrol Boat Flotilla and Mine exploding vessel "157" made contact with enemy destroyers at 0219 when under way from Brest to Lorient. Mine exploding vessel "157" received a hit and dropped anchor in the roads of Concarneau. Patrol Boat VP "720" was shot afire and was beached at Penmarch. The crew went on shore. Patrol Boat VP "719" arrived at Brest at noon.

The 8th Minesweeper Flotilla which carried supplies and sailed with two boats from Bordeaux on the evening of the 11 Aug. lost minesweeper M "27" after striking a mine at 1955 off Pauillac. The commander flotilla Lieutenant Commander Hoelzerkopf and 40 men were killed. Thirty men were wounded. Operation was discontinued.

The operation of escorting the BORDSEE with six minesweepers and one patrol boat as well as the support given by torpedo boat T "24" could not be accomplished on account of the situation of the enemy.

Mine exploding vessel "16" which was in the outer harbor of La Pallice at the northern breakwater was hit by a bomb at 2230 on the 10 Aug. The ship was beached at the quay to stop her from capsizing and blocking the passage. The crew was placed at the disposal of the Naval Port Command.

Battery 3/284 shelled two enemy destroyers from 1520 to 1640 on the 11 Aug. which turned off under a smoke screen.

Two planes were shot down on the afternoon of the same day when battery 3/284 and harbor defense vessels on the Gironde were attacked with gunfire as well when bombs were dropped on the neck of land at La Coubre. We also suffered losses. Mine exploding vessel "5" was attacked off Le Verdon by 20 fighter bombers at 1020 on the 12 Aug. and was slightly damaged. Two planes were shot down. Patrol Boat V "410" started burning and was abandoned.

The anti-aircraft artillery and light artillery batteries were left intact in the air raid made at Brest on the afternoon of the 11 Aug. Casualties were not above expectations.

Mine exploding vessel "7" was attacked by fighter bomber at La Coubre at 1356 on the 12 Aug. and was damaged. Minesweeper M "4204" was sunk in action.

12 Aug. 1944

To the air raid made at La Pallice on the 10 Aug. it was now reported that the Mine Hall and Mining and Barrage Command was destroyed up to 80%, two tugs were also sunk. The submarine bunker at Bordeaux received nine respectively twelve hits in the raid made on the evening of the 10th. which were apparently not bombs of a very heavy type. The damage was insignificant. But on the contrary the swing-bridge and the range finder station were badly damaged.

The submarine bunker at La Pallice received two hits in an attack made on the afternoon of the 11 Aug. The bunker was again attacked on the afternoon of the 12 Aug. Reports of damage were not yet received.

Five mines were swept off Brest and off La Pallice and 14 mines were swept on the Gironde.

Three submarines were escorted outward bound.

Situation on Land in Brittany:

St. Malo:

A new attack was launched against the bright burning town early on the 11th. The garrison is fighting under the most difficult circumstances and is supported with good results by the batteries of Cecembre and Grande Bey. Fort de la Varde is still holding out against concentrated attacks. The citadel is under continuous anti-tank gunfire. Naval Batteries were in action against enemy infantry to protect Fort de la Varde. Searchlight battery Grande Bey was destroyed. The fate of battery Parame is unknown.

A coastal sailing vessel loaded with ammunition from Guernsey was fired at off Dinard causing leakage. Salvaging will be tried.

At 2300 on the 11th the town was still firm in our control. After two heavy bombing raids and artillery fire the enemy succeeded in entering by force the citadel under the protection of a smoke screen. The situation here was totally cleared up through a heavy burst of fire from our own artillery and a following counter attack. Twenty prisoners were taken. A heavy carpet bombing raid was made on Cecembre at 1800. One 7,5 cm gun is out of action. The battery Grande Bey was destroyed at the same time and the wireless station was put out of action by the bombs and artillery fire.

12 Aug. 1944

The telegram from the Fuehrer to the fortress commander was reported. In the evening the commander asked for ammunition to be supplied by air to battery Cecembre as there were only 200 rounds left and the battle for the fortress was decided by this battery. Unfortunately the supplying is not possible as air and sea transportation are out of the question and the required type of ammunition is only at Calais.

Brest:

The naval school was badly damaged in an air raid on the afternoon of the 11th. The bunkers withstood the attack. No damage was made in the harbor.

An infantry attack with tank support was repulsed by naval anti-aircraft artillery 1/805. One 22 cm gun, one 2cm gun, two searchlights and a combined height and range finder and predictor were put out of action in an enemy air raid on the battery. One radar equipment and a combined height and range finder and predictor were damaged.

After presumable blasting Landeda was occupied by the enemy. A defense was rebuilt in the line Le Trez Hir - Le Conquet.

Lorient:

The situation was still quiet on the 11th. apart from harassing fire through enemy artillery. The enemy withdrew from the fortress to the north. The situation is still undecided at Pontscorff. A heavy engagement occurred with terrorists at Fusnant.

St. Nazaire:

The demolition of the harbor Nantes was completed. The place northerly of the Loire was evacuated. The enemy is entrenching on the northern bank. The garrison of Benodet was transferred to Concarneau.

Sea Area Channel:

The 2nd and 6th PT Boat Flotilla sailed from Le Havre for torpedo operations with three vessels each on the evening of the 11th. but returned again at midnight as the visibility was below 1000 meters. According to plan the 10th PT Boat Flotilla was transferred from Ymuiden to Ostende.

12 Aug. 1944

Group C of the 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla had an engagement with PT boats off Le Havre at 0208. One PT boat was sunk and a further one was shot afire and most probably sunk. Our own casualties were small.

Eleven patrol boat positions were occupied off the Channel coast. A fighter bomber attack at the 18th Patrol Boat Flotilla off Nieuport was of no effect.

One Mosquito plane was shot down by battery Ramien at 1707 on the 11 Aug. near Nieuport.

Army Coastal Battery 1/1254 fired four volleys of harassing fire at detected enemy targets off Antifer from 2100 to 2107.

Alderney reported a larger fire on the continent in the direction of Cherbourg at 2350.

Artillery group Guernsey was employed with barrage fire as convoy protection at 0005. Group Jersey and Guernsey shelled detected enemy targets at 0220 respectively 0242. Further detected targets were shelled by battery Cap de la Heve and 1/1254 without observation of effect. The same was reported by battery St. Adress.

Since 1424 the island of Alderney was shelled from the sea by 38 cm guns. One gun of the battery "Blucher" was destroyed through a hit. One range-finder and two army coastal batteries dropped out of action. Observed were two turrets and one funnel. The shelling could not be answered owing to the insufficient range.

Torpedo operations were planned for the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla with four boats as a diversion in the Seine Bay on the night of the 12th. The 8th PT Boat Flotilla is transferring from Ostende to Boulogne. The 10th PT Boat Flotilla will carry out wide-spread sowing of ground mines on convoy routes.

---

## II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

### North Sea:

The Swedish steamer NAIMDOE (2850 BRT) with a cargo of ore sank in the forenoon hours on the Elbe after hitting a mine. The crew was saved. The motor sailing vessel DORA sank in the water

12 Aug. 1944

way for smaller vessels off the Elbe mouth after striking a mine. In the same area one mine was swept by a mine exploding vessel.

According to arrangement between Chief of Staff Air Force Reich and Reich Commissioner for Maritime Shipping from the 28 Jul., the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North asks for fighter protection at day light on the 16 Aug. northerly of Ameland for the transfer of the 1st group of two Hansa new constructions.

Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty five planes in action were detected by 18th Group.

Flotilla leader BAKU, destroyer URITZKY and GREMJSCHTSCHI were detected by radio monitoring at sea in the Archangels area in the forenoon hours and in the afternoon.

2. Own Situation:

Medium artillery operations were reported from the area of Petsamo on the morning and afternoon of the 10th. Single enemy reconnaissance planes were in the area of Petsamo, Kirkenes and Vardoe on the 10th. and 11 Aug. four reconnaissance planes were reported from the area of Hammerfest.

One Mosquito plane was observed each on the 11th. and 12 Aug. in the area of Aalesund.

Minesweeper M "468" hit a floating mine in AF 6488 and sank at 0402 on the 12 Aug.

Twelve ships were escorted to the North and 19 ships to the South.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

Two minesweeper divisions and 47 naval vessels were detected by radio monitoring in the Finnish Bay on the afternoon and evening of this day. Two PT boats were observed westerly of

12 Aug. 1944

Kieperot according to Finnish reports and two minesweeper vessels were reported in AO 3639 on northerly course on the night of the 11 Aug.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

One mine was swept in the Samsö-Belt. The coastal mine type "A" operation was not carried out owing to weather situation.

Western and Central Baltic:

One enemy reconnaissance plane crossed from the west the Kieler Bay, Rügen, Gydinia and entered the area of Elbing.

Twenty six vessels and four minesweeper planes were employed with minesweeping duties. Hospital ship RUGEN, auxiliary vessel KURLAND one tanker, ten steamers as well as one cable layer and a floating dock were escorted.

About 3000 wounded were transferred with ROBERT LEY from Pillau to Swinemünde.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

The Narva patrol was carried out according to plan.

Owing to the weather situation the artillery vessels and the armed fishing vessels staid at their anchoring place also during the night. Submarine chaser group and the net patrol of armed fishing vessels were not in operation owing to the same reason.

Motor minesweeper R "70" employed with minesweeping duties sank seven to ten miles southerly of Pukko at midnight after hitting a mine.

A Finnish PT boat picked up the commander and 9 men at 0840.

Four mines were swept in AO 3348. One mine was swept in the Reval Bay in a systematical minesweeping operation. The 1st Group of the 24th Landing Flotilla with one minesweeper vessel and four naval landing craft sailed from Aseri for mining operations.

Submarines released from position report that an operation of seven days is possible but that a relieving is advisable after four days.

12 Aug. 1944

The carrying out of mining operation Seeigel X b is planned with four torpedo boats and eight minesweeper boats on the night of the 15 Aug. Fourteen steamers and three tankers were escorted.

The transfer of the 122nd Infantry Division has been raised by an additional transporter to 10,764 men, 4025 horses, 2345 vehicles and 2300 tons of cargo.

Steamer DONAU sailed with 2021 soldiers and RO 22 with 1544 soldiers from Riga to Danzig.

Reinforcements to Army Group North amounted to the 11 Aug. via Riga to 5184 tons and via Reval to 5389 tons.

---

#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

In an enemy air raid at the Submarine bunker at Brest on the forenoon of the 12 Aug. and at the Submarine bunker at Bordeaux in the afternoon each one member of the Submarine Flotillas was killed.

Submarine U "621" returned from the operational area in the Channel where it was patrolling the operational area from the 23 Jul. to the 3 Aug. The boat reported from its to - and return voyage in the northern Channel day's run of 40 to 50 miles when using daily in the average the Schnorchel for 2 hours. One steamer of 6000 BRT was sunk from a convoy steering south on the 29th Jul. Two hours later a steamer of 4000 BRT was sunk by a LUT single shot. A large convoy of four miles length steering south was attacked on the 30 Jul. After launching two LUT against a passenger and freight steamer of 9000 BRT two detonations were heard with following sounds indicating sinking. In total the defense was more active than ever. The enemy traffic was carried out on the already known routes in the operational area.

Submarine U "981" sank at about 0600 after hitting a mine with following plane bombing. Submarine U "309" picked up the crew and arrived as the first of the transferred boats in La Pallice. Very strong air and naval supervision was further reported off the Gulf of Biscay coast and in special off the harbors.

Carrying ammunition Submarine U "650" and U "644" sailed from La Pallice to Lorient.

12 Aug. 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

Submarine U "300" reported her position for the Atlantic as AF 18. On the 4 Aug. the boat started the return voyage as it is only able to a limited submerging after the air attack.

Mines were noticed in the Finnish Bay in the sailing routes of the submarines. Submarine operations were cancelled easterly of the Seeigel minefield till the mine situation is cleared up.

The training formation of the 27th Submarine Flotilla was for the first time attacked by four enemy planes in AO 9239. No damage was done.

---

V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

One thousand and fifty enemy planes attacked during daytime railway installations in the area of Namur, Philippeville, Cambrai, Mecheln, Laon and Albert in Belgium/Northern France. A further attack was made in the area of Abbeville and Chievres.

More than 1000 bombers partly protected by fighters attacked air bases and other targets in Western France in the area of Laon, Evreux Etampes and Melun. Further attacks were directed against road targets in the area of Paris. It was already reported about the raid on Bordeaux.

One hundred of these planes entered the area of Metz and attacked railway installations as well as the town. One freight train was hit.

One hundred and thirty Marauder and Mitchell planes from Italy attacked anti-aircraft artillery positions in the area of Toulon.

Weaker formations attacked on the night of the 12 Aug. air bases and anti-aircraft artillery positions as well as defense positions in Belgium and Western France.

One hundred and eight of our own planes were combined in two operations to support the army in the area of Alencon, Le Mans and Logent le Rotrou. Reports concerning success were in the "Daily Report."

12 Aug. 1944

Ninty four of our own planes attacked Alencon without suffering any losses on the night of the 12 Aug. Four He 111 were employed supplying Brest with ammunition and ambulance materiel.

Reich Territory:

From the total area of the Reich single reconnaissance planes were reported during the day.

Kiel was attacked with little effect by 50 bombers on the night of the 12 Aug. Two hundred bombers raided industrial installations in the area of Braunschweig - Hildesheim. Two hundred more enemy planes flew into the area of Frankfurt on the Main of which 30 to 40 were dispatched to attack the Opel plant at Müselsheim.

Three hundred and fifteen of our own fighters were in action above the Italian front area on the 11 Aug. concentrating on the area of Florence and the Ligurian coast. Ravenna was attacked by about 30 planes without effect. Enemy air activity was on the usual scale in the Greek area.

Ninteen Ju 87 raided the roads in the area of Pisa with good results during the day. Photographic reconnaissance was made of the bay and harbor of Ajaccio. Inside of the bay were 49 LCT of 350 tons, 36 LCT of 120 tons, three LCF, four LCM, one LSJ (by observation declared as aircraft carrier) two escort vessels, one freighter and one destroyer. In the harbor were located at 1330 four LCF, 14 LCT of 350 tons, 16 barges, seven steamers, 30 smaller landing vessels and three escort vessels. According to photographic reconnaissance in the evening made of bay and harbor four destroyers, two escort vessels, six freighters and one small hospital ship were there.

Eastern Area:

Seven hundred and seventy three German and 1626 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front during the 11 Aug. of which three enemy planes were shot down and seven of our own planes were lost.

---

12 Aug. 1944

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea:

1. Area Naval Group West:

Enemy Situation:

Two large convoys each consisting of 75 to 100 merchantmen and naval ships were reported at 0750 southerly of Ajaccio with course to the harbor. About the photographic reconnaissance made from Ajaccio was reported. About 50 vessels were at anchor in the bay of Propiano. According to the interpretation of the German naval command Italy this strong disposition of battleships, cargo space and landing facilities in connection with the air raids on the 11 Aug. at radar equipped stations and anti-aircraft artillery positions on the Southern French coast indicates that soon a landing operation can be expected in this area.

No special reports were received from the Gibraltar area.

Own Situation:

Radar Station Monte Rose was put out of action in an enemy air raid made on the 11 Aug. at radar equipment on the southern French Coast. Accommodations and three guns were damaged by the battery Cap Benat.

Bombs were dropped on single military targets at Marseille on the evening of the 11 Aug. A strike has started in the dockyard and repair shops of this town.

Continuous low level attacks and bomb droppings were made by planes at batteries and radar location centers in the area from Antibes to La Ciotat. The radar location stations Camaret and Ciotat are out of action. Two planes were reported shot down and probably two more were brought down.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy

Enemy Situation:

Five smaller naval vessels were observed on Livorno roads at 0825. Reconnaissance could not be effectively made of the harbor owing to fighter protection. Active fighter bomber operations were detected by radio monitoring in the Ligurian sea on the night of the 11 Aug.

12 Aug. 1944

Own Situation:

A northerly steering convoy was continuously attacked with bombs and gunfire between Cap Mesco and Porto Fino without establishing a success. One minesweeper was slightly damaged in a fighter bomber attack on an easterly running convoy in the early morning hours of the 12 Aug. A fighter bomber attack was made at Oneglia and Savona on the 11th. and 12 Aug. Naval forces shot down two planes.

The 2nd degree of alarm was ordered for the Italian western coast on account of the enemy situation.

Convoy and escort duties were carried out according to plan.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

Six ships were at anchor off Ancona at 0615 and one destroyer was northerly of Bari at 0700.

The harbor and the light house of Albona were attacked by enemy bands on the evening of the 11 Aug. The telephone cables were cut. A mopping up operation was started by the army on Brac. Further 60 boats were sunk by clearing up the coastal area southerly of Zara. New landings did not occur on Cherso on the 11 Aug.

Three naval landing craft repulsed a fighter bomber attack by Privilaka at noon on the 11 Aug.

Two boats of the 24th Minesweeper Flotilla ran aground at Sibenik in the evening.

Minecarrier KIEBITZ, torpedo boat of foreign construction TA "40" and submarine chaser "202" left Pola on the evening of the 12 Aug. to carry out mine barrage tasks. Torpedo Boat of foreign construction TA "37", "38" and "39" sailed from Triest to protect the mine laying formation.

When entering Sibenik PT Boat S "629" rammed motor minesweeper R "15" which was damaged on the night of the 11 Aug. The vessel sank to the ground. Motor minesweeper R "4" was rammed by a tug and also damaged.

12 Aug. 1944

b. Aegean:

A Siebel ferry was probably damaged by a floating mine easterly of Cap Papas and was towed to Patras.

Escort traffic was totally abandoned on the 11 and 12 Aug. owing to the weather situation with a wind strength of 7 to 8.

c. Black Sea:

Two E-mines were detected in minesweeping operations in the submarine training area easterly of Constanta. One E-mine was swept by a minesweeping plane SSE of Constanta.

In addition it was reported that one plane was shot down in the air attack made on shelling formation on the 10 Aug.

d. Danube Situation:

The dropping of more mines was reported between Belgrad and Russ. One motor tugboat and two barges sank at KM 676 after hitting a mine.

Two minesweeping successes were realized by vessels and three successes were realized by minesweeping planes.

---

VII. Situation Eastern Asia:

No special reports were received.

---

13 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance

No special reports were received.

---

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1100.

I. Operations with VI were prepared from He 111 for the case, that the present starting areas should be lost.

II. In connection with the report concerning situation in the West Area:

a. The Fuehrer sent the following wireless message to the fortress commander of St. Malo, Colonel v. Aulock at 1424 on the 12 Aug.:

"You are fighting with your garrison a heroic battle at St. Malo which calls for the admiration also of our enemy. I congratulate you and your brave soldiers. Every day which you are withstanding longer is a benefit to the conduct of the battle against the invasion. Therefore as long as there is one shell and one cartridge left in St. Malo there cannot be any yeilding. Long live Greater Germany! Signed: Adolf Hitler."

b. Concerning the placing out of commission of mine exploding vessels in Atlantic harbors, Group West reports:

1. "The total artillery of mine exploding vessels at Brest and Lorient with the exception of one in each port was ordered on the 8 Aug. to be engaged on land in the fortress battle as

a) the strengthening of the fortress land front with artillery was regarded as deciding,

b) and as the enemy used in the last weeks and months nearly only acoustical ground mines for the sweeping of which no mine exploding vessels were needed. Therefore it is believed that the mine situation can also be handled in the future by smaller vessels and if against expectation induction mines should be again employed. The situation will be taken care of by one Mine exploding vessel in each port.

13 Aug. 1944

c) Through the development of the enemy situation, mine exploding vessels being large ships, were too much endangered by enemy naval and Air Force.

2. All mine exploding vessels will be placed out of commission in the meantime with the exception of mine exploding vessel "180" at Brest and mine exploding vessel "121" at Lorient. Their guns were employed on land.

3. Decision is expected."

The Commander in Chief, Navy is of the opinion that a mastering of the mine situation is out of the question and demands a safeguarding of the mine situation for all employed routes in the Gulf of Biscay. If the means for these operations were not sufficient all mine exploding vessels should be re-commissioned again.

Relevant directive was issued to 1/SKL I West 24996/44 Gkdos.

III. Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division.

Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command informed the Naval Staff by copy about directions to the Commander in Chief, West concerning the building of a defense and barrage organization in the area of Le Mans to which members of all the armed forces should be called upon.

Quartermaster General, Naval Staff issued corresponding orders to Group West.

Commander in Chief, Navy draws attention of the Chief Naval Staff to the necessity to take into consideration the armament and personnel defense readiness of the members of the Koralle staff quarters.

IV. Quartermaster General Naval Staff :

a. To all around firing possibility of the coastal batteries was confirmed by reports from the Naval Port Command St. Malo.

b. Thirty T 5 were in the base Pola. A release is also recommended for PT boats. Commander in Chief, Navy agrees. The Chief, Submarine Division, Naval Staff reports the equipment base Salamis with T 5 to be more suitable for submarines as Pola.

c. Motorships ILLER and WARTHE were appointed for the

13 Aug. 1944

at once by the General Staff, Army demanded embarkation of in Danzig at 1600 arriving 150 men, 30 horses, twelve infantry guns (each seven to eight tons heavy), eight heavy mortars, 15 trucks and 100 vehicles belonging to the 82nd Infantry Regiment to Riga.

[Translation by OP-292A: For the immediate shipping to Riga, demanded by the General Staff, of 150 men, 30 horses, 12 infantry howitzers (seven to eight tons each), 8 heavy trench mortars, 15 trucks, and 100 vehicles of the 82nd Grenadier Regiment, [all of which are] arriving in Danzig at 1600 hours, the motorships ILLER and WARTHE will be appointed.] Motorship LAPLAND is held as a third ship in readiness. The Naval Command East was asked to supply the escorts.

V. Chief, Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division:

a. It is remarkable that up to now our successes with small battle weapons were not mentioned in the enemy news bulletin.

b. A rebellion by the Maqui and an attack in the direction of southern France is imminent according to a Swiss radio report, made on the evening of the 12th. Reference to further reports concerning enemy landings in southern France and for the first time concerning landing in the area of Pola.

c. It is said, that Churchill, Tito, The Yugoslav Premier of the Exile Government, Schubatschisch and General Velebit will meet in Rom for a conference. A new command 'Army Forces, Adriatic' is said to have formed.

On account of the totally collected information situation the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff still believes a landing at the southern French Coast as most probably. Deciding for this belief is the concentration of strong French forces at Corsica as well as the holding in readiness of extensive tonnage there.

d. The British Admiralty announced that naval planes operating from carrier attacked German shipping and coastal installations between Aalesund and Kristiansund in Norway on the 11 Aug. Allegedly six Me 110 were destroyed on the ground at the airbase Gossen. Two naval planes were missing.

The USA War Ministry announced the loss of convoy destroyer FISKE in the Atlantic which occurred recently.

13 Aug. 1944

Restricted to a very Limited Circle;

VI. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The enemy advanced from the deep flank with further forces between the Foret d'Ecouvès and Mortagne to the north also on the 12 Aug. to complete the surrounding of the two German armies. Tank spearheads were reported in the evening hours near Mortrée, Le Bourg and at the road to Laigle.

At the Normandy front the enemy tested the German front at numerous places and achieved several penetrations which could be blocked or cleared up. Against that the enemy attacked with strong forces on both sides of St. Pierre and achieved a 5 km deep penetration. A reserve group of the 21st Tank Division was in action against this but the area of penetration was not yet blocked. Fighting is still going on.

No real fighting occurred in front of the fortresses of the Brittany. The heroic defense of the garrison of St. Malo is continued. The enemy penetrated the citadel under the protection of a smoke screen. Fort de la Varde was still held.

The enemy is quiet in the Loire sector. Recognized enemy movements southerly of Angers were shelled by our artillery. The enemy is entrenching on the northern bank of the Loire with the help of the civilian population.

The bridgehead Nantes was evacuated according to plan after the destruction of the harbor and of all war important installations. Preparations were being made for the blowing up of bridges in the sector Orleans - Tours.

Italian Front:

No important fighting operations occurred at the land front. The serious ship movements around Corsica were already reported in the "Naval Warfare Situation". The Commander in Chief, Southwest reports to this: A landing on a large scale is not possible, with the available tonnage sufficient for about one division. The holding in readiness at other places must therefore be expected. Especially the absence of LST and unity freighters indicates that the important large embarkations were carried out at other places.

13 Aug. 1944

No essential facts were received yet concerning the aim of the expected operation. The Gulf of Genoa as well as the Southern French coast were in the sphere of possibility. The enemy has at his disposal about 15 to 16 large formations besides an airborne division and three tank divisions for an operation on a large scale.

Eastern Front:

Northern Ukraine:

Numerous enemy attacks were repulsed at the Carpathian Front. Our own counter attack in the area westerly of Sanok is advancing. The attack against the two enemy armies westerly of Vistula (southwesterly of Sandomir) is advancing but is meeting there increasing resistance. The enemy is short of fuel. This explains his passive attitude up to now in his attack in direction Krakau respectively Petrikau.

Army Group Central:

No ground was won in embittered fighting southeasterly of Warka (Vistula bridgehead).

Fighting is continued at Warsaw. Counter attacks made by the rebels were repulsed and surrounded own infantry groups were relieved.

The withdrawal movement of the front between Warsaw and the Bug was carried out according to plan. The enemy is following up closely.

The large battle in the area of Bialystock is going on. Enemy penetrations were barely sufficiently blocked.

Army Group North:

Russian forces were transferred into the area of Tuckum to prevent Army Group North and Central of picking up communications along the coastal road.

Enemy attacks were weaker in the area of Birsen than on the previous days likewise northerly of the Duna.

The situation southerly of Lake Peipus has aggravated further.

13 Aug. 1944

Tanks arrived in front of Ruge and Werro. Other counter measures were under way. (Supplying of reinforcements by air, employment of ground "strafer" against tanks.)

No actions at the Narva front.

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

According to a report from the Command of Small Battle Units, the employment of battle swimmer group Hellmers is planned on the night of the 13 Aug. if presumptions promise success.

An explosive charge will be attached to the bilgekeel and will be exploded by a time fuse. The most will be made of flood and ebb-tide concerning the way out and back. Transportation with Mardern and Linsen is planned up to two miles distance of attacking spot by operations below 10 miles, and that from the launching way at Villers sur Mer.

Naval Replacement Division 60 intends to destroy the docks of Quistreham on the 20 Aug. Weightless made mines will be brought up to 1000 m off the target by Linsen. What follows will be taken care of by swimmers. Naval Replacement Division 60 and 65 is preparing commando raid against radar equipped or ET-stations in the Orne frontal sector. Transportation will be made by Linsen.

Commander in Chief Navy agreed.

The Naval Replacement Division 71 was operating against two large terrorist camps in the surrounding of Aix on the 9th and 10 Aug. Extensive materiel of all kind was secured without own losses.

VIII. Chief, Submarine Division, Naval Staff:

"1. All shipyard workers in Lorient were detailed for military operations at noon on the 7 Aug. Submarine repairing was stopped by this. On account of this the submarine base Lorient allowed three boats to sail, which were standing by for Schnorchel installation. First after the intervention of the navy were the shipyard workers released in the evening.

2. The following reports were now received concerning the situation in Lorient.

a. From the submarine base Lorient: on account of the apparent irresistible advance of the enemy and the shelling and

13 Aug. 1944

bombarding with super bombs as well as to some extent the disorganization caused through the falling back of the army upon the fortress made measures necessary.

b. 1st Lieutenant Keller in command of submarine U "981" reported after his arrival in Pallice: Heavy confusion caused by the army formations which were withdrawn into the town. The fore-lying ground of the fortress was left at first unmanned. Rumors, exaggerated reports of tanks and uneasiness prevail in the town. All shipyard workers were employed. The commander of the shipyards and the commander of the 2nd Submarine Flotilla launched a protest at the 25th Army Corps. The attitude of the navy is good."

Commander in Chief Navy ordered to inform General Jodl which will be made by the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters.

IX. The Chief Naval Staff raised the question to prepare Norwegian bases for the continuation of the submarine war. As the existing harbors were too small it will be necessary to use suitable bays which were deviced and protected by infantry.

Quartermaster General, Naval Staff draws attention to the serious difficulties caused by the shortage of fuel.

Commander in Chief Navy is of the opinion that to a larger extent the submarine war has to be conducted from home waters. The maintenance of Norwegian bases would be extremely difficult. The concentration of all forces for this task would be necessary.

Quartermaster General, Naval Staff advises to withdraw shipyard workers at once from Western France and to man Norwegian bases for reconstruction with these as the request may ask for.

Commander in Chief, Navy: The result of this would be that submarines could not be completed nor made ready to sail anymore. About 40 submarines were in the shipyards which must be made ready to sail. Group West must be informed again that only shipyard workers above the needed amount to finish the mentioned task should be withdrawn. Agreement should be reached with Bureau of Naval Armament concerning valuable experts.

13 Aug. 1944

Special Items

I. Concerns Situation Eastern Baltic:

1. The Naval Command East reports at 1715 that the enemy is standing with covering parties at the coast northwesterly of Schlock up to Apsneciems at about 57° 05' north according to information from the Naval Shore Command Latvia. The 52nd Escort Division asks for support if possible from the sea.

The Admiral, Eastern Baltic received orders from the Naval Command East to employ at once the 6th Destroyer Flotilla. Above this it is planned to employ the commander of the 2nd Task Force with the PRINZ EUGEN. The Naval Command East made contact with the army. Immediate readiness was ordered for the PRINZ EUGEN.

After that the Naval Staff, Operations Division informed the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters, the General Staff of the Army and the Operations Staff, High Command Air.

After further telephone information from the side of the Naval Command, East the contact with the army resulted in the statement that at present no targets worthwhile were existing to employ the naval forces. On account of this the Naval Command, East cancelled the ordered operation for the 6th Destroyer Flotilla and the PRINZ EUGEN. The 6th Destroyer Flotilla lies in readiness easterly of Oesel.

The Fuehrer's Headquarters was informed by telephone.

2. According to information received from the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters the Chief of the General Staff of the Army attaches greatest importance to an urgent transfer of the first transporter carrying the artillery of the division from Danzig to Riga and asks to sail this ship if possible at once with a special escort after loading and not to wait for the completion of the second steamer.

The embarkation should start this afternoon according to statements from the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch, and the first transporter will sail at once. The second will first be ready to sail afternoon on the 14 Aug.

3. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff, Shipping and Transport Branch reported by telephone at 1720 that seven large transporters were ready to sail after noon on the 16 Aug. for transferring "Doppelkopf". It will be necessary for the Naval Command East to place at disposal a strengthened escort. Naval Command East received the following instruction by most immediate teleprinter message:

13 Aug. 1944

"Start the loading of seven large transporters at Danzig at noon on the 16 Aug. ready to discharge (codeword: "Doppelkopf"). Port of destination probably Libau. A strengthened escort protection was planned. Report intentions."

4. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command reports:

"In response of the preparations for "Tanne West" the 902nd Assault Boat Flotilla moved off to Riga with the mass of floating vessels. But the baggage and towing vessels are still in Swinemunde. As the general commanding the sappers urgently required the baggage and towing vessels for reassembling he asked the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command for decisions whether they were released from the navy on account of the attachment and if they might be used for the reassembling if not needed by the navy."

The Naval Staff, Operations Division informed the Naval Command East and asked for attitude.

II. Relevantly with instruction from the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command concerning warfare in the Adriatic Area the Naval Staff presents a summary concerning the present coastal defenses and the considered consolidations of these in the area of Istria dated 26 Jul.

Copy of report 1/SKL I m 2367/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Volume XIV.

III. The following figures will explain the impair of the mineral situation caused by enemy operations.

Home production in June 1944 amounted to:

in aircraft fuel	51 000 tons
in volatile fuel	74 000 tons
in Diesel fuel	90 000 tons
in Furnace oil	98 000 tons

For August is expected:

in aircraft fuel	20 800 tons
in volatile fuel	72 000 tons
in Diesel fuel	81 000 tons
in furnace oil	77 000 tons

13 Aug. 1944

against a monthly average in 1943:

in aircraft fuel	148 000 tons
in volatile fuel	122 000 tons
in Diesel fuel	118 000 tons
in furnace oil	79 000 tons

IV. The Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division presented summaries of enemy reviews made by the General Staff of the Army of Foreign Armies West concerning the Mediterranean and by the Operations Staff, High Command Air, Foreign Affairs Section West dated 13th respectively 12 Aug. concerning West Area and Western Mediterranean to the Highest Operational Staffs of the Navy. Copy according to 1/SK1 25068/44 respectively 25067/44 Gkdos in War Diary, Part D Volume 8a.

V. Situation of coastal mine type "A" operation on 31 Jul 44.

ready	29 049 mines
laid	<u>23 990 mines</u>

from these in Western France	6435
in Southern France	976
Holland/Belgium	5660
Bight of Heligoland	1419
Denmark	5893
Baltic Countries	2788
Finland	661
? Italy ? (not legible- remark by transl.)	158 ?

Situation on the 13 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Forty eight planes of the 19th Group were detected in action above the western entrance of the Channel and in the northern Gulf of Biscay down to the Gironde estuary. Except several submarine observations reports informations were received at 0930 and 0933 that two vessels were attacked in BF 6887 and 9331.

13 Aug. 1944

Six British vessels were detected in the rendez-vous area.

Destroyer patrols were detected off Quessant, Ile de Croix, Ile d'Yeu, Les Sables, Oleron and in front of the Gironde on the night of the 12 Aug.

One cruiser and two destroyers were observed 15 to 20 km off Ile d'Yeu at 0805. Three enemy vessels were observed at noon in the sea area of Oleron and at 1940 three vessels southerly of Belle Ile. Destroyers were observed 13 miles off Lezardrieux in the afternoon while two destroyers were seen at 1420 southerly of Ile d'Yeu according to plane observations.

On the night of the 12 Aug. the following ship movements were detected: One SW convoy easterly of Dungenes, PT boats off Ostende, Dunkirk and Boulogne and several targets in the eastern part of the Seine Bay which turned off after shelling. In the forenoon hours one convoy was detected on SW course in the Channel straits.

According to a report by the 3rd Air Force based on photographic reconnaissance Cherbourg was well occupied by freighters and landing space on the 12 Aug. In the harbor were established five destroyers two torpedo boats, three PT boats, six minesweepers, six landing craft transporters, 46 large landing vessels, 38 medium sized landing vessels, 39 freighters of 234,000 BRT., eight coastal patrol vessels, 60 barges and boats and 76 parts of landing stages. Compared with the reconnaissance made on the 4 Aug. a heavy decline of smaller naval vessels is noticeable and that by 39, but on the contrary an increase of 168,000 BRT in freighter tonnage and of landing craft by 54 vessels is striking.

At the same time were at anchor in the roads of St. Vaast three destroyers, two torpedo boats, two transporters for tanks, ten large and 13 medium sized landing vessels, six freighters of 35,000 BRT and one transporter of 7,000 BRT.

Owing to poor visibility no observation of the Seine-Bay could be made from Cap de la Heve on the 13 Aug.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

The dropping of mines was observed in the sea area of La Pallice and in the Gironde estuary on the night of the 11 Aug. On

13 Aug. 1944

account of mine danger traffic on the Gironde was cancelled. The loss of submarine U "981" was caused by one of the mines, dropped off La Pallice.

Mine exploding vessel "7" which was damaged by a bomb hit sank in La Coubre. In an air raid made at La Pallice on the 12 Aug. destroyer Z "23" was hit and damaged below the water line.

One submarine was attacked without effect by enemy planes SW of Ile de Re at 0700 on the 13 Aug. Just so unsuccessful were air raids with bombs and gunfire made at mine exploding vessel "5" and "6" in Royan at 0930. Here one plane was shot down. Eighty enemy bombers attacked again the submarine bunkers at Brest. It was reported that two planes were shot down and probably one more. Report was not yet received concerning the damage done.

The shipyard La Pallice reported again ready to work on the evening of the 12 Aug.

Three minesweepers sailed from Royan to St. Nazaire with supplies for the fortress at 2130 on the 13 Aug. Remote escort to Belle Ile is intended for destroyer Z "24".

Five mines were swept off the Gironde mouth.

Land Situation Brittany:

St. Malo:

The harbor installations were thoroughly destroyed according to a report from the Naval Port Command.

Battery Cecembre shelled four enemy gunboats on the forenoon hours of the 12th. which turned off under the protection of a smoke screen. Several advancing tanks on the shore road were shelled by 2 cm anti-aircraft artillery guns from Grande Bay. The enemy fell into the barrage fire of battery Cecembre when attacking the citadel and suffered heavy casualties. Under all conditions the fortress commander intends to hold Dinard stronghold Paulus, the citadel and the town St. Malo and De la Varde.

A coastal sailing vessel was brought into the Lunaire Bay to discharge its cargo of ammunition. The steamer BORDEAUX transferred 180 wounded to St. Helier on the afternoon of the 12 Aug.

13 Aug. 1944

Heavy enemy pressure at Dinard was removed by a counter-attack with three assault guns on the morning of the 13 Aug. The citadel was heavily shelled by artillery for two hours. Since the early morning hours Fort de la Varde was attacked and heavily shelled also with phosphorus shells. The town of St. Malo received again supplies, the attitude is hopeful. Enemy concentrations at Pleurtuit were opposed successfully in the afternoon. After heavy fighting the attack against Fort de la Varde was under control. Carpet-bombing was carried out seven times against the battery Cecembre.

According to a report from the commanding officer of the fortress 50 men of the 266th Infantry Division surrendered without fighting. Forty sailors under the command of a sergeant mayor from Fort de la Varde deserted to the enemy before the attack against the fort started. According to present investigations they belonged to the personnel of the Naval Control Service office Granville.

Lezardrieux:

A demand of surrender was rejected on the 12 Aug. The sector Paimpol-Perros-Bay will be held. The demolition of the harbor installations at Lezardrieux was ordered. Treguier which was captured by the enemy was retaken in a counter attack on the morning of the 13 Aug.

Brest:

A bunker ceiling of 5,5 meters thickness was pierced in an air raid made on the morning of the 12 Aug. At the upper inside facing of the ceiling pieces broke out when being hit the second time.

Five mine detonations were observed in the naval harbor on the 13 Aug. without causing damage. Patrol Boat VP "723" was sunk in the arsenal by enemy shelling. The naval hospital was hit by the artillery shelling of the town during the night when also phosphorus shells were used. Casualties were not caused.

The naval anti-aircraft artillery shelled during the forenoon hours troop concentrations at the air base Brest Nord. The steamer SUDETENLAND was hit by a bomb, the stern sank. L'Abervrach was occupied by the enemy. Battery "Spee" opened fire in the afternoon on troops, who attacked the radio bearing station Corsen.

13 Aug. 1944

Lorient:

Pt. Scorff was again occupied by the enemy. The anti-aircraft artillery supported our own reconnaissance thrusts at Queven, Caudern and Hennebont.

St. Nazaire:

No special new reports were received.

The main building of the high-powered radio station St. Assise was hit in an air raid at noon. One high-powered transmitter was totally destroyed. Five others were out of action now and then.

Sea Area Channel:

Owing to poor visibility the 2nd and 6th Minesweeper Flotilla cancelled their operation, which had started from Le Havre on the night of the 12 Aug.

The 4th Minesweeper Flotilla reported an engagement with PT boats when laying the minefield L 22 SW of Etaples; the attack was successfully repulsed. The operation was carried out. Numerous hits were scored on two PT boats. See brief report teletype 0540.

Also the 38th Minesweeper Flotilla had an engagement with enemy PT boats at 0120 northerly of Gris Nez. A bomber-fighter attack was made on the artillery flotilla northerly of Gris Nez on the night of the 8th., against the 36th Minesweeper Flotilla off Graveliness and off Ostende. No damage was caused.

The planned transfer of the 8th PT Boat Flotilla on the night of the 12 Aug. was cancelled on account of poor visibility.

Torpedo operation is planned with four boats of the 2nd Minesweeper Flotilla and with two boats of the 6th Minesweeper Flotilla on the night of the 13 Aug. as a diversion of the enemy patrol in the Seine Bay besides transfer of the 8th E-Boat Flotilla from Ostende to Boulogne and the mining of the convoy routes off Oxfordness with ground mines by six boats of the 10th PT Boat Flotilla. Besides a coastal mine type "A" minefield westerly of La Panne and a flank-minefield D 23a westerly of the Somme mouth will be laid.

The batteries St. Adresse, 4/1254, 1/1254 and Cap de la Heve shelled several of times detected targets without known results on the night of the 12 Aug. Battery Cap de la Heve fired eight volleys at detected targets from 0513 to 0530.

The coastal mine type "A" minefield off La Panne and DM minefield off the Somme mouth were laid. Eleven patrol boat positions were occupied off the Channel coast.

13 Aug. 1944

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

The Ems-Elbe convoy was attacked with bombs by enemy planes northerly of Norderney without effect at 0335. Patrol boat VP "1101" and minesweeper M "83" were sunk in a renewed attack by 40 enemy planes northerly of Langeooge at 0620. Minefield K 13 was laid off the Beer Island consisting of 34 coastal mines type "A".

Convoy ditues were carried out according to plan.

Norway, Northern Waters.

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty six planes in action were detected by 18th Group.

Radio monitoring intercepted a wireless message of the most urgent character which was sent by Dickson via Archangel to all naval forces in Northern Waters and which presumably refers to our own submarine operations in the Barent Sea.

2. Own Situation:

A medium sized artillery duel was reported from the area of Petsamo on the evening of the 12 Aug.

Twenty six ships were escorted to the North and 34 to the South.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

According to a report from the Reich Security Head Office Swedish ship crews reported from the Aaland sea that Sweden concentrated about 40,000 soldiers for an intervention on the Aaland island in the case of need. It is said that at the same time 32 naval vessels were concentrated in the area of Arhoma and in the Mysingsfjord for this purpose.

Four minesweeper divisions and 24 naval vessels were in the Finnish Bay on the 12 Aug. according to radio monitoring.

13 Aug. 1944

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

The patrol duties were reduced along the Western Jutlandic Coast on account of the weather situation. The coastal mine type "A" operation was not continued. Twenty four vessels were employed with minesweeping duties.

Five probably Swedish reconnaissance planes were above the Kattegat heading south at 1535 to 1635 and reversed course to the east after being fired on. Swedish planes approached in low level flight a patrol vessel SE of Anholt at 1644 and turned off after being shelled.

Among others cruiser LEIPZIG, destroyer Z "30" and one submarine were escorted.

Western and Central Baltic:

Twenty one vessels and five minesweeper planes were employed with minesweeping duties. With daylight the Kiel harbor was swept for mines with increased forces. Eventually it was reported that three troop transporters which were on their way to Riga were attacked by three enemy torpedo planes westerly of Backofen without effect on the afternoon of the 8 Aug. When establishing the four enemy fighter bombers by the training formation of the 27th Submarine Flotilla on the afternoon of the 12 Aug. sounds were detected by submarine which indicate that mines were dropped in AO 9317.

A steamer was sunk by bombs from planes northwesterly of Nidden on the afternoon of the 13 Aug. Particulars are not yet known.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

Eleven mines were swept northerly of Narvi of which six mines were floating mines. Submarine operations were cancelled easterly of Seeigel till the mine situation is cleared up.

The Finns cancelled submarine super-vision with planes owing to fuel shortage.

The coastal mine type "A" barrage off Valaste was laid according to plan with 152 coastal mines type "A".

13 Aug. 1944

One troop transporter was escorted from Hangoe to Danzig.

In special transporters were transferred:

a. to the East: Steamer MONTE ROSA with 1167 soldiers from Danzig to Riga.

b. to the West: Steamer DRACHDIJK with 156 soldiers and 16 vehicles from Reval to Danzig.

The steamer MOLTKEFELS with 1420 soldiers, 510 horses and 76 vehicles from Riga to Gydinia.

The steamer MAR DEL PLATA with 1400 soldiers, 400 horses and 120 vehicles from Riga to Danzig.

The steamer EBERHARD ESSBERGER with 80 soldiers, 751 convicts, 106 railway personnel, 46 vehicles and 80 horses.

The steamer BRAKE and BERLIN with 2576 wounded from Riga to Danzig and steamer RUGEN with 400 wounded from Pernau to Danzig.

1596 tons of supplies were transferred for Army Group North to Riga and 1985 tons to Reval on the 12 Aug.

Admiral Eastern Baltic planned to transfer three artillery ferry barges from the Finnish Bay to Riga as a protection of the coastal road between Schlock and the Tuckum height.

Naval landing craft of the 13th Landing Flotilla were towing all fishing vessels from Engures Roja inclusively Lake Engures to Oesel.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic reports to the situation on land that the Baltic countries will have to be held further on according to the Fuehrer's orders and that efficient measures were announced from home for immediate accomplishment. Army Group North ordered to hold the main defense line unconditionally and to endure the next critical days by draining all possibilities and neglecting all considerations. In addition to this it might be necessary for the time being and in the case of need to employ the remaining reserve of shipborne anti-aircraft artillery at Riga.

13 Aug. 1944

IV. Submarine Warfare:

Special bombs were dropped on the submarine bunkers in the forenoon hours of the 13 Aug. according to reports from the base at Brest. No submarines were damaged by the quarries from the ceiling. Only two cranes were partly workable in the bunkers. Every night mines were dropped in harbor and roads. About five hits were reported in a bombing raid on the submarine bunkers at Bordeaux in the evening.

Special damage or casualties were not caused.

From the western boats submarine U "445" was attacked at 2225 in BF 6761 by a plane when on its way for supplies at Lorient. Further reports were not yet received.

Submarine U "260" arrived at La Pallice, submarine U "437" at Bordeaux, submarine U "621" and U "963" sailed from Brest with destination La Pallice.

Three submarines from Group Central arrived at Kiel for operations in the east.

Our radio monitoring intercepted an SSS-report of British Steamer from the Indian Ocean stating that a torpedo course was sighted at 2110 on the 13 Aug. in the position of about 350 miles northeasterly of Madras. It is unlikely that it was one of our own submarines, but a Japanese submarine might be operating in that area.

No special reports were received from the other operational areas.

---

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

About 950 enemy planes attacked zone of defense in depth and railway installations in Belgium/Northern France. Not less than about 3500 enemy planes were reported entering Western France which were partly protected by fighters. These attacks were concentrating on the area Argentan to Paris. In addition were attacked road targets and railway installations in the area of Bretigny, Etampes, Dreux as well as the air base and radio station northwesterly of

13 Aug. 1944

Melun. In connection with the big battle raging in the Normandy these operations on a large scale are of deciding importance. The own operations of 116 planes were without value in the area of Mortain, Le Mans and Alencon against air enemy superiority of this kind.

Two hundred enemy planes coming from Italy attacked gun positions in the area of Toulon. The preparations for a landing in this area were clearly perceptible more and more.

Enemy operations in the occupied Western Areas were relatively weak on the night of the 13 Aug. Also our own operations of dropping mines in the Seine Bay and attacking Mortree were carried out by a small number of planes. Seventy-five of our own planes were employed in the action at sea which was carried out without losses. Four He 111 supplied Brest while five He 111 were not able to supply St. Malo on account of not finding their destination. The supplies were dropped at St. Nazaire.

Reich Territory:

Only single air entries were reported during daytime from the total Reich Area. Hannover was attacked by 30 to 40 Mosquito planes on the night of the 13 Aug. Six planes were reported from Denmark, presumably supplying agents.

Mediterranean Theater:

Seven hundred and twenty enemy planes were in action in the Italian front area, and in the Upper Italian area. The attacks were concentrating on the area of the Ligurian coast and on the Po-plain and were directed against gun positions and traffic targets. Forty to 50 planes entered Hungary and attacked an air base which was unimportantly damaged on the night of the 12 Aug.

Air reconnaissance was made by our own planes on the 13 Aug. In this action one Me 410 was shot down near Spezia.

Eastern Area:

One thousand and thirty-four German and about 1955 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front on the 12 Aug. in which we suffered eleven losses and shot down 24 enemy planes.

13 Aug. 1944

Seventy two of our own bombers attacked bridges in the area of Magnuscew and Baranow on the night of the 12 Aug.

Eleven courier planes were detected above the Skagerrak on the night of the 13 Aug.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

1. Area Naval Group West:

Enemy Situation:

Convoy KMS 59 and GUS 48 sailing according to schedule were reported at 0915 off Punta Carnero in strength of 22 freighters and one tanker respectively one transporter, 43 freighters and 10 tankers.

Own Situation:

Bombs were dropped on Nice by enemy planes on the night of the 12 Aug. without causing damage. One plane was brought down. Our own convoy was attacked off Cap Camaret without effect in the same night.

It was reported that several air attacks were made with bombs and gun fire against batteries in the area Marseille-St. Tropez during forenoon hours.

One gun of the battery La Cride was a total loss and two more guns were damaged. Three guns in total were put out of action belonging to two other batteries. The batteries at Cepet, Napoleon and 5/1291 were only slightly damaged. The attacks against the batteries were continued at noon. In the afternoon an enemy air raid was made at the area of Sete. Block ship CENSI was sunk. Several guns were put out of action respectively were damaged at the coastal batteries.

One enemy submarine was sighted northeasterly of Cap Camaret around midnight.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

13 Aug. 1944

On the evening of the 12 Aug. the situation in the harbor and bay of Ajaccio was still unchanged. Reconnaissance made early and at forenoon was not free of objections owing to mist and sea fog.

Own Situation:

The second degree of alarm on the Italian west coast was changed at 1221 into first degree of alarm. This was cancelled on the morning of the 13 Aug. Strong enemy air surveillance was observed at the coast from Genoa to Mentone during daytime on the 12 Aug. Savona as well as the batteries westerly of Genoa and Imperia were attacked. Also active fighter bomber operations of the enemy were noticed on the night of the 12 Aug.

The presence of PT boats was for the first time detected by waning moon on the night of the 12 Aug. Own torpedo boats of foreign construction, on a reconnaissance thrust off Nizza were attacked without effect by two planes. One calcine buoy was finished.

Convoy and escort duties were carried out according to plan.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

The disposition of ships in Bari has increased compared with the 21 Jul. In total were located in the harbor three tankers, 19 freighters of a total of 129,000 BRT, further 70 auxiliary landing craft, 30 smaller vessels and ten naval vessels.

Two motor minesweepers sighted under way from Sibenice to Zara two gunboats in the southern entrance to the Pasma canal on the night of the 12 Aug. No contact was made.

The steamer CAGLIARI (2,568 BRT) was sunk in the harbor of Parenzo in a fighter bomber attack. It was reported that two planes were shot down and probably one more. One harbor defense vessel was sunk at Corsini in a fighter bomber attack. No damage was reported caused in an attack on Ravenna on the afternoon of the 12 Aug.

Attack by partisans was reported from southerly and easterly of Durazzo on the evening of the 12 Aug.

13 Aug. 1944

Mine carrier KIEBITZ, one torpedo boat of foreign construction and a submarine chaser carried out barrage task according to plan and arrived at Triest.

b. Aegean:

The Commanding Admiral, Aegean reported that since the beginning of the year the sea area more and more became the concentrated area of enemy submarine operations. Light naval forces of the Commanding Admiral, Aegean with special submarine chasers sunk at least six submarines up to now in the year 1944 and several more were damaged.

After all no special reports were received.

c. Black Sea:

One E-mine was swept in minesweeping operations off the Romanian coast five miles southeasterly of Constanta.

Convoys sailed according to plan.

The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea submitted a brief report concerning the operation against Odessa on the night of the 10 Aug. Copy according to teletype 2140.

d. Danube Situation:

Mines were again suspected between Km 744 and 955. At km 1086, 1006 and 889 one barge each sunk after hitting a mine. One tug was also damaged. Twenty nine vessels were in action sweeping mines. Eight minesweeper successes were reported in total on the 11 and 12 Aug.

---

VII. Situation in East Asia:

No special reports were received.

---

14 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

No special new reports were received.

---

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

I. Air Force "Reich" promised the Reich Commissioner for Maritime Shipping fighter protection for the transfer of the Hansa new constructions which was requested by Commanding Admiral, Defenses North on the 11 Aug. As this protection was not provided the Commander in Chief Navy informed the Commander in Chief Air Force and by copy the Reich Commissioner for Maritime Shipping that the transfer of ships from the Dutch area was not possible without sufficient fighter protection as the escorting forces of the navy alone cannot protect the ships against a strong enemy air attack. The plans for transferring the new constructions of the Hansa program to Germany starting in the middle of August therefore had to be cancelled.

Copy according to teletype from Commander in Chief, Navy according to 1/SK1 25139/44 Gkdos in War Diary Part C, Volume IIa.

II. Group West reports that at the most Dackel operations will be impossible only on three nights in August on account of the quoted current conditions after re-examining the disposition given by the Commander PT Boats. Therefore the group did not agree with the plans of the Commander PT Boats but issued orders for a further continuous employment of ready Dackel as soon as the needed number for operations were at hand. Sufficient stops for operations with normal torpedoes appear at indefinite periods as Dackel delivery is unregular and is not made in the expected amount.

III. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff again draws attention to the delivery of the PT Boats to the Finnish Navy. Commander in Chief Navy decided that the delivery should be made according to plan.

Quartermaster General, Naval Staff reported to the transportation situation that a total traffic stop prevailed in Belgium. Also in Romania and eastern Hungary transportation had nearly stopped for us.

14 Aug. 1944

IV. Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament.

a. Group West ordered the transfer respectively the demobilization of the torpedo depot Pilz.

b. To the question from the Fuehrer respectively Commander in Chief, Navy concerning the combination of Marder-Dackel as well as a mine function for Dackel the Chief, Torpedo Branch, Bureau of Naval Armament explains the difficulties for the developments respectively constructions of the mentioned combinations and draws attention to the one-man torpedo type "Hai".

The Commander in Chief, Navy ordered a re-examination and emphasized the point of view that targets should not be sighted and the advantage of the LUT (lagenunabhängiger Torpedo - torpedo independent of direction - Transl.) added with the minefuse should be made productive. The Chief, Torpedo Branch, Bureau of Naval Armament draws attention to the heavy stress under which the torpedo experimental establishment is working which led to the fact, that new tasks run at the expenses of the Ingolin torpedo. The Commander in Chief, Navy, ordered the Bureau of Naval Armament to adopt all suitable measures for the torpedo experimental establishment to live up to the expectations concerning production as required.

V. The Bureau of Naval Administration reports about the possibility of placing 6000 naval soldiers at the disposal of the shipyards for supporting the shipbuilding.

VI. Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division reports that the decision concerning the operation of 60 Marder which arrived already in Belgium may be held back till the 18th of this month. But then it should be decided whether the operation should be made in the Seine Bay or at the Southern French Coast. In the prevailing situation it seems questionable whether there are transportation facilities at hand to Southern France. Therefore a report on the situation will be presented on the 17 Aug. concerning traffic regulations. The Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division advised also to transfer the three PT boats from Italy into the Southern French Area. Transportation across the sea is not possible.

The planned operations by battle swimmers started at 2300 on the 13 Aug. No reports were yet received concerning results of operation.

14 Aug. 1944

VII. Army Situation:

Western Front:

A change in the situation was caused on the 13 Aug. by 'the American XV Army Corps (one infantry division, two tank divisions) which advanced up to now to the north against the line Gace-Argentan but which now turned off sharp to the west covering its northern and eastern wing. The enemy seems to have the plan of meeting the 7th Army from the rear respectively to counteract the recognized thrust of our own tank forces. He gained the area northerly of Foret d'Ecouvres. The situation there is uncertain owing to a dislocation of the telephone and wireless communications.

Only local fighting occurred at the northern front of the 5th Tank Army and 7th Army. The front straightening was carried out according to plan. Only at the 7th Army the enemy supervended a deeper penetration southeasterly of Vire. Stronger enemy pressure at Domfront as on the previous days. The loss of supply depots, the massing of the supply traffic on one single road and in special the strengthening of the enemy air force activity on account of the high pressure weather make the situation more difficult, especially the shifting of weakened formations.

The enemy was more or less not active in the Brittany in front of the fortresses of St. Nazaire and Lorient. Enemy tank concentrations at the northern front of Brest were crippled by our own artillery fire. The battle in the fortress of St. Malo has increased in embittered intensity. The garrison is fighting with heroic courage.

Presumably the own forces will perhaps be sufficient to cripple the enemy at the wing of the 7th Army in such a way that making the most of it, the 7th and 5th Army were able to withdraw from the enemy to the east. A later thrust to Avranches is no more feasible. With this also the Brittany seems to be finally lost so much more as in the meantime further landings of the enemy in the Brittany must be relied on without mentioning the presumable development of the situation in Southern France.

Italian Front:

Embittered local fighting occurred in the area of Florence. The Commander in Chief, Southwest reports to the imminent landing:

"The fact that the last departing USA convoy from the Mediterranean lies only about 12 to 15 freighters below the earlier average of the last corresponding convoys showed a remarkable

14 Aug. 1944

smaller number of freighters which indicates that the holding back of about 125 freighters (850,000 BRT) reached nearly the intended amount. Also this seems to confirm that the enemy operations will soon begin.

Several naval reports from the larger extent of the sea area westerly of Corsica seem to indicate that the enemy is protecting his concentrations on the western coast of Corsica by a safety belt."

"Heavy air raids against radar equipment at the southern French coast between the Rhone mouth and St. Tropez make a landing in this area more probable than an operation against the Ligurian coast, where of course the radar equipment at Cap Mele was also attacked on the 10 Aug. Simultaneous attacks in both directions were possible according to forces available."

Eastern Front:

Northern Ukraine:

Our own attack in the area westerly of Sanok made further progress, also the attack of the III. Tank Corps in the area westerly of the Vistula which meets strengthening enemy opposition and counter attacks especially at the northern wing.

Also southerly of Opatow we were no more successful in hemming in the enemy break through.

Army Group Central:

Parts of the older sections of Warsaw were retaken. The rebels who tried to break through to the north suffered heavy casualties.

Our own withdrawal movements between Warsaw and Bialystock were carried out according to plan. The enemy pursued quickly, numerous attacks were repulsed. The enemy attacks were still concentrating on the road Bialystock - Lyck. The bridgehead across the Bobr at Ossowiec had to be taken back in the face of a far superior enemy. The situation is exceedingly tense here.

No fighting of importance occurred at the Eastern Prussian front.

14 Aug. 1944

Army Group North:

An enemy break through was frustrated in extra-ordinary hard fighting northerly of the Düna. The enemy repeated his attacks up to 17 times.

We were furthermore not successful in blocking the enemy attack westerly and southwesterly of Pleskau which was carried out at least with 14 infantry divisions, reinforced by tank brigades. The enemy captured Werro and arrived in front of Anzen. Smaller German groups were surrounded by the enemy.

The development of the situation in this area endangers the whole Army Group North.

No fighting occurred at the Narva front.

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

The naval liaison officer of the High Command, Army, General Staff of the Army reported the plans of Army Group Centre to attack Tuckum from the West and northwest in the structure of mopping-up Courland on the 16th and 17 Aug. The support and cooperation of the available naval forces is requested in this operation. With daybreak the attack on Tuckum will start.

After inquiry the Naval Command, East reports that fighter protection is needed of available fighters at cockpit readiness off Libau and with daybreak of 16 Aug. one flight.

Naval Command, East instructed by copy Naval Staff, Operations Division of directives to the Commanding Admiral the 2nd Task Force, 6th Air Force, Admiral Eastern Baltic. According to this the operational management is in the hands of the Army Group Commander of the Naval Command East at the commanding post Kiel, the tactical management in the hands of the Commanding Admiral of the 2nd Task Force. Operation will be made by the PRINZ EUGEN, the 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla and the 6th Destroyer Flotilla. The PRINZ EUGEN will sail in time from Gydinia to reach the firing position at daybreak. Orders will be issued immediately to the 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla and 6th Destroyer Flotilla by the Commanding Admiral of the 2nd Task Force.

---

14 Aug. 1944

Special Items:

I. Situation Eastern Baltic:

1. Completing the above mentioned directions from the Naval Command, East the Naval Command ordered on account of the air situation the 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla to take over the escort duties of the PRINZ EUGEN up to the latitude of Libau. After that the flotilla should replenish bunkers at Libau and should be held in readiness to release the 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla should the need arise.

2. Transfer of "Doppelkopf" was cancelled.

3. According to information from Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy, the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command does not intend to transfer the proposed plans concerning operation "Tanne" which were made by the Naval Staff, Operations Division on the 10 Aug. to the Foreign Office, but issued the following statement:

"The Aaland islands are of deciding importance to our sea communications in the Bothnian Sea and Finland on account of their geographical situation.

The importance of the Aaland islands would increase seriously in strategical value by the continuous aggravation in the military situation should Finland drop out of the war. The Aaland islands, occupied by Russia would mean the strongest encroachment if not interruption of the ore supplies, a menace to our positions on the Estonian coast and reinforcement to Army Group North."

The Deputy Chief of Operations Staff attaches importance to the fact that his expressed judgement should harmonize with that of the Naval Staff.

4. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Army informed the Naval Staff about directives concerning elsewhere employment of 2600 Esthonians now employed with the Finnish Armed Forces. These should be transferred by the General, Finnish Armed Forces High Command to the embarkation port Hangoe from where the Chief, Supply and Transport should make arrangements for sea transportation to Reval.

14 Aug. 1944

II. Concerns West Area:

1. After relevant inquiry the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters was informed as follows:

"a. DM 1 should have been laid in the PT boat operation against Oxfordness. Operation was cancelled on account of strong destroyer defense.

b. DM 1 minefields were laid as defensive measures:

aa. Seven minefields between Etaples and St. Valery with a total of 800 mines.

bb. Three minefields 12 miles northwesterly of Ostende with a total of 300 mines.

2. Group West transferred the following mediation of situation informatively:

"The importance of the Gironde harbors and La Pallice as the only bases for submarines and supply-bases for the Brittany and remaining Atlantic coast forces us to draw the attention to the fact that the enemy intends to block these harbors obviously and with all means at disposal so that this blockage can only be forced by accepting serious losses. The activity of the enemy extends to air operations with mines and bombs against the entrances and harbors as well as of an uninterrupted patrol of the coastal shipping routes northerly of the Gironde."

3. Group West received instructions from the High Command Navy, Naval Staff, Quartermaster General to examine in agreement with the Commander in Chief, West the question of which batteries could be transferred from the Atlantic coast to a fortress for strengthening same especially in the Gironde estuary. Preparations should be made for the quickest transfer but execution orders must first be received from the Naval Staff.

III. The Special Representative Danube proposes to appoint the Inspector of the Minesweeping Service Danube in Belgrad to the post of Director of the Defense Division Danube by retention of present duties and enlargement of his staff correspondingly after Group South refused to accept the proposal of taking over the organization of the convoy service on the Danube as being outside of the area of operations of the navy. The Special Representative

14 Aug. 1944

Danube expects much from this proposed solution especially a remarkable increase of performances of the Danube shipping which needs a stern military supervision. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff has the further adaption.

IV. The fuel assignment for convoy protection and sea distress service allows only the most urgent escorting on part of the Air Force according to information from the High Command, Air Southeast. Group South advises to carry out convoy protection in the Northern Aegean by BV 138 as there were no aggravated fuel restrictions for these at present and that the convoy protection by RA 196 would be limited by this exclusively to the Southern Aegean alone. (south of 38° latitude). The Group indicates that an urgent transfer of a part of an echelon of BV 138 is advisable.

The Naval Staff agrees with this conception of Group South and asked Operations Staff, High Command Air to accept the proposal of Group South should the Diesel fuel situation allow operations in the Northern Aegean.

V. The Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division informed the Highest Command of the Navy, the administrator on the enemy situation of the remaining Armed Forces and the Armed Forces, High Command about the refined interpretation of aerial photographs made on reconnaissance of the Ajaccio area on the 12 Aug. as well as of information from the Reich Security Head Office received from reliable quarters according to which a landing can be expected in Southern France on the 14 Aug.

The Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division issued also an extract from the enemy situation review in the Mediterranean from the Operations Staff, High Command Air, Foreign Affairs Section dated 13 Aug. The knowledge of the air situation from the western Mediterranean and from the Adriatic alone does not allow an accurate interpretation concerning the place of enemy landings.

The Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division emphasizes again they believe that most probably the main landing operation will be directed against Southern France. The Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division believes also that the strength of the enemy forces and the tonnage situation in the Mediterranean allows also at the same time a landing operation on a limited scale in the Adriatic directed against the Balkan.

14 Aug. 1944

VI. The Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division, Enemy Situation Branch issued a summary describing the alterations which occurred in Europe since the 18 Jul. in heavy naval forces, in merchant shipping and in landing craft tonnage. Execution of the charts according to 1/SK1 30687/44 GEH. in War Diary Part D, Volume VI.

---

Situation on the 14 Aug. 1944

I. West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Fifty five planes in action were detected by 19th Group. Two British vessels were detected in the rendez-vous area.

According to radio monitoring monitor Erebus was mentioned as being in the invasion area.

Destroyer patrols were detected in the sea area of Quessant, St. Mathieu, Point du Raz and Concarneau on the night of the 13 Aug. Strong patrol activity by destroyers and PT boats was ascertained by detecting set in the sea area of the Channel Islands as well as the usual patrol in the Seine Bay.

Several enemy PT boats were westerly of Quessant in the forenoon hours of the 14 Aug. Three vessels were sighted in BF 6456 in 293° at 1940.

Alderney sighted off Cap de la Hague a destroyer and several PT boats steering northeasterly course at 0910. Radar station Blanc Nez reported eight freighters with four man of wars and three convoy destroyers off South Foreland on NE course between 0730 and 0950.

Cap de la Heve reported no observations by a sighting distance of 8 to 10 miles.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

Three minesweepers sailed with army supplies for the fortresses from Royan to St. Nazaire at 2130 on the 13 Aug. Destroyer Z "24" sailed at 2300 from Royan as a remote escort up to Belle Ile.

14 Aug. 1944

An entering submarine convoy was attacked with bombs in Royan without effect from 0645 to 0723.

Two submarines were escorted leaving La Pallice. Mine exploding vessel "5" and "6" were attacked by Mosquito planes on the night of the 13 Aug. Both ships were destroyed. The entrance of La Pallice was blocked owing to suspected ground mines.

Patrol Boat VP "605" sank off La Pallice at 0800 after striking a ground mine. Crew and weapons were rescued. Minesweeper M "4463" sank in the same area at 1032 after striking a mine.

Till now no damage was reported caused in the attack by 38 British bombers on the submarine bunkers and naval school Brest at 1050.

The tanker SHELL 8 also hit a mine off La Pallice at 1400.

The three minesweepers with supplies arrived at St. Nazaire at 0800.

The batteries ARS and army coastal battery 2/1280 shelled shortly after midnight detected targets off Ile de Re without observing results. Detected targets which were shelled by the batteries of the island Yeu turned off.

Land Situation Brittany:

St. Malo:

The enemy started to attack Dinard with tank and infantry from Pleurtuit at 1800 on the 13 Aug. After heavy fighting in which three of our own remaining assault guns were destroyed by fighter bombers the enemy succeeded in advancing up to 2 km southerly of Dinard. The village lies under heavy fire. Three tanks were put out of action.

Battery Lunaire reports a successful surprise firing at an enemy battery. Battery Cecembre shelled tank concentrations and single targets in front of Dinard with good results.

The enemy started to renounce test firing against loopholes and tower at 1800 on the 13 Aug. after applying eight carpet bombings to battery Cecembre. After the use of remarkable amounts of ammunition and the use of phosphorus two machine guns were still in

14 Aug. 1944

action at 2000. Two companies of the enemy captured the fort by assault at 2130. Forces of the army and navy were defending it and fought heroically to the last. Three carpet bombings and single bombs were dropped on battery Grande Bey. The command post was badly damaged. Batteries Cecembre and Grande Bey were further under continuous heavy artillery barrage.

The enemy started to attack the town of St. Malo with tanks and strong artillery support at 0900 on the 14 Aug. The citadel is under steady anti-tank and artillery fire. The garrison has at its disposal only small arms for its defense.

Brest:

Several assault attacks were made against batteries and field positions on the 13 Aug. the effect of which was small. Our own artillery fought against enemy groups, tanks and terrorists at Cap Lamidut and Cap Corsen. Artillery fire covered the town and harbor from 0410 to 0500 where fires were started.

Lieutenant General Ramcke took over the command in the fortress area.

Lorient:

Etel, Erdeven and Belz in the Etel estuary were occupied by the enemy on the 13 Aug.

The total naval maintenance and canteen stores were transferred into the fortress.

Slight damage was caused in the naval anti-aircraft artillery formation through an enemy fighter bomber attack on the forenoon hours of the 14th.

The 7,5 cm battery of Belle Ile with four guns and a crew of 60 men was transferred to Lorient to be employed on the land front.

No special new reports were received from St. Nazaire.

Sea Area Channel:

Operation of the 2nd and 6th Minesweeper Flotilla and the transfer of the 8th Minesweeper Flotilla could not be carried out on account of fog.

14 Aug. 1944

The 10th Minesweeper Flotilla had an engagement with destroyers and motor gun boats when carrying out mining operations on the night of the 13 Aug. Enemy vessels were hit by the formation and suffered only slight damage and casualties. The formation was pursued by destroyers for about 10 minutes. Through this engagement so much time was lost that the mining task had to be postponed. All boats arrived in Ostende. When withdrawing it was observed that the enemy shelled his own ships.

The 24th Minesweeper Flotilla while on escort had an engagement with at least three destroyers and four PT boats on the night of the 13 Aug. in which the artillery of the island assisted us hopefully. Our own damage is small, our casualties were larger.

Group C of the 36th Minesweeper Flotilla was attacked by bombs without effect shortly after midnight northwesterly of Calais.

The battle swimmer operation was unsuccessful on account of contrary outside influences.

Two hundred and fifty BRT were escorted in traffic between the Channel Islands.

For the night of the 14 Aug. torpedo operation was planned with four boats of the 2nd Minesweeper Flotilla, Dackel operation with two boats of the 6th Minesweeper Flotilla and transfer of the 2nd Group of the 8th Minesweeper Flotilla from Rotterdam to Bologne meeting the Commander 8th Minesweeper Flotilla with the 1st Group off Ostende. With five boats the 10th Minesweeper Flotilla will contaminate the convoy route. Also minefield K5b will be laid.

---

## II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

### North Sea:

Five planes were shot down in an air raid against an Ems-Elbe convoy in the early morning hours of the 13 Aug. Minesweeper M "83" was not sunk as reported, but minesweeper M "383".

The minefield K 9 was planted off Zandfoort consisting of 304 coastal mines type "A".

Enemy PT boats were sighted in position Kairo at 0025 which turned off after star shell firing.

14 Aug. 1944

Escort duties were carried out according to plan in the Heligoland Bight. The Ems convoy was postponed. On account of rough sea, minesweeping operations were restricted off the Dutch coast.

Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty three planes in action were detected by 18th Group.

2. Own Situation:

An enemy battery shelled a communication ship in the Petsamo Fjord on the afternoon of the 13 Aug. Single enemy planes were reported on the 12th and 13 Aug. from different areas of the European coast.

Twelve ships were escorted to the North and 19 to the South.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

Radio monitoring detected two minesweeper divisions and 25 naval vessels in the Finnish Bay on the 13 Aug., six smaller vessels were in AO 3744 heading SW and two vessels were in AO 3742 heading west on the afternoon of the 14 Aug.

According to a report from the naval command Hungerburg one submarine was sighted in AO 3662 at 1702. Six enemy planes were reported in AO 3744 in circular flight dropping depth charges. According to a report from submarine U "348" belonging to the Narva patrol an enemy submarine was detected for sure in our own area. Mines were suspected southerly of 59° 31' north latitude and westerly of 27° 32' East longitude. Submarine U "481" believes a mistake with one of our own boats possible in spite of good listening conditions.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

14 Aug. 1944

Patrol boat positions were not occupied off the western Jutlandic coast owing to the weather situation.

According to a report from the naval attache Stockholm the Norwegian steamer ERLING-LINDO under way from Oslo to Varberg hit a mine on the night of the 11 Aug. and sank. No escort duties were made.

Westerly and Central Baltic:

One high explosive bomb was dropped on the submarine bunker in the Deutsche Werke at Kiel in a harassing attack on the night of the 12 Aug. which caused no delay in production.

Twenty three vessels and one mine exploding vessel as well as five minesweeper planes were employed with mine sweeping tasks.

Among others the LEIPZIG, EMDEN and motor ship OSTMARK were escorted.

In the matter of the steamer which sank off Nidden on the 13 Aug. it was confirmed that the steamer in question was the TF 11. The cause of the sinking was a torpedo hit and gunfire shelling.

The convoy RÜGEN was attacked by eight Boston planes WSW of Memel at noon on the 13th. Casualties were insignificant.

On the forenoon and afternoon of the 14th single enemy reconnaissance planes entered the area of Peenemünde - St. Ralsund from the west and Windau from the east.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

The mine operation Seeigel 10 b was postponed till further orders.

In special transports steamer WARTHE is under way with parts of the 82nd Infantry Regiment from Danzig to Riga, steamer BREMERHAVEN with 1265 wounded from Riga to Swinemünde and steamer CELEBES with 180 soldiers and 3962 prisoners of war from Riga to Danzig.

1895 tons of supplies were transported to Riga on the 13 Aug. for Army Group North.

In total the Baltic Countries received from the 25 Jul. to the 13 Aug.: 27 379 men, 93 horses, 145 vehicles. Carried back were:

14 Aug. 1944

15 782 men, 25 362 wounded, 21 679 prisoners of war, 55 004 evacuated, 2 735 horses and 539 vehicles.

Reinforcements for Army Group North from the 1st to the 13 Aug. to Riga amounted to 26 795 tons, to Reval 27 593 tons and in total 54 388 tons, two guns and 16 vehicles. The daily average amounts to 4 184 tons.

The Naval Command East presents a brief report concerning the conference between the Operations Officer, Admiral, Eastern Baltic and Finnish Naval Staff and Staff of the Fleet. Copy according to teletype 1/SK1 25157/44 Gkdos in War Diary Part C, Volume III.

---

IV. Mercantile Shipping:

1. The Reich Security Head Office reported that according to statement from the Foreign Office, Sweden stopped the remittance of war risks also to ships which sail westerly of Holtenau so that in future Swedish ships will not sail for the North Sea. The effect of this order cannot be esteemed yet. About 60% of the Swedish ore exportation was carried by Swedish ships which amounts at present to 420 000 tons per month. From this amount 150 000 tons per month remain in the Baltic. The Reich Security Head Office intends to transfer the remaining 270 000 tons per month to Stettin and shift them from there with German tonnage to the North Sea.

2. Commanding Admiral, Defenses North presented a proposal dated 16 Jul. concerning the altering of sailing routes for merchant shipping at the western Jutlandic coast for the case that the closing of the Kiel canal should be necessary which the Naval Command recommended and passed on. The Naval Command agreed with the advised preparations and measures and authorized the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North to instruct all officers concerned inclusively the Reich Security Head Office so that no time is lost if the canal should be closed. Execution will be made on the codeword "Nordlicht".

Copy according to decree 1/SK1 II 23296/44 Gkdos in War Diary Part C, Volume XI.

14 Aug. 1944

V. Submarine Warfare:

Submarine U "763" and U "281" arrived at La Pallice.

No special reports were received from the remaining operational areas.

---

VI. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Three hundred and sixty enemy planes entered Belgium/Northern France and raided the area of the Schelde estuary up to Fecamp. About 900 planes were employed in the area of army operations.

Seven hundred of four-engined enemy planes from Italy entered the area of Toulon for bombing operations. Ninety enemy planes were reported from the area Dieppe-Fontainebleau-Fecamp on the night of 14 Aug.

Eighty of our own planes were employed during the day in operations supporting the army operations and destroyed several vehicles of the enemy. Eleven enemy planes were shot down, with three own losses.

Nineteen of our own planes planted mines in the Seine-Bay on the night of the 14 Aug. in which one Ju 88 was lost. Twelve of our own planes attacked Sylvain and 79 attacked the southern part of Caen. Considerable consequences were observed at both targets.

Reich Territory:

Eight hundred to 1000 four-engined enemy planes with fighter protection raided towns in the southwestern area of the Reich at forenoon. Specially mentioned were Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, Stuttgart, Kaiserslautern, Trier and Hagenau. In addition a number of air bases as well as freight trains were attacked. For reports of damages see the "Daily Situation Report". No report was yet received concerning our own defense successes.

14 Aug. 1944

About 40 Mosquito planes attacked Berlin on the night of the 14 Aug. Five Mosquitos raided the Ruhr chemical plants at Holten as well as at Oberhausen.

Mediterranean Theater:

Four hundred and thirty four-engined enemy planes with fighter protection entered the frontal area and the Po-plain on the 13 Aug. Field and coastal positions at the Ligurian coast were attacked as well as railway targets and air bases in the Po-plain. Thirty twin-engined planes were in action against bridge targets at the Etsch-estuary. Five became the victims of the anti-aircraft artillery. Additional 30 planes attacked Itek, 90 km northeasterly of Skutari.

Fifty enemy planes were reported supplying partisans in the Balkan area, 70 in the area of Genoa, 20 in the remaining upper Italian area and three planes were planting mines in the Danube on the night of the 13 Aug.

Own planes were on reconnaissance in Italian waters on the 14 Aug.

Air reconnaissance reported at 1915 two convoys in CJ 1769 in total of 100 to 120 planes on westerly course in the middle of which were heavily guarded landing craft. The formation was protected by strong anti-aircraft artillery and a strong air screen.

Evidently the invasion of the Southern French coast started with this.

Eastern Area:

Four hundred and twenty five German and 1960 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front of which twelve enemy planes were shot down.

---

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea:

1. Area Naval Group West:

14 Aug. 1944

Enemy Situation:

The observations of our own air reconnaissance made at 1915 concerning the landing convoy were reported.

No special reports were received from the Gibraltar area.

Own Situation:

Naval Group West transmitted at 2355 the report from Army Group G:

"Bombs were dropped on the lighthouse and town center of Marseille at 2205 as well as numerous white and red flare signals. Parachutists jumped into the submarine bunker ground and southern part of Marseille at 2230."

The German Naval Command Italy was informed.

Continuously heavy air raids were launched against the harbor and town of Marseille at 2235.

Numerous sea targets were reported 24 miles southerly of Ciotat at 2341. Landings must be expected with daylight respectively in the early morning hours.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

The presence of 18 torpedo boats and 15 artillery motor torpedo boats further one destroyer and two coastal vessels was confirmed through photographic reconnaissance in Calvi at forenoon of the 13th. The arrival of a monitor and further motor gun boats in the harbor and bay of Ajaccio was confirmed.

Five ships were detected at the western coast of Corsica about 24 miles southwesterly to 40 miles westerly of Ajaccio at 0010 probably defense units and 16 ships 30 miles southwesterly of Ajaccio at 0120.

Our own early reconnaissance made of the northwestern coast of Corsica, of the Ligurian area and of the sea area surrounding Elba were not perfect owing to sea fog and mist.

14 Aug. 1944

A withdrawing PT boat group was detected by radar southwesterly of Sestri Levante.

Own Situation:

One vessel was sunk in an enemy air raid on Pietra Ligure in the Gulf of Genoa early on the 13 Aug. At noon of the same day batteries were raided again westerly of Genoa. One 19 cm emergence anti-aircraft artillery battery and accommodation quarters were destroyed. Genoa itself was attacked at 2330 on the 13 Aug. In this operation the mine carrier DIETRICH VON BERN was sunk and one torpedo boat of foreign construction was damaged.

In Savona arriving minesweeper and patrol boats were attacked without effect by enemy fighter bombers on the night of the 13 Aug.

Escort duties were carried out according to plan.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

One withdrawing boat group each was intercepted with detecting equipment southeasterly of Venice and southeasterly of Ravenna. No contact was made.

Two small freighters, one destroyer, and five probable motor gun boats or PT boats were off Ancona at 0630. One freighter was reported on SE course five miles easterly of Brindisi.

Several fighter bombers attacked the town and harbor of Venice with bombs and gunfire from 0630 to 0710. The hospital ship FREIBURG was damaged by fragmentation bombs and suffered slight casualties. One naval landing craft and one harbor defense boat shot down two planes with the support of the harbor anti-aircraft artillery. Since the commissioning of the hospital ship FREIBURG up to the 12 Aug. more than 10 000 wounded have been transferred back.

No own losses occurred in an enemy air raid carried out by four fighter bombers against the harbor of Parenzo. The ships anti-aircraft artillery of steamer CAGLIARI shot down one plane. In the air raid against Parenzo made on the 13 Aug. it was reported that six planes in total were brought down by ships, air force and naval emergency anti-aircraft artillery.

14 Aug. 1944

Eighteen coastal mines type "A" were further laid off Rimini.

b. Aegean:

No special reports were received.

c. Black Sea:

One E-mine was swept in minesweeping operations from the submarine area six miles southeasterly of Constanta. Two more E-mines were swept by minesweeping planes six miles northerly of Constanta.

No reports were received concerning the Danube Situation.

---

VIII. Situation East Asia:

No special reports were received.

---

15 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

Special new reports were not received.

---

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1125.

I. In connection with the air situation a report was made from the enemy's review based on report from the Operations Staff High Command Air, Foreign Affairs Section dated 15th: All allied close combat Headquarters planned to participate in the invasion were henceforth transferred to the continent. The plan to transfer also the heavy close combat corps to the continent is suspected. Close combat formations still stationed in Great Britain were in the main tied down with long range reconnaissance and escorting tasks.

II. The received information in particular does not supply us with a clear picture concerning the events on the Southern French coast. Enemy landings were carried out at different places in the area between Toulon and Nice in the early morning hours. This time the enemy news service did not supply us with particulars which might be of value to us.

III. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff:

a. The Air Force strengthened the defense of Stettin, Danzig, Königsberg and Riga. Baltic Port and Pernau were to receive anti-aircraft artillery defenses and those of Reval will be strengthened. Not decided were the questions yet concerning the smaller ports as Kolberg, Rügenwaldermünde and Stolpmünde. The Naval Command East intends to withdraw the anti-aircraft artillery guns from the area of Kiel for these ports.

b. The General Staff Air Force finally declined to place plane fuel at disposal for the purpose of target manœuvres.

IV. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

The provisional French Government published a proclamation to the French people asking them for a national rebellion.

In the near future the provisional government planned to move to France.

15 Aug. 1944

Russian press commentators stated for the first time their attitude to the change of the Finnish Government. The Prawda demands a complete severing of relations with Germany.

V. The first task force presented the combat report of the battleship TIRPITZ concerning the air attack which was made on the 17 Jul. It is peculiar that the anti-aircraft artillery security officer of the watch gave the air raid alarm  $1\frac{1}{2}$  minutes later than the anti-aircraft artillery alarm. It was secured by this that the anti-aircraft artillery was ready for action ahead of the other members of the crew in the shortest possible time and reached their stations unmolested. Still the command did not approve of the measures taken by the artillery officer as the weakest point in the defense is the relatively long time needed to close the bulkheads. The unready conditions of the bulkheads on the 3 Apr. were of disadvantage. A number of photographs made of the attack against the TIRPITZ on the 3 Apr. were filed under 1/SK1 25376/44 Gkdos in War Diary Part B, Volume 5.

Conference Restricted to a Very Limited Circle.

VI. Army Situation:

Western Front:

After preparing the ground with intense bombardment and carpet bombing the British fighting forces also attacked now with heavy tank forces easterly of the Orne on both sides of the road leading to Ealaise. On a width of 15 km the front was penetrated to a depth of 10 km. The break through was not yet blocked, improvised reserves were brought up. Fifty tanks were disabled up to now.

Simultaneously with this attack from the north the enemy who is continuously receiving reinforcements tries to advance from the south between Carrouges and Argentan. In embittered fights he was repulsed. Everywhere the enemy started to attack also at the northern and western front by concentrating at local points and achieved penetrations. At Domfront the enemy pressure was most disagreeable to us.

The ammunition and fuel situation is growing more critical with every hour.

The western front of the 7th Army was withdrawn 5 to 10 km to the east during the night. At several divisional sectors were movements at day nearly impossible owing to the enemy air force.

15 Aug. 1944

In the battle area of St. Malo the enemy is still pressing with tanks and supported by artillery against the town. Single bases were lost. The garrison is defending itself only with small arms. The citadel is our main defense base.

Only little activity was reported from the area of the fortresses at the Gulf of Biscay.

From the Army were no other reports received as those made by the Navy concerning the landings in Southern France.

Italian Front:

No special activity was reported.

Eastern Front:

Army Group Northern Ukraine:

Our own attack made further headway westerly of Sanok and in the area southwesterly of Sandomir. The enemy is at least bringing up five infantry divisions across the Vistula into the area southwesterly of Sandomir to strengthen with these his two tank armies.

The enemy was successful in penetrating our defense front westerly of Sandomir. There 51 tanks were disabled.

Army Group Central:

The enemy launched a large scale attack from the bridge-head Warka. In embittered fighting he was in the main repulsed and 63 tanks were destroyed. The absence of our own air force is a heavy burden to the troops.

Our mopping-up actions were continued successfully at Warsaw.

Stronger enemy attacks were repulsed southeasterly of Warsaw. The enemy is reviving furtherly his attacking armies in this area.

There were relatively no actions at the front between the Bug and the Memel. A counter attack was launched by our own troops in the area of Raseinen. After breaking the heavy enemy resistance the attack resulted in a complete success and in the recapturing of the old main defense line southerly and easterly of Raseinen.

15 Aug. 1944

Army Group North:

The enemy continued his large scale attack against the left wing of the 18th Army concentrated in northwesterly direction. Tough resistance of our own weak formations and successful operations of our own air force prevented the enemy from capturing essential ground.

Operations of the Second Task Force in the Riga Bay were postponed to the 16 Aug.

To the information given by the Naval Liaison Officer of Army Group North dated 10 Aug. concerning allegedly insufficient ammunition supplies, the Chief of the Sea Transportation, Armed Forces Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch in agreement with the homeland staff Scandinavia states that 20 500 tons of ammunition were brought on their way to the Baltic countries between the 1st and 10th Aug. and that tonnage was further sufficiently at disposal so that the impression is given that evidently wrong conceptions prevail concerning the sea transportation. Quartermaster General, Armed Forces High Command was informed as to the freezing conditions, that in the last two years no freezing avoidances at all took place in Reval and Riga. One hundred minesweepers were requested from the Reich Commissioner of Maritime Shipping to procure the necessary provisions for the winter of which 59 were already in action while the missing were to follow. If sufficient cargo is available above the monthly amount these special supplies could be transferred to the Baltic countries without difficulty. Finally it is asked to inform Army Group North and to insist on a quick dispatch in the harbors so that the number of ships might be increased.

VIII. The Commander in Chief Navy intends to mobilize all scientific and creative resources in the High Command under the leadership of an able personality who was already found.

IX. The Chief Naval Staff draws attention to the fact that an evacuation of the western French coast outside of the fortress areas is now necessary.

The Commander in Chief, Navy remarks to this that an universal order to this point could only be issued by the Fuehrer. Necessary orders were already issued concerning the special valuable shipyard workers and submarine crews. Now it only depends to secure the valuable specialists of the mobile formations as far as they were not needed by the fortress.

15 Aug. 1944

Special Items.

I. Concerns Eastern Baltic:

The Admiral Eastern Baltic reports about a discussion with Army Group North concerning the theoretical premeditations which were at present not discussable but might be started on short notice for the case that Army Formation Narva should be withdrawn southerly to Riga. Should this not be possible on account of disturbances by the enemy the transportations of the army formation should be arranged from Reval by sea-routes.

The Admiral Eastern Baltic stated the transportation task for the navy in detail resulting from this.

The Naval Staff, Operations Division requested first of all the attitude of the Naval Command East & Quartermaster General, Shipping and Transport Branch. Copy of order in 1/SK1 I op 2455/44 Gkdos Chefs. in War Diary Part C, Volume III.

II. The Chief of the Fleet proposes the appointment of a second Admiral for the training formation fleet referring to the report which was made to the Commander in Chief Navy on the 11 Aug.

Further negotiations in this matter were left to the Naval Staff Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch.

III. Transit Camp North was placed under the command of Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division on the 2 Aug. by orders from Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch.

IV. To the proposal of the Special Commissioner for the Danube concerning convoy escorts, Group South posts the following attitude:

When employing ship anti-aircraft artillery units or transportation defense regiments on all Danube ships a ships escort should be left away as they were in the main purpose only planned as beaters. According to the opinion of the group continuation of the journey by the vessels could more easily be forced by anti-aircraft artillery crews than by escorting vessels.

The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch will attend to this question further.

In the evening the Commander in Chief, Navy left for the Headquarters of the Fuehrer.

15 Aug. 1944

Situation on the 15 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Forty five planes in action were detected by 19th Group. Five British vessels were detected in the rendez-vous area.

Targets were detected off Point du Raz and Ile de Re as well as westerly of Griz Nez, at Etaples as well as from Cap Antifer to the Orne estuary and southeasterly of Quessant.

Our own air reconnaissance observed off the Orne estuary 15 transporters at about 1930 adrift. In total were observed in the sea area of Courseulles 32 freighters, 49 landing craft, three PT boats, one monitor, one cruiser, three hospital ships and in the estuary at Courseulles 72 landing vessels on the night of the 15th.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

Supplementary it was reported to the 12 Aug. that mine exploding vessel "7" was sunk by a torpedo at 1635 after an engagement with three enemy destroyers. Three planes were shot down and probably two more by mine exploding vessel "7" and mine-sweeper "4204".

In addition it was reported to the 14th that mine exploding vessel "6" sank in the roads of Royan at 0800.

Destroyer Z "24" was attacked on the Gironde by enemy planes with bombs and gunfire at 2105 on the 14th. The boat received 60 hits of aircraft fire; weapons, apparatus and ships body were damaged as well as medium casualties were reported. Four of the attacking planes were shot down. A low level attack was carried out at the same time against the PT boats at Le Verdon. The number of planes shot down was raised to five certain and two probables.

Torpedo Boat T "24" and plane tender RICHTHOFEN, on their way from St. Nazaire to Royan had an engagement with enemy forces southerly of Les Sables at 0310 on the 15th. Torpedo Boat "24" reported

15 Aug. 1944

fire in aft ship. Particulars were not yet received. The RICHTHOFEN is ready for action. Both ships dropped anchor in the roads of La Pallice. The engagement was supported with effect by the battery "Ars" from 0329 to 0400,

Mine exploding vessel "157" and two minesweepers had an engagement with enemy forces on their way from St. Nazaire to La Pallice, westerly of Les Sables from 0505 to 0515. The mine exploding vessel and one minesweeper were reported afire off St. Gilles at 1112. The second minesweeper ran aground off Bretignolles. The crews were rescued. Further particulars were not known yet.

Several enemy planes were reported above the Gironde on the night of the 14th. The planting of 15 mines was observed. Seven mines were swept off La Pallice and one off Courtes.

The steamer MIDSLAND (1089 BRT) sailed with three escort vessels from La Pallice to Royan.

According to a report from Group West motorlorry transports from Paris to the harbors of the Western coast and also to the southern ports of the Atlantic coast were not possible anymore owing to enemy guerilla warfare and absence of escort protection.

Land Situation Brittany:

St. Malo:

The enemy was pressing hard against Dinard and the advanced positions of the fortress "Paulus" at 1800 on the 14th. Tanks advanced into the town of St. Malo. Through cooperation of the batteries "Grande Bey" and "Cecembre" the northern brim of the town is held. Since morning hours the citadel is under concentrated artillery and anti-tank gunfire.

Lezardrieux - Paimpol:

The enemy succeeded in breaking into Tregnier through the support of tanks. Attacks by terrorists against Paimpol were repulsed, three demands to surrender were again rejected.

Lezardrieux reported at 1800: "Secret material was destroyed. The enemy has forced his way into the town, further opposition is useless, long live the Fuehrer!"

15 Aug. 1944

Brest:

Steamer SUDETENLAND and minesweeper M "4001" sank after a bombing raid on the night of the 14th. Three of the attacking planes were shot down. Our own fire is directed against the enemy positions at Gousnou and infantry positions in the area of Guiparras. Milizac was occupied by terrorists.

Concarneau:

The situation is quiet. The outer districts were occupied by terrorists. The shipyard installations at Benodet were thoroughly destroyed while evacuating.

St. Nazaire:

No special new reports were received.

Sea Area Channel:

Command of Special Weapons reported that twelve battle swimmers were operating in the Seine Bay on the night of the 13th. The operation was started from Franceville but owing to poor visibility no targets were located. All battle swimmers returned.

Torpedo operations by the 2nd Minesweeper Flotilla were cancelled on the night of the 14th. Owing to weather situation eight Dackel were launched from the route marking buoy Le Havre by two boats of the 6th Minesweeper Flotilla between 2258 and 2329 on the 14 May [T.n. should obviously mean Aug.]. About seven detonations were heard by observation posts between 0005 and 0022 of which three could also be observed. A steady strong glow of fire and the sinking of an object was observed at 0145. Group West attaches little trustworthiness to these observations as evidently the firing of heavy ships artillery was accepted as detonations.

The transfer operation of the 8th PT Boat Flotilla from Rotterdam to Boulogne was carried out. PT boat S "196" arrived with PT boat S "198" at Calais owing to rudder trouble.

---

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

15 Aug. 1944

North Sea:

Convoy traffic between the different river estuaries and minesweeper duties were carried out according to plan. The laying of the coastal mine type "A" minefield K 10 off Nordwijk was continued.

Arriving and returning bomber formations were shelled by naval anti-aircraft artillery in the Heligoland Bight at noon. It was reported that two planes were shot down in the area of Ymuiden.

Norway, Northern Waters.

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty planes in action were detected by 18th Group northerly of the Shetland Islands.

2. Own Situation:

Twelve ships were escorted to the north and 29 ships to the south.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

According to the quoted statement of an American air force officer who made a forced landing in Switzerland, the Anglo-Americans had the firm intentions of landing at the Danish-Schleswig-Holsteinian coast in the beginning of July. All preparations were made, the air force squadrons had already received their orders. The reasons for the cancellation of this operation were not known. The Naval Staff Naval Intelligence Division remarked to this that important forces were still available in Great Britain which were consecutively replaced and would absolutely be sufficiently strong for an operation of this kind. Sufficient ships and landing tonnage were available. Preparations for the needed air formations could be made on short notice. The possibility of an enemy landing operation must also be kept in mind further especially on account of the sea strategical importance of this area, and according to the development of the military situation on the eastern or western front.

15 Aug. 1944

According to a report from the Naval Attaché Stockholm the Swedish press believes in the probability of the transfer of German submarines to Norway. Acute interest is caused by German measures in Norwegian shipyards and harbors.

Radio monitoring detected one minesweeper division and 24 naval vessels on the 14 Aug. in the Finnish Bay.

Thirty two smaller vessels in total were sighted in the inner Narva Bay and off Kurgolowo at forenoon on the 15th.

The batteries Sillamae II and I shelled seven motor minesweepers on which one hit was observed. The targets disappeared to the north under a smoke screen.

Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

After the precedence Helsingoer work was stopped in the shipyards of Kopenhagen. The reasons were the shooting of eleven political prisoners who tried to escape when transported to Germany. The Danish Government promised that work would be taken up on the 16 Aug.

Two reconnaissance planes probable Swedish were located 30 km northeasterly of Skagen in the Kattegat at forenoon.

Fifteen vessels were employed with minesweeping duties in the entrances to the Baltic.

Central and Western Baltic:

Twenty three vessels, one mine exploding vessel and four minesweeping planes were employed with minesweeping duties. Among others the HIPPER, destroyer Z"30" and eight transporters were escorted.

According to a report from the plane reporting centre Baltic countries one Russian torpedo plane regiment was stationed at Schulen and Ponebesh.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

Batteries Sillamae II and I were under heavy bombardment by the enemy.

15 Aug. 1944

The 1st Minesweeper Flotilla received orders to examine the area of the Narva Bay where an enemy submarine was reported.

Destroyer Z "35" sailed from Turku for Reval. As special transports sailed to the east: the WARTHE, ILLER, BRAKE, LAPPLAND, ROBERT MÖHRING, GOTENLAND and SUMATRA; to the west: the TANGA and REGINA. For particulars see the "Daily Situation Report".

Reinforcements for Army Group North amounted on the 14 Aug. to 3116 tons to Riga and 388 tons to Rival.

Six ground attacking planes raided Dorpat at Lake Peipus on the evening of the 14th. The navy reports no losses.

---

#### IV. Mercantile Shipping:

Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division reports in brief report 14/44 among others the departure of the Italian steamer ANDALUSIA from Santa Cruz at Tenerife and published further the Swedish press commentaries to the speed boat traffic with England exporting ball-bearings and special steel from Sweden.

114 907,3 tons of ore were shipped from Lulea between the 2nd and 8th July. 48 974 tons of these were shipped with Swedish boats.

---

#### V. Submarine Warfare:

In the Black Sea submarine U "18" achieved a hit on an escort vessel and one probable hit on a freighter of 1500 BRT about 10 miles northwesterly of Poti on the 2 Aug. In the same area the boat attacked a northerly headed convoy on the 11 Aug. and sank one steamer of 1500 BRT and one motor gun boat 20 miles southerly of Poti on the 13 Aug. No special reports from the other operational areas.

15 Aug. 1944

VI. Aerial Warfare:

Western Area:

Hostile planes entered spacious areas of northern Belgium, the Netherlands and northwestern Germany and raided ground organizations in the forenoon. Twenty two planes and six cargo gliders were destroyed and 15 planes damaged in 24 air bases by bombs and gunfire. About 450 enemy planes attacked targets in the area of Paris, Orleans, Etampes, Compiègne and one field air base in Western France.

Without active operations 120 air penetrations were reported from the occupied western territories on the night of the 15th.

Two hundred and fifty four of our own planes were in action during the day carrying out projector and gunfire attacks in the area of Mesidon and Estres. Only a few attacks were made at ground targets on account of heavy air combats. One hundred and four fighters were employed in the defense which shot down ten planes by five own losses.

Twenty one planes carried out sorties against guerillas and surrounded own troops in the area westerly of Murat. Sixty six planes attacked Olendon, Sassy and Ernes and observed good results on the night of the 15th.

The 2nd air craft division carried out a combined action against the landing fleet in the area of St. Tropez. Report about results was not received yet.

Reich Territory:

Also the airbases in the area of Köln and Duisburg were enclosed in the operations against ground organizations made at forenoon.

Fifty to 60 Mosquito planes attacked Berlin on the night of the 15th. Forty to 50 Mosquito planes attacked Holten and Bergkamen.

Mediterranean Theater:

Eleven hundred enemy planes among them cargo gliders were reported from the area Toulon - Nizza and Cap Drammont, St. Raphael and Tropez on the 15th.

15 Aug. 1944

Eighty four-engined bombers were in the area of Lyon on the 14th. without attacking. Four hundred and twenty fighter bomber and reconnaissance planes were reported from the Italian war theatre as well as from the Po-Plain. Five planes were shot down.

Active reconnaissance was reported from the Greek area.

Fifty two enemy planes were reported supplying partisans in the Balkan area, 15 above Montenegro, Serbia, Hungary and occupied Poland. Twenty naval long range reconnaissance planes were reported from the Ligurian and French coast. Fifteen night fighters were reported in the fighting area up to Corsica.

Eastern Area:

Six hundred and seventy two own and about 3000 enemy air operations were reported from the eastern front on the 14th. of which 19 enemy planes were shot down and we suffered five losses.

---

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

Enemy invasion in Southern France:

Concerning the progress of this action the following statement was produced from single reports at hand:

- 0010 The Naval Shore Command of the French Riviera reports that the enemy tried to land at Bormes but was repulsed.
- 0428 The fast escort vessel SG "21" reports the invasion fleet 10 miles southerly of St. Tropez and
- 0446 that Submarine chaser "6082" had an engagement with enemy destroyers.
- 0910 Continuous heavy air raids and bombardment from sea were reported from the area of Drammont, St. Raphael and Tropez. A battalion of parachutists baled out in the area of Raphael-Dranguignan. Heavy fighting was reported.
- 0930 Many planes with cargo gliders were reported 20 km from Dranguignan.

15 Aug. 1944

- 0940 Landing ships launched landing boats at St. Raphael.
- 1012 The area of Theoule (westerly of Cannes) was shelled by one DIDO-type cruiser, one torpedo boat and two vessels of an unknown type.
- 1105 Thirty five medium and smaller sized enemy vessels shelled the coast at St. Raphael.
- 1117 Naval artillery unit 611 situated southwesterly of Marseille reports on the horizon probably minesweeper formations inside of our own minefield area.
- 1421 The German Naval Command Italy placed at disposal of Group West without prejudice to development of our own situation for the present from Mentone two motor minesweepers of foreign construction, from Genoa two submarine chasers and two fighting ferries, from Monaco two fighting ferries and from La Spezia two German minesweepers.
- 1500 The 3rd Air Force reports: one battleship, five cruisers or destroyers and numerous smaller vessels off Cannes.

According to preliminary appreciation of air photographs made by the 2nd Air Force at 1120 there were at the first landing place in the Bay of St. Maxim six cruisers, twelve destroyers, three LST, seven LCT and 130 LCM. One cruiser, three destroyers, 15 LCT, 120 LCM were observed at the second landing place ten km easterly of Raphael and sharp southerly of Raphael one cruiser probably damaged. Six escort vessels 15 LCT and 25 LCM of which apparently eight were on fire were seen in the third landing place at Cavalaire.

- 1840 One hundred cargo gliders were reported above the area of Draguignan.
- 2000 The Commanding Admiral Defenses, Southern French Coast reports that the islands of Port Cros and Du Levant were occupied by the enemy. Counter measures were started against the enemy's air-landing troops in the area of Draguignan.
- 2127 The Commanding Admiral Defenses, Southern French Coast reports the presence of Polish and American troops in St. Raphael.

15 Aug. 1944

From all these reports it can be concluded that landing operations at present were limited to the area of Nizza - St. Raphael.

The operations Staff, Air Force, Foreign Affairs Section believes this to be a secondary operation with the intention to cut the communication lines between Italy and France. The main attack is expected to be launched in the area of Genoa or Marseille. The Operations Staff believes landing operations for the latter case in the area of the Gironde as very likely and ordered special measures to be taken for a supervision of the Bay of Biscay.

Demolition of the harbors Tropez, Nice and Cannes were started according to report from Group West. Preparations at Nice were completed at 1630.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance reported an eastern headed convoy consisting of 26 freighters, one tanker, four escorting vessels and one smaller naval vessel about 195 miles southeasterly of Malta at 0852.

One boat group each was detected with radar equipment SW of St. Remo and SW of Tino on the night of the 14th. No contact was made with the enemy.

Three groups of ships on NW course and one group of ships each on SW course were detected in the sea area, 27 to 60 miles SSW of Bordighera between 1620 and 1845 on the 15th.

Own Situation:

The 38 cm battery westerly of Genoa was again attacked by enemy planes at forenoon on the 14th. The battery staid in fighting condition. The Office of the 2nd Air Force was damaged in a fighter bomber attack at Varazzo.

Second degree of alarm was ordered for the Italian western coast on the evening of the 14th. on account of the sighting of the landing formation and at 0845 this order was changed into first degree of alarm.

Escort and patrol duties were carried out according to plan.

15 Aug. 1944

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

Two destroyers, two PT boats and eight smaller naval vessels with course to Brindisi were reported by air reconnaissance five miles NW of Otranto as well as one cruiser adrift two miles NW of Brindisi. The following vessels were located in Brindisi at 1030 according to photograph: one mine-layer, one destroyer, one escort vessel, 40 smaller naval vessels, four submarines, nine LST, five LCM, four auxiliary landing craft, 90 boats, 16 freighters and others.

Seven planes in total were shot down in the air raid at Parenzo directed against the steamer CAGLIARI.

Further 15 coastal mines type "A" were laid off Rimini on the night of the 14th.

b. Aegean:

Port Command Glossa on the island of Skopelos was raided by partisans on the 12 Aug. The four soldiers were made prisoners and taken to Pelion. Punitive measures were planned.

On account of the action on the peninsula Elos the coastal defense flotilla Peloponnes captured partisan vessels. Nine were destroyed and more damaged.

c. Black Sea:

Radio monitoring notices more activity of smaller vessels and naval flyers. A submarine was detected about 135 miles easterly of Varna.

The successes of submarine U "18" were reported. Convoys sailed according to plan.

4. Danube Situation:

Losses through mines were not reported. Six mine-sweeper successes were made on the 15th.

---

15 Aug. 1944

VIII. Situation East Asia:

No special reports were received.

---

16 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

According to a Swiss report from best informed Italian political circles the presence of Churchill served the purpose of discussing three problems:

1. War in the Balkans and the possibility of more help to Tito and perhaps allied landings in Yugoslavia.
2. Examination of the situation in Italy and the possibility of forming a new state from this country not only on the terms of the armistice.
3. and to get in touch with the Vatican.

In the near future an agreement will be published between the U.S.A. Great Britain and France in which questions of administration will be finally settled in the freed French areas by French authorities. This announcement was made so many times already that it nearly gives one the impression as if the agreement is not ratified yet.

On the occasion of the allied landings in Southern France General Wilson issued a proclamation to the French people in which all Frenchmen were requested to contribute in this war. The inhabitants were warned not to choke up the roads.

In a statement concerning the military situation in France General Eisenhower draws attention to the fact that the strong German defense opposing the Canadian thrust at Falaise is an obscurantist to the rather loud optimism. In the now created situation the Germans have no other chance as to fight to the last respiration. The allied air forces were controlling the situation, but they can never annihilate the enemy totally, as this could only be accomplished by the ground forces.

---

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

- I. Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division.
  - a. Operation Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Army asks in connection with the execution of the Fuehrer's orders from the 7 Aug. about employing the Armed Forces of the Commanding General Greater Paris, Commander in Chief West to place all unnecessary

16 Aug. 1944

officers and soldiers of all branches of the Armed Forces at disposal as well as all German men in fighting trim which were placed at the disposal of the Military Commander in France for use as alarm respectively defense units or workers constructing the Somme-Marne line.

b. The Fuehrer has ordered that a number of training and reserve units from the reserve army should be detached into the coastal area at once till late autumn to increase the defending forces of the German troops according to information from the Armed Forces High Command. Certain restrictions and difficulties in training must be accepted. The Chief of Army Armament and the Commander of the Replacement Army were asked to transfer the formations in the following combination and in agreement with the Naval Staff:

a. two to three battalions and one artillery formation to the area Heide - Wesselburen - Garding - Husum,

b. two battalions to the area Wilster - Marne - Meldorf.

c. three to four battalions and one artillery formation to the area Wesermünde - Cuxhaven - Neuhaus - Hechthausen.

d. two battalions and one artillery formation to the area Emden - Aurich - Leer, and in addition one combat unit commander with a corresponding staff.

These formations will be placed for combat operations under the command of the Deputy Corps Headquarters of the X. Infantry Corps which will receive its directions for the coastal defense from the Naval Command, North Sea and will further be at disposal for training and liable for reserve presentations. They should not be employed for the construction or for the permanent manning of the coastal defense positions.

Above this the Chief Army Armament and the Commander of the Replacement Army were asked to transfer the 9th Infantry Reserve and Training Battalions, the 3rd Artillery Reserve and Training Formation for a brief period of time from the II, VI and X Corps area to the near coast of the Heligoland Bight and to prepare in agreement with the General Staff of the Army Organization Unit the creation of three auxiliary infantry regimental staffs and an auxiliary artillery regimental staff.

The Naval Staff informed the Naval Command North and the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch.

16 Aug. 1944

To this the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organisation and Mobilization Branch reports that further directives were not needed nor intended.

c. In the Fuehrer's Headquarters the Ambassador von Papen supported the comprehension that for the present on no account would Turkey release bases and airfields at the disposal of the Anglo-Saxons.

II. Admiral, Small Battle Units reports about operations of small battle units in the previous night:

The small battle formation 363 was attacked by enemy planes in a low level attack at 1800 on the 14 Aug. The Commander of the flotilla is dead, a Group Commander was wounded. Operation of the flotilla was carried out on the night of the 15 Aug. From 53 equipments ready for action eleven started. After that the operation was cancelled on account of the weather getting worse. Two operators returned premature as their equipment was leaky. Four returned without being successful. From shore heavy detonations were heard at midnight from the direction of the invasion fleet, and at 0100 a heavy detonation with a steady red glow of fire was observed. An ammunition ship of 8,000 BRT blew up at 0516. Nine weaker detonations were heard at 0600 from the direction of the invasion fleet, caused probably by depth charges and a heavy detonation at 0700. Operations with the remaining equipment of the flotilla was planned for the night of the 16 Aug.

The Admiral Small Battle Units draws attention to the serious transportation difficulties which now prevail in the western area.

III. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

The shelling of Alderney on the 12 Aug. was made by the RODNEY in which 75 shells were fired in 2½ hours, according to information from the Admiralty.

The Allied Mediterranean Headquarters issued a special communique on the evening of the 15 Aug. stating, the American, British and French troops were landed from American, British and French fleet vessels since the 15 Aug. at the southern coast of France, heavily supported by Allied Air Forces. All landings advanced successfully and were carried out according to plan meeting only little ground and no air resistance on the 15 Aug. The Airborne operations were also carried out successfully and were made in support of the other

16 Aug. 1944

actions. The landing area covers a considerable part of the coast between Nice and Marseille. More than 800 ships participated in this far stretched operation among which were also ships of the Canadian navy as well as ships flying the Dutch, Polish, Greek and Belgium colours. The attack was supported by the heavy gunfire from battleships, cruisers, destroyers and other vessels. The assault boats were escorted by minesweepers. The navy is in charge of the landing and supplying of the army at the coast. The islands Port Cros and Levant belonging to the island group Hyeres as well as Cap Negre were occupied.

The invasion fleet was dispatched from harbors in Italy, Africa from Sardinia, Corsica and Sicily.

The Allied armies in Southern France were under the command of the American General Devers.

Conference Restricted to a Very Limited Circle:

IV. The Army Liaison Officer published the following decrees from the Armed Forces High Command, Army National Socialistical Operational Staff to all Commanders in Chief of Army Groups and Armies as well as to the Chief, Army Armament and Commander of the Replacement Army.

1. "The enemy propaganda spreads rumors that the development of the situation at the eastern front after the 22 Jul.44 was caused by the treacherous behavior of higher-up troop commanders.

These rumors should sharply be opposed. The small criminal circle from the 20 Jul. is known and expurgated. No troop commander of the field army was attached to this. The mentioned rumors only intend to sow distrust and disagreement among the troops and with this break their united fighting spirit which only grew more fanatical since the 20 Jul. It is the task of the National Socialistic leadership to strengthen the confidence in the military leadership by all means."

2. "When making my personal report concerning the psychological effect of the latest events, the Fuehrer declared that the case was closed to the public as far as it concerned the army after the public actions on the 10 Aug. 44 and that now only news would be published concerning participating persons outside of the army as for instance the case of Doctor Goerdeler who was arrested today and count Helldorf. He is especially interested that the

16 Aug. 1944

general officers and the general staff as also the complete officer corps on the whole should not be impaired anymore in their self-confidence and old confirmed energy and in their unswerving confidence. I request a suitable notification of the officer corps."

The Chief Naval Staff instigated the forwarding to the Bureau of Naval Administration as these decrees were also of greatest interest to the navy.

V. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The enemy continued his concentrated attacks at the front of the 5th Tank Army and at the 7th Army. The focal point was situated in the area southerly of Caen at Domfront and Argentan. The enemy penetrated our own front in the area southerly of Caen with 100 tanks of which the first reached the Dives sector. He tried to break through to Falaise along both sides of the road Caen-Falaise. The 12th SS Tank Division counteracted this thrust with last strength.

The enemy only follows hesitatingly the withdrawal movement of the western front of the 7th Army but advanced with stronger forces through our thin defense line to the northeast at both sides of Domfront. The situation is not clear.

The enemy succeeded in capturing Ecouche in the area of the break-through between Alencon and Argentan and advanced with his tank forces so far in direction to Falaise that the British and American spearheads were only separated by 18 km. A surrounding of the bulk of the 5th Tank Army, the 7th Army and Tank Group Eberach is developing.

The enemy pushed ahead with stronger advance detachments to the east and northeast between Mortagne and the Loire. The attack of a strengthened enemy regiment against Chartres was repulsed in heavy fighting. The advanced spearheads were in action with our weak defense forces at Orleans and Dreux. It also seems that the enemy intends to push ahead along the Seine to Paris to counteract a withdrawal movement of the German armies.

The supplying difficulties concerning fuel and ammunition increased further, the losses in men and materiel were higher.

16 Aug. 1944

The attack against the citadel of St. Malo is in full motion. No fighting of importance was reported from the fortresses in the Brittany.

The enemy tries to establish contact on a broad front easterly of Tours with reconnaissance against the Loire. The crossing of the Loire by the enemy must be expected.

Terrorist activity is increasing in the Orleans - Tours area. A mobilisation on a large scale is in progress there. No other reports were received from the army than those already received from the navy concerning the coast of the Mediterranean area. Heavy surprise attacks were still made at escorted trains in Southern France.

Intercepted by our own air reconnaissance and probably only incomplete the enemy ship landing tonnage is first of all surprisingly small, divided up along a 100 km coastal sector so that no essential facts were received yet from this concerning the direction of thrust or extension of landings. It can be assumed that the focal point of operations will be situated in the area of St. Raphael - St. Tropez and that it will be the first operational task of the enemy Headquarters to try and re-open the harbor of Toulon from the land side while an attack against the Nice-Cannes area will be made to protect the eastern flank and to cut the communication line with Italy.

#### Italian Front

No fighting of importance took place on the land front. Fighting operations from the Ligurian area were not yet reported.

#### Eastern Front

##### Army Group Southern Ukraine:

The front from Tiraspol to the Carpathian Mountains is experiencing an extensive enemy re-grouping since about ten days. Preparations of attack also as feint measures might be possible.

##### Army Group Northern Ukraine:

Our own attack westerly of Sanok ceased as the intended tasks were successfully obtained. A larger enemy attack was launched at the Wieslok which led to the establishment of a

16 Aug. 1944

bridgehead across the Wieslok through the enemy. During the progress of the fighting the Russians were able to enlarge their break through in a breadth of 15 km and to a depth of 4 km.

Our own attacking operations were progressing slowly against the toughest resistance of the enemy. Numerous counter attacks were repulsed. The enemy was able to enlarge his penetration westerly of Sandomir.

Army Group Central:

Attacking preparations on the largest scale were continued by the Bolshevics between the Vistula and Memel. Heavy fighting must be expected there in the near future. Yesterday the enemy extended his attacking operations nearly to the complete front of the Army Group which were in the last days only restricted to single sectors of concentration.

Our defense front was attacked by the enemy from the area of Warka with parts of three rifle divisions. Suffering heavy casualties he was repulsed as in the area northeasterly of Warsaw.

Embittered fighting took place westerly of Bialystock as well as westerly of Wirballen. There the Russians were successful in breaking through to a depth of 6 km. The heavy fighting is going on southerly of the Memel as well as at Schaken. Our own front at Raseinen was also defending itself against heavy enemy attacks.

The strategic concentration of our own assault divisions was continued according to plan for a thrust against Courland to contact again Army Group North.

Army Group North:

The enemy launched an attack easterly of Bauske under strictest concentration of infantry, tanks and ground "strafer". The main defense line was penetrated at numerous places. Embittered fighting is going on in the artillery defense positions. The destruction of 40 enemy tanks characterized the heaviness of the fighting in which two German divisions in this area suffered serious casualties.

In the area southwesterly of Lake Plaskau the enemy succeeded in occupying more ground to the northwest. The deep penetrations were partly intercepted in counter attacks.

16 Aug. 1944

Patrol and shock troop activity on both sides of the Narva Front.

---

Special Items

I. Situation Eastern Baltic

1. Concerns operation "Tanne":

Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command transmits:

"The development of the situation in Finland forces us again to restore readiness at short notice for operation "Tanne". The Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command intends to establish again a six days time of readiness at emergency degree II according to the existing plan of operation. For this the Operations Staff intends:

a. Transfer of two battalions of the 416th Infantry Division at ransom of emergency decree II in forced transports to the area of Danzig - Gydinia, arrival at X in minus three days, from here transfer of two companies by air transportation, the remaining of the battalion will sail by urgent transports across the sea as the first wave of "Tanne West" operation resigning Tanne I operation.

b. The release of naval artillery unit 629 and 531 cannot be expected in the prevailing situation by Army Group North. Therefore it is intended to press the General Staff of the Army to release naval artillery unit 531 for employment as an infantry party after reinforcement by the navy for the "Tanne Ost" operation, as well as the placing at disposal for new forces for "Tanne West" instead of the naval artillery unit 629 and other quarters by the navy, accepting a weakening of other areas.

c. The Air Force confirmed that no alterations were made according to the existing plans for the participation of the air force in the "Tanne West" and "Ost" operation. The action readiness of the employed forces is possible inside of the time of preparation of six days.

d. To bring about quick decisions concerning the "Tanne" operation attitude is required to a. and report is needed

16 Aug. 1944

to b. if and under which acceptances of disadvantages the navy is able to place new forces at disposal.

e. Other means for creating the supposition to carry out the operation "Tanne" were at present not available.

Naval Staff, Operations Division informed Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division and asked the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organisation and Mobilization Branch for his point of view to b. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch was asked for his attitude to a. and especially for information when and in which time transporters would be available for the first detachment in the embarkation ports at emergency degree II, further which reactions would be suffered by the present sea transportation tasks through these preparations and which time would be required for the transfer of two battalions of the 416th Infantry Division in urgent transports from Aarhus to the area of Danzig - Gdynia.

2. Naval Staff, Operations Division agreed to the proposal of the Naval Command East to place Torpedo boat T "139" under the command of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Baltic for the operational task of escorting reinforcements to Army Group North after being ready for action.

3. Inquiry by the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command concerning assault boat company 902 (see War Diary 13 Aug.) was answered by the Naval Staff thus far that no considerations were in existence against expelling the transport and tensile forces at Swinemunde and placing them at disposal of the Navy or against being used for reorganization.

## II. Situation West Area:

1. To the inquiry from the Naval Staff concerning the transfer of former blockade runners inside of French harbors to Spanish ports before abandonment of the harbors. Group West answered accordingly and mentions the steamers TANNENFELS, ELSA ESSBERGER, HIMALAYA, FUJIYAMA, and if the need should arise OSORNO. The decision of the Foreign Office which was asked for at the same time dissuades in all cases a transfer at the present time but also thinks a transfer to be very ticklish shortly before abandoning harbors so that the Naval Staff believes it necessary to ask the Fuehrer through the Commander in Chief Navy for his decisions. The Foreign Office sees other possibilities for the ships as for instance transporters for wounded. The same proposal was also made by Group West for two ships if mine exploding vessels were not released for employment as hospital ships.

16 Aug. 1944

Group West was therefore informed by the Naval Staff that the transfer of the reported ships to Spain is still doubtful. Decision will be made after consulting the Fuehrer. The Group received instructives to satisfy the claims of the ships in question as hospital ships.

Through the Admiral Fuehrer's Headquarters the Commander in Chief, Navy was asked to bring about a decision from the Fuehrer with the remark that Group West intends to employ one or two of the ships as hospital ships and to use the remaining as block-ships for Bordeaux if a transfer should not be possible.

2. The Fuehrer has agreed to a withdrawal of Operations Staffs Commander in Chief West, Naval Group West, 3rd Air Force and Military Commander in Chief of France from Paris. The Armed Forces High Command transmitted this order with the remark that the Operations Staff of Group West should be lodged in the surroundings of the Operations Staff of the Commander in Chief West and that the execution should be carried out according to the development of situation and orders from the Commander in Chief, West.

According to report from Group West they planned to move on the night of the 16 Aug. by the example of the Commander in Chief West with the Quartermaster Staff, parts of the Operations Staff and parts of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West to the shunting place of Zabern. For the present the Operations Staff and the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West will stay with all communication centres and able to work at Paris.

3. Naval Group West reports:

"The development of the situation at the Loire suppresses truck transportation from Eastern France and Paris to the area Bordeaux - La Rochelle. Persons and goods arriving in Paris with these destinations were returned to the east. As return transportation is not possible anymore for specialists and shipyards in the Atlantic area that return transportation of workers is out of question. Reference was made that the strength of the shipyard workers at La Pallice - Bordeaux was sufficient to handle all errands which might be necessary."

4. The situation in the Normandy is very serious according to the situation report from the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters. In the inforatory report it was further stated:

16 Aug. 1944

a. Further reports will be issued for the total area of France by the Armed Forces High Command.

b. The Commander in Chief agrees with a transfer to the rear of partial Staffs of Group West. The Operations Staff will be transferred to the rear in accordance with the soon expected orders from the Armed Forces High Command. The Commander in Chief, Navy attached importance to the fact that Group West should stay in close contact with the Operations Staffs Army and Air and thinks it best at the same place.

c. It is necessary that the efficient ports of the western and southern coast were blocked to the enemy as long as possible when the total western front is withdrawn to the Seine with the intention of slowing down the speed of strong enemy reinforcements. Therefore it was planned to defend Brest, Lorient, St. Nazaire, La Pallice / La Rochelle, Royan/Le Verdon, Sete, Marseille and Toulon by concentrating here all the remaining forces and arms as the evacuation to the home country is apart from this not possible. Orders for this will be issued by the Armed Forces High Command.

The Chief Naval Staff informed the Commander in Chief, Naval Group West by telephone already in the course of the afternoon. Information according to number a - b) will be acknowledged by teletype to Operations Staff Group West. Order of 1/SK1 2468/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in War Diary Part B Volume V.

5. Commander PT Boats presented a survey of the Dackel employment sector from the 4th to the 11th Aug. which enclosed six operations off Le Havre with a total of 76 torpedos.

Commander PT Boats believes only the sight and detector sets of two special equipped direction finder stations to be reliable as far as observations were possible during night and in the twilight, when judging the observations of effect. The same applies to the observation post of the Operational Staff Böhme. In return observations of the naval and army coastal batteries were regarded as unreliable and expelled, just so observation from the air force stations. Also flying air reconnaissance is not reliable as they very often take firing ships artillery for detonations. The Commander PT Boats without pronouncing a final sentence to the value of Dackel operations is therefore sceptical to the majority of reported observed successes, as real observations from the sinking of ships were not at hand and especially as the radio monitoring up to now made no reports about torpedoing, averages, sinkings etc.

16 Aug. 1944

III. Commanding Admiral Naval Command East reports that a conference was held at the Reich Defense Commissioner's Office at Hamburg concerning questions of coastal defense. The forced construction of field defense works was planned among others as an intercepting position against invasion of the Heligoland Bight. Commanding Admiral, Naval Command East reports this:

"a. Nothing is known here if the construction of these field works was ordered by higher quarters.

b. Conformable to duty I draw the attention to serious disadvantages which would arise:

aa. The whole of Denmark, Schleswig-Holstein inclusively the Kiel canal will be abandoned.

bb. The total population is employed with entrenchments which should be done at a different place. The same applies to the serious requirements of materiels.

cc. Troop formations inclusively schools must also be placed at disposal.

c. Commander in Chief, Naval Command, East is of the opinion that every attempt of a landing in the Heligoland Bight must be repulsed at the coast but believes a main danger to exist in an invasion in direction of Jutland. If at all entrenchments should be built to ward off an invasion they should be constructed inside of Jutland. A northern rampart should be constructed at the German/Danish frontier respectively further north. On account of the importance of question the Commander in Chief Naval Command East believes a re-examination and decision from higher quarters justified, based on certain principles.

For the Commander in Chief, Navy, the Naval Staff transmitted the report to the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters and by copy to the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy and to the Armed Forces High Command Army, Operational General Staff of the Army with the remark that the Naval Staff is of the same opinion as the Naval Command East and asked to incite re-examination.

IV. The Naval Staff placed 600 EMC and 300 EMF mines from the mine consignment of the first half of September at the disposal of the Naval Command East to strengthen the Skagerrak minefield system.

16 Aug. 1944

300 EMC and 200 EMF mines will be handed over to Group South to strengthen the minefield system in the Adriatic. An assignment is intended for the Aegean in the second half of the September if till then transportation possibilities were again available to Greece.

The Naval Command Norway will receive 76 EMC\* mines from the first half of the September consignment.

V. The Chief Bureau of Naval Armament passes information concerning the decree of the Fuehrer about concentration of armament and war production dated 19 Jun. 44, as well as different instructions from the Reich Minister for Armament and War Production as well as orders to be accomplished by the navy and draws special attention to the prohibition of changes to weapons and equipment in preparation as well as to the order to discontinue all work of not overwhelming development. The war situation and the shortage in personnel and materiel forces us inevitably to renounce all wishes for changes and development as far as they are not of actual deciding importance to the warfare or to the weapon-employment.

Copy of decree with enclosures according to 1/SK1 29644/44 GEH. in War Diary Part B, Volume V.

---

Situation on the 16 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Forty-three planes in action were detected by 19th Group. Five British vessels were detected in the rendez-vous area.

Radio monitoring detected the movements of six convoys in the invasion area for Utah.

Detections by radar direction gear and radar location gear were reported from northwesterly of Quessant and southwesterly of Concarneau as well as from northwesterly of Ile de Croix.

One southerly and one northerly headed convoy were detected by sets in the Channel straits.

During the day, three enemy targets were detected at sea off Ile d'Yeu at 1020.

16 Aug. 1944

Observations could not be made in the Channel owing to poor visibility.

No support is given for expecting new landing operations in the Channel area at present according to the enemy review made by the General Staff of the Army for Foreign Armies West dated 15 Aug. Our own weakening strength in the Northern French area provided the enemy with the supposition to reconsider again such plans at a very short notice. In this connection further retention of strong air landing formations in Great Britain is remarkable.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

One mine each was swept in front of the Gironde mouth and off La Pallice.

No certain recognizable enemy forces were sighted by submarine chaser "1411", "12" and "13" in BF 6149 when under way from Concarneau to Lorient on the night of the 15 Aug. The boats entered Lorient at 0640.

The convoy with steamer ZEPHIR was transferred from Lorient to Concarneau under the escort of three patrol vessels.

Torpedo boat T "24" achieved numerous hits on the enemy in the engagement of Torpedo boat T "24" and anti-aircraft artillery tender RICHTHOFEN off Les Sables. One enemy vessel sank according to observation. The success was confirmed by location plot. One 10,5 cm hit was achieved on the cruiser and the main mast was cut down in the engagement between mine exploding vessel "157" and the two minesweepers with a cruiser and four destroyers. Fire was started in the afterpart of the ship. A destroyer also started burning. His sinking was confirmed by observations from shore. It is possible that a larger and a smaller destroyer were concerned. Minesweeper M "275" and "385" were heavily hit. Minesweeper M "572" arrived at Les Sables. Minesweeper M "385" was beached. A coastal sailing vessel was destroyed by enemy forces in the surroundings of Les Sables.

Brief report of engagement from the 42nd Minesweeper Flotilla in teletype 2400, brief report of engagement from torpedoboat T "24" in teletype 1435.

16 Aug. 1944

Land Situation Brittany:

St. Malo:

The following situation report was received from the port Commander St. Malo early on the 16 Aug: Harassing fire from battery Cecembre was covering targets and the entrance to the citadel on the 15 Aug. Bombs and artillery fire covered Cecembre (about 1100 shells) and caused destruction, but no other losses. Cecembre was in action at times with heavy and light artillery supporting Group Bacherer. In spite of intense bombardment by all calibres the battery laid a barrage fire on the Cite-inner harbor when the enemy attacked the citadel. The enemy had to call off the attack. The ammunition has nearly vanished, 78 shells were left. During the whole day the battery Grande Bey was under heavy artillery, infantry and mortar fire. The enemy is preparing an attack at Cite. In spite of enemy influence the radio communications were left in tact. "We believe and fight".

Cap Frehel was occupied by the enemy.

Brest:

Enemy air reconnaissance was observed in the early morning above the fortress and the immediate coastal area. The naval anti-aircraft artillery battery 3/805 is under the fire of an enemy battery since 1600 on the 15 Aug. and shelled enemy concentrations southeasterly of Guipaves at 2000.

Concarneau:

Enemy tank spearheads arrived in front of the town at 1913 on the 16 Aug. Request to surrender was rejected.

Lorient:

The situation was unchanged at 2100 on the 15 Aug. The fortress commander was badly wounded by driving on a mine.

Nantes:

The remainders of the light naval artillery unit 688 were in action at the southern bank of the Loire at Nantes.

16 Aug. 1944

St. Nazaire:

No special reports were received.

Sea Area Channel:

Dock installations were attacked by enemy planes on the afternoon of the 15 Aug. Dock I was damaged but is still in the condition to be used.

Detected targets were shelled by battery Cap de la Heve and Army Coastal Battery 1254 on the night of the 15 Aug. Heavy detonations were heard so that a success is possible.

The operations of Small Battle Units on the night of the 15 Aug. were reported.

The 10th Minesweeper Flotilla was deflected from their mining operation through interference of the enemy. Mines were not laid according to plan. The boats arrived at Ostende undamaged. PT boats "196" and "198" were transferred from Calais to Boulogne according to plan. Operations of other PT boats were postponed owing to poor visibility.

One plane crashed through touching the ballon cable of an escorting vessel in a fighter bomber attack.

Eleven patrol boat positions were occupied.

New operations were planned for Small Battle Units on the night of the 16 Aug. as well as torpedo operations for the 2nd and 6th Minesweeper Flotilla in the southern part of the Seine Bay, the 8th Minesweeper Flotilla in the area of Dungeness and mine contamination by the 10th Minesweeper Flotilla in the sea area of North Foreland. A flank minefield should also be laid northwesterly of Antifer and a coastal mine type "A" minefield off La Panne.

---

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

No special incidents occurred.

16 Aug. 1944

Norway, Northern Waters.

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty-eight planes in action were detected by 18th Group above the Northern North Sea.

One British vessel was detected from Svanvik in 261° at 0750.

Animated intercourse of radio messages was observed in the radio area of Dickson-Archangels-Beluscha also taking possession of the naval forces in the Barent Sea.

2. Own Situation:

In spite of warnings the motor tank ship BRINKUM hit a mine in the Lepsoe Channel and sank at 0712.

Fourteen ships were escorted to the north and 26 ships to the south.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

Four minesweeper divisions and 38 naval vessels were detected in radio communication on the 15 Aug. in the Finnish Bay. Our own air reconnaissance made of the Finnish Bay on the 16 Aug. returned without special results.

Nine minesweeper vessels were observed four miles westerly of Hungerburg. No other minesweeper activity was ascertained in the Narva Bay.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Patrol boat positions off the western coast of Jutland and in the Hanstholm minefield gap as well as minesweeper duties were carried out according to plan. Twenty-five minesweeping vessels were in action.

16 Aug. 1944

The coastal mine type "A" formation started again its mining task.

Shipyard work in Copenhagen was started again in the morning. Two heavy detonations occurred on steamer LAVINIA at Aalborg which were probably caused by sabotage.

Central and Western Baltic:

Twenty five vessels, one mine exploding vessel and four minesweeping planes were employed with minesweeping duties. One mine each was swept off Fehmarn and Rixhöft. The steamer POSEIDON (3,910 BRT) was damaged in the foreship by hitting a mine northwesterly of Fehmarn but continued its voyage.

Among others the HIPPER, LÜTZOW and one transporter were escorted.

Single reconnaissance planes flew in the forenoon hours across the Kiel Bay to Rügen and Bornholm. Four to 500 bombers raided Kiel with high explosive bombs and incendiary bombs on the night of the 16 Aug.

An unsuccessful enemy air attack was late reported on the afternoon of the 15 Aug. made against a southerly steering German Steamer off Libau.

Two enemy planes attacked without effect mine exploding vessel "18" northwesterly of Libau on the afternoon of the 16 Aug.

Two Marauder planes were watching training formation northerly of Rixhöft at 0740 on the 16 Aug. according to a report from the 27th Submarine Flotilla. Apparently the same planes were reported by submarine U "1278" at 0750 without attacking. The dropping of one bomb was observed ten miles southwesterly.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

Two mines were swept in the Reval Bay. The laying of minefield Seeigel Xb was ordered for the night of the 18 Aug. The relieving of the Narva patrol by two submarines was planned on the evening of the 16 Aug.

One troop transporter was escorted from Danzig to Hangoe.

Five thousand seven hundred and fifty one tons of supplies were transferred to Riga and 4219 tons to Reval on the 15 Aug. for Army Group North.

16 Aug. 1944

Eighteen vessels of the smallest type were reported in AP 1272 on Lake Peipus at 0800. Smaller enemy landings were reported at the same time from the Mehikoorma Strait between Lake Peipus and Lake Pleskau. Eighty vessels were lying off the eastern coast of the Warmer Lake to Raskopel inclusive according to air reconnaissance. The 4th Gun Carrier Flotilla received orders to stand by. Two naval artillery barges sailed from Praaga at 1800 to shell the Mehikoorma strait and two naval artillery barges left at 2000 to shell Raskopel. The naval artillery barge "22" ran aground two miles southerly of Praaga. Towing off will be tried.

---

IV. Submarine Warfare:

Four floating mines were destroyed by submarines of the Narva patrol by exploding them through shots.

The 64th Army Corps in the western area informed the naval office Bordeaux that the lacking ammunition for the fortresses is not in store at present. Submarine U "180" and "195" which were kept in readiness were now prepared for operations in East Asia.

On account of the defense position off Bordeaux, the submarines U "516" and "539" returning from the Caribbean Sea received orders to proceed to Norway. The replacement of both boats by meteorological advice boats is necessary.

Submarine U "957" of the "Greif" group reported the Kara Straits as impassable and expects the waiting position off Jugor Straits as rich in prospects.

In the Mediterranean, the submarine U "230" is taking up position in the outer roads of Toulon.

In the Black Sea, submarine U "23" sailed from Constanta for its 8th operation.

In the Indian Ocean at noon on the 10 Aug. Colombo spread the news that a submarine was sighted by plane in a position of about 600 miles easterly of Zansibar and at 0615 on the 16 Aug. that a submarine was seen by a British steamer in a position of about 60 miles southerly of Colombo. As no Japanese boat is in this area it might probably concern the operation of one of our own boats.

16 Aug. 1944

V. Aerial Warfare:

Western Area:

About 300 enemy planes entered the Belgian and Northern French area during the day without attacking. Also in Western France 120 bombers protected by fighters entered the area of Chantres - Etampes without attacking. Three hundred fighter bombers coming from the Italian area entered the Northern French territory also without attacking.

In the southern French area weaker enemy formations attacked coastal defenses at Toulon as well as bridges in the Rhone valley southerly of Valence.

One hundred and ten hostile planes were reported from the occupied western areas on the night of the 16 Aug. No raids were ascertained.

Thirty eight of our own planes planted mines in the Seine Bay on the night of the 16 Aug. Own weaker formations were also operating against tank concentrations in the Normandy as well as supporting the army. Essential successes were not reported.

Reich Territory:

Fifteen hundred hostile bombers protected by strong fighter formations entered the central German area via Holland and raided heavily eight air bases, six industrial plants, three hydrogenation plants, and five air-armament industrial plants. Heavy damage was caused at all targets. One hundred and twenty two of our own fighters were in action in the defense of which the operational reports were not yet received. Fourteen planes were shot down by our own anti-aircraft artillery.

Three hundred bombers with fighter protection from the Italian area entered at forenoon the area of Friedrichshafen and attacked Raderach and air base Reichenbach.

Several hundred bomber planes made a terror raid at Stettin on the night of the 16 Aug. The industry was damaged. The harbor area as well as the town centre was badly hit. Ten mines, 330 high explosive bombs and 150,000 incendiary bombs with nose rods were dropped at Kiel in the same terror raid. The industry was also damaged here as well as installations of the armed forces and public houses. Thirty Mosquito planes attacked Berlin. One mine-bomb was dropped at Potsdam-Eiche.

16 Aug. 1944

Mediterranean Theater:

Four hundred and Twenty enemy planes were observed in the Italian front area and in the Po-plain on the 15 Aug. where railway installations and railway bridges were attacked. Forty eight planes were reported from the Balkan area supplying partisans on the night of the 15 Aug. of which 25 came from Russia. About 20 planes entered the area of Weisskirchen - Turnu - Severin in Southern Croatia. Of these ten probably planted mines in the Danube. Ten naval long range reconnaissance planes were detected off the Southern French/Ligurian coast. Our own reconnaissance located parts of the invasion fleet and their escorting formations in the southern French landing area.

Thirty of our own torpedo planes of the 2nd Air Division were in action off the Southern French coast on the night of the 15 Aug. Results were not yet known.

Seven Do 217 were employed in attacks against ship targets off the French Mediterranean coast. One transporter of 10,000 BRT and one of 8,000 BRT were probably sunk. One battleship was hit. Two planes were lost after carrying out attack.

Two hundred and seventeen of our own planes supported the operations of the army in France on the 16 Aug.

Eastern Area:

Eight hundred and seventy seven of our own and 4187 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front on the 15 Aug. by four own losses and 52 enemy planes shot down.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

1. Area Naval Group West:

a. Enemy Invasion in Southern France:

The enemy formed bridgeheads at Levandou, Cavalaire and St. Maxime at 1230 on the 15th. Enemy parachute troops were reported from the east of St. Raphael. At 1700-500 four-engined enemy planes with transport gliders were observed at Cannes

16 Aug. 1944

heading west with a transportation capacity of 1½ to 3 divisions. The report was made on account of observations and can therefore not claim thorough correctness. Further forming of enemy bridgeheads at Cap Negre, Drannant and Cap Roux was reported at 1930. The harbor of Cannes was destroyed and mined by us at 2000.

The places of Negre, Cavalaire and St. Maxime were occupied by the enemy at 0110 on the 16th. An advance from Cavalaire to the north and from St. Tropez to the south has started. St. Raphael was surrounded. In the evening the enemy had formed two falling-in areas between Cap Negre and Maxime respectively. The strength of the enemy is unknown. However he has tanks at his disposal. It is tried to block the penetrations. Communications with the port Command St. Tropez were interrupted. According to the last report harbor destructions were started. Street fighting was reported from St. Raphael. The parachute landing at Muy was repeated. Up to now counter attacks were unsuccessful. Our own brought up division is heavily handicapped through the destruction of the Rhone bridges.

Battery Cap Benat reported engagement with enemy vessels at 2131. One hit was scored on a corvette. The battery was attacked in a low level attack with phosphorus shells.

The batteries of La Badine, Hyeres and Cap Benat were attacked by fighter bombers of which six planes were shot down and no damage was caused.

The 29th submarine Flotilla employed submarine U "230" at the bridgehead between Cap Benat and Cannes. After the consumption of its fighting force the boat should return to Toulon respectively should be sunk near the coast and the crew should be employed in strengthening the coastal defenses.

No special reports were received from the Gibraltar area.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy.

Second degree of alarm was ordered again for the Italian western coast during the night hours of the 15 Aug.

The minesweeping operation Granit westerly of Tino was carried out according to plan.

16 Aug. 1944

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

One probably cruiser, three PT boats, three small freighters and two coastal patrols were off Ancona on the evening of the 15 Aug.

The number of vessels in the harbors of Lissa and Komiza was not unusual.

From the evening of the 14 Aug. till noon of the 16 Aug. enemy fighter bomber attacks were made at Corsini, Dubrovnik town, harbor and Staff Quarters of the naval artillery unit 621 and at Monfalcone.

The mining task Chincilla was carried out according to plan. Sixty more coastal mines type "A" were laid off Rimini.

b. Aegean:

Group South reported that ZEUS and DRACHE continued their started operation in the Thracian waters as owing to the development of situation the Fliegenpilz operation is not pressing at present.

After all no special occurrences happened worth writing down.

c. Black Sea:

No special incidents.

4. Danube Situation:

No dropping of mines nor losses through striking mines were reported. Three minesweeping successes were achieved at km 729.

---

VII. Situation East Asia:

No special reports were received.

---

17 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance

A presented decision in the American Senate demands, so it was reported by Reuter, that all Japanese islands northerly of the equator to 30° north of Pearl Harbor should be annexed as well as the Bermuda Islands and all islands of the West Indies in possession of European nations. Also Holland will have to accept cessions for the re-establishment of its possessions in the Far East.

According to a report by the Washington Post, Churchill rejected sharply Roosevelt's demand that England should return Hongkong to the Chinese.

---

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

I. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command issued the following directives:

a. "1. All troops, command authorities and authorities of all Armed Forces and Waffen SS ( translator's note: permanently embodied and militarized SS units) as well as other organizations in the area of Army Group G westerly of the line Orleans/Clairemont, Ferrand/Montpellier should be at once transferred behind the Seine-Yonne-Dourgagne line as far as they were not necessary for the defense at the fortresses and defense areas with the exception of the fighting troops of the 19th Army.

2. The westerly of Montpellier operating forces were at the disposal of the 19th Army to clear up the situation in the Toulon area."

b. "1. Supplies of all kind and as much as possible should be transferred into the fortresses and defense areas. No supplies and installations should fall into enemy hands, especially fuel!

2. All electric plants, military installations and work shops and especially amplifier stations should be thoroughly destroyed above the ordered demolition of the railways!"

17 Aug. 1944

II. Naval Staff, Quartermaster General: Stettin cannot be used as a supply base for a few days as the destructions caused by the air raid in the harbor were serious. (see Baltic.)

III. Chief, Naval Communications Division, Naval Staff: The Commander in Chief, Navy gave the permission for the destruction of three large transmitter stations in France. With this three transmitter stations will be put out of action, which played an important part in the handling of submarine communications. A fourth large transmitter also is out of action in the area of Warsaw.

IV. Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division: The transportation organizations of the operating Marder flotillas will be transferred to Tournay for refitting the arriving Marders completely into motorized mobile craft. Also the Biber and Molche will be transferred for the present to Tournay.

V. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff: From the report of the German General, Finnish Armed Forces High Command:

"The past of Enckells, who is said to be westerly orientated as a wholesale manufacturer and diplomatist might make it possible to aspire a bearable peace treaty with Russia through the help of Anglo-American intervention. There were many difficulties on this path so that quick results were not probable. The Finnish people were without a doubt tired of war. Everybody hopes that the statesmanship of the Marshal will soon end the war and eyes were closed to the difficulties of this problem. To the question of which peace terms were still acceptable, the opinions will differ. Those circles were still strong who reject a subjugated peace. And without doubt also the Marshal is of this opinion. He will not risk his good name by accepting a disgraceful peace. From this there may be possibilities for the German politics. On account of the fact that Mannerheim is accepted by the people in general as the outstanding politician and as an equivalent for him is not present even of large contrast, it might be possible that a reconciling influence will not disappear so quickly even if the hopes expected from him will not materialize in the near future. The further development of the situation on the German fronts will be of deciding importance to the development of the Finnish politics."

17 Aug. 1944

Conference Restricted to a Very Limited Circle:

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

The operation of the 2nd Task Force in the Riga Bay was postponed for further 24 hours according to a report from the Naval Command, East.

VII. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The British forces were concentrating on the 5th Tank Army in the Dives sector between Bretteville and Yort on the 16 Aug. The enemy succeeded in crossing the Dives and penetrated our defense lines at different places. The fighting is still going on.

Also at Falaise the enemy tried to break through with strong forces. Parts of the brought up 21st Tank Division prevented him from breaking through and repulsed the enemy at local places. The withdrawing movement was carried out according to plan at the northern wing of the 7th Army. In return the enemy tried to advance with strong forces on both sides of Domfront and push through to the north, so that the 10th SS Tank Division which was on its way to the east had to swing around in direction to the south to detain the enemy.

The Tank Group Eberbach is fighting against a far superior enemy who was not successful in breaking through at any place.

Two of our own tank divisions started an attack in the afternoon with the intention of closing the gap at Ecouches.

The enemy is bringing up new divisions into the battle between the line Dreux-Laigle and the Loire. He was reported with advance formations proceeding at Hudan, Rambouillet and Ablis.

After heavy fighting the enemy was able to occupy the higher town of Chartres, fighting is still going on in the southern part.

A strong enemy tank group entered Orleans after embittered fighting. The enemy break through was detained in front of the Loire bridge.

During the previous night Army Group B should withdraw 8 to 10 km to the east and should lead the attacking fight from the area of Argentan to accomplish this movement.

17 Aug. 1944

According to a report from Army Group B the fuel shortage will make it necessary to leave numerous vehicles behind.

No new reports were received from Brittany. The enemy is pressing our own forces together in the fighting area of St. Malo. Our casualties were heavy. The mass of the artillery had to be blown up as ammunition was all used. Continuous harassing fire is covering the citadel. The phosphorus gas was removed from the deep shelters and fighting positions by blowing a breach through the rocks.

Southern France:

The enemy was successful in enlarging his invasion bridgeheads in the area of La Lavandou - Cap Roux during the 16 Aug. as well as receiving reinforcements by air in the area around Draguignan. The enemy will try to unit his bridgeheads and then advance in westerly direction to force an opening into the fortress Toulon from the land. Further landings in the area Nice - Cannes must be expected.

It is probable that the enemy will try to fight his way into the Rhone valley as quickly as possible and then by a quick thrust to the north separate the total southern French area also from the east.

In northern France the size of enemy operations concerning forces were not handicapped as compared with the essential limited forces at the disposal of the enemy leadership for operations in the south. But these will quickly be reinforced by French resistance groups.

Italian Front:

Our own shock troops and patrols were especially successful during the whole day in the area of the 14th Army. The Commander in Chief, Southwest reports that the invasion in Southern France now carried the character of a real large scale operation according to observation by the army group. Regardless of this still further landings must also be expected at other places.

Eastern Front:

Army Group Northern Ukraine:

The German forces attacking in the area southwesterly of Sandomir achieved no more deciding successes against an enemy permanently reinforcing. The southern wing of the 4th Tank Army is

17 Aug. 1944

tied up in especially hard defense fighting westerly of Sandomir. The enemy was prevented of occupying larger areas through the distinguished effect of our own assault guns. The situation is serious. Heavy and embittered fighting occurred only at single local places between Warsaw and Sudauen, in general the positions were held.

Army Group Central:

The enemy answered our own advance in Courland with a renewed start of his offensive in the area of Wirballen. Heavy fights were developing. Penetrations were blocked. The enemy achieved a deep penetration in the evening also in the area of Schaken. With all possible reserves it is tried to intercept the Russians.

Our own attack in Courland proceeds according to plan and reached with the spearheads of the five participating tank divisions the area southwesterly of Schaulen - Autz.

Army Group North:

Strictly concentrating his forces and after the most heavy preliminary bombardment the enemy again tried to break through in the area easterly of Bauske, supported by numerous tanks and ground attacking planes. After heavy fighting and many casualties our own divisions were in general successful in holding the blocking defense line. Seventy nine enemy tanks alone were destroyed in the last two days.

The strong enemy pressure was undiminished continued in the area of Werro. The new blocking front was again penetrated at several places, the enemy was intercepted 5 km northwesterly of the old defense line.

The enemy carried out landings with strong forces in the straits between Lake Peipus and Lake Pleskau. There he enlarged his bridgehead to a depth of 7 km. If the counter measures will be sufficient is left undecided.

No combat activities at the Narva front.

17 Aug. 1944

Special Items

I. Concerns West Area:

1. Group West requested examination if Bayonne, Biarritz and St. Jean de Luz were also on the list of harbors which should be held further on account of the heavy coastal artillery in these sectors.

Naval Staff, Operations Division answered that this question could only be decided by the group in agreement with Chief Operations Branch, West (Army Group G).

2. Chief, Operations Branch, West passed at 1312 the information by telephone that the Commander in Chief Group West is leaving Paris at 1600 with the Operations Staff. They will arrive at their new station in Reims on the night of the 17 Aug. The transmitting of reports to the Naval Staff is safeguarded by the Commanding Admirals, in first line by the Commanding Admiral Channel Coast. Later it is intended to transfer the Commander in Chief of Naval Group West and the Operational Staff into the area of Zabern as was prepared some time ago in agreement with Commander in Chief, West.

Naval Staff, Operations Division informed the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters, Armed Forces High Command, High Command, Army and High Command, Air as well as Bureau of Naval Armament and Bureau of Administration. Copy of decree according to 1/SK1 25471/44 Gkdos in War Diary special file "Invasion 17 Aug."

3. The German Naval Command Italy received directives from the Naval Staff, Operations Division if possible to listen to the radio communication sector at the southern French invasion coast especially the coastal artillery sectors and to transmit important reports to the Naval Staff, Operations Division as owing to the cession of communication lines in Southern France the arriving reports were not sufficient for a survey of situation.

4. Operation Staff, Armed Forces High Command confirms the conception of the Naval Staff that alone military necessity decides harbor destructions, the blocking of harbors, the sinking of ships inclusively the actions agreed on in the Toulon abrogation.

The proceedings to this decision were attended to in War Diary Part C, Volume VIII.

17 Aug. 1944

5. The Fuehrer issued supplementary instructions which were transmitted by way of extract from the Naval Staff as follows to Group West, to the Commanding Admirals Southern French Coast, the Atlantic Coast, the Channel Coast, to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West, to the Commander Submarines West and to the German Naval Command Italy:

"I. Fuehrer orders Operations Staff/Op. Nr. 772916/44 Gkdos Chfs., dated 17 Aug. to the Commander in Chief, West, Army Group G, Commander in Chief, Southwest in extract:

1. Army Group G recedes from the enemy with the exception of the remaining forces at Toulon and Marseille and establishes contact with the southern wing of Army Group B. Prepare at once means for absorption in the line Sens - Dijon - Swiss Frontier.

2. The withdrawal of the troops according to plan in southwestern France must be safeguarded by the severe leadership of the rear and combats in the appointed defense lines. The 11th Tank Division will stay in the Rhone valley as a protection against airborne operations and as rear guard for the 19th Army. The destruction of all hampering objects for pursuit will be of the most important consequences.

3. Pushed by the enemy the 62nd Italian High Command with the 148th and the 157th Reserve Division is withdrawing to the French Italian alpine position.

The Commander in Chief Southwest takes over at once the defense of the French-Italian alpine position from the Swiss frontier to the Ligurian Sea. (The Italian 62nd General Command is placed under the Commander in Chief, Southwest.)

4. The fortresses and the defense areas at the French western and southern coast should be defended to the last man, Marseille and Toulon should each be defended by one division.

5. The Navy will support the defending of the fortresses and defense areas through operations of all available naval forces and if this is not possible anymore will place crews and guns at disposal of the defense of the front on land.

II. Appendix by the Commander in Chief, Navy:

Ships yard workers from the area of the southern French coast and who were not needed inside of the fortress for

17 Aug. 1944

urgent repair work should be led back in agreement with the Commander in Chief West respectively Army Group G. Atlantic Coast according to present directives."

II. According to information from the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters the Fuehrer decided to a report from the Air Force concerning the transfer of Hansa new constructions from Holland that the Navy should time the transfer so that unfavorable flying conditions would prevail in England and that the Air Force should place at disposal the needed fighter protection from the Reich defense forces.

III. The Naval Command North presented attitude respectively directives to the deputy General Command of the X. Army Corps concerning the reconstruction of the coastal defenses. Copy according to 1/SK1 25509/44 Gkdos in War Diary, Part C, Volume X.

IV. A special case gives occasion to the following directives which were advised by the Fleet Command concerning the striking of a naval war flag on ships beached through enemy action:

"The main principle is that a battleship always has to sink with her flag flying. The naval war flag may be taken down if a man of war has been beached and when abandoning the ship, but only then if this measure cannot be interpreted by the enemy as a surrender. If a beached and disabled ship is abandoned to save the crew the commander has to stay on board with part of his crew to defend the flag with the still existing weapons as long as the enemy is near by."

The Naval Staff, Operations Division believed the assimilation of this directive in completion of number 197 in Volume 4 of the "Dienststan Bord" and the informing of the following units necessary, and made a relevant proposal to the Bureau of Naval Armament.

V. The existing Naval Liaison Officers attached to the Romanian Port Command Constanta respectively Sulina respectively Romanian Danube Division Galatz will carry with immediate effect the name "German Port Commander Constanta (respectively Sulina, respectively Galatz)" conformable to the agreement between the Commanding Admiral Black Sea and the competent Romanian Naval Office.

The appointment of a special Naval Liaison Officers to the relevant Romanian Port Commanders beside the German Port Commanders is not approved by Organization and Mobilization Branch, Naval Staff,

17 Aug. 1944

Quartermaster Division. The German Port Commander will act as Naval Liaison Officer to the corresponding Romanian Port Commanders.

---

Situation on the 17 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Forty eight planes in action were detected by 19th Group. Two British vessels were detected in the rendez-vous area. Four destroyers were steering a southerly course southwesterly of St. Mathieu at 2030 on the 16 Aug. The usual detections were made during the night in the Channel Straits and in the Seine Bay.

Twenty two vessels in total were observed heading south at 0900 and 1115 northerly of Cherbourg of which eight were tankers, one troop transporter and three destroyers.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

Minesweeper M "363" hit a mine on the Gironde at 0020. The convoy torpedo boat T "24" returned to Royan.

Land Situation Brittany:

St. Malo:

There were no more connections with Group Bacherer in Rance West since 24 hours according to the "Situation Report" from 2300 on the 16 Aug. Battery Cecembre and the citadel were continuously shelled by the enemy. Twenty two hundred shells were fired at the battery in 12 hours and about 4200 shells at the citadel. Casualties were proportionally small. The difficult weapon situation is unchanged.

The guns of battery Grande Bey were blown up to prevent the enemy from shelling battery Cecembre through the loopholes.

17 Aug. 1944

The Commander in Chief, Naval Group West sent a teletype to the Port Commander of St. Malo on the night of the 16 Aug: "My thoughts are with you, your deeds will be remembered in the German history as an epic song."

The fortress commander reported at 0900 on the 17 Aug: "Heaviest artillery newly brought up is shelling us continuously since 0500. All loopholes and entrances were covered with the heaviest anti-tank gunfire, smoke and phosphorus. It gives you the impression of being on the Douaumont. No reports were received from Grande Bey or of the stronghold Paulus."

The Port Commander, Captain Endell reports in decoded language at 1529: "Enciphering devise destroyed." and at 1530 "We were able to answer 4000 enemy shells with 18 shells. The battle is finished, hail our leader, people and country!"

Brest:

Enemy harassing fire was on the eastern part of the fortress on the afternoon of the 16 Aug. Emergency anti-aircraft artillery battery "Spee" is shelling troop concentrations northerly of Corsen. A few of our own patrol operations were successful.

Concarneau:

Enemy tanks launched an attack against the town at 0655 on the 17 Aug. Important objects as the harbor, lighthouse and shipyard were destroyed. The interior town was occupied by terrorists during the day.

Lorient:

Our own reconnaissance forces repressed enemy patrols at Nostang.

St. Nazaire:

Special reports were not received.

Sea Area Channel:

Thirteen patrol boat positions were occupied off the Channel coast. Convoys were not under way. The minefields K 5b and L 24f were laid.

17 Aug. 1944

Battery Cap de la Heve and Army Coastal Battery 1/1254 shelled detected targets westerly of Cap de la Heve on the night of the 16 Aug.

The torpedo operation planned for the 2nd and 6th Minesweeper Flotilla could not be carried out owing to rough sea.

Fourty two Marders were launched into the Seine Bay under the most difficult conditions. The sinking of one destroyer and of a three masted ship was reported to be the success. A further very heavy detonation was observed at 0628 in a great distance off. Further detonations could not be observed owing to artillery fire.

To the attitude stated by the Commander PT boats concerning Dackel successes, Group West reports that they were not criticizing them so sceptically as done by the Commander PT Boats. The sentences of the radio monitoring was always nil also in the cases of obvious successes of the Small Battle Units. Therefore the absence of these cannot be asserted as reason for an unfavorable survey.

The Operations Staff Böhme will march back to Le Havre after the return of the single operators.

The 18th Patrol Boat Flotilla warded off five fighter bomber attacks northerly of Ostende and one fighter bomber attack off Gravelines. The 8th Minesweeper Flotilla repulsed a fighter bomber attack off Calais and Gravelines and the 2nd Artillery Flotilla off Calais. Artillery ferry barge AF "112" belonging to the 2nd Artillery Flotilla was brought into Calais with larger damages. Also the 4th Artillery Flotilla warded off a fighter bomber attack.

The Commanding Admiral, Defenses Western left at forenoon for Boulogne for the 2nd Escort Division.

---

## II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

### North Sea:

The Kiel Canal was closed from km 50 to Holtenau owing to suspected mines.

17 Aug. 1944

Motor Minesweeper R "20" sank off Sylt by striking a mine when completing work at the coastal mine type "A" minefield. Minesweeper duties as well as patrol and convoy duties were carried out according to plan.

Eleven observations were heard at sea off the Dutch coast on the night of the 16 Aug.

Enemy planes attacked with bombs and gunfire the harbor of Hellevoet Sluis on the afternoon of the 16 Aug. The attack was repulsed by five vessels of the Maas Flotilla.

Norway, Northern Waters.

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty three planes in action were detected by 18th Group.

2. Own Situation:

The exchange of weak artillery firing was reported from the area of Petsamo on the 16 Aug. The town and harbor of Kirkenes was attacked by 150 enemy planes in several waves at 1000 on the 17 Aug. After being hit by a bomb the steamer Sebu (1894 BRT) was beached. The steamer P. Bornhofen (1345 BRT) was sunk. The benzine quay was hit by a bomb.

It was reported that 35 planes were shot down by our own fighters and six by the air force anti-aircraft artillery.

Fifteen ships were escorted to the north and 25 ships to the south.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

Radio monitoring detected one minesweeper division and 51 naval vessels in the Finnish Bay on the 16 Aug.

Two submarines on westerly course were reported by Naval Command Hungerburg in AO 3742 lower left at 0843 on the 17 Aug.

17 Aug. 1944

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Twenty three vessels were employed with patrol and mine-sweeping duties. A minefield section of the K2 barrage was laid southerly of Thyboroen on the 16 Aug. consisting of 160 coastal mines type "A" in double rows. The coastal mine type "A" work was continued on the 17 Aug.

Convoy duties were carried out according to plan.

Connected with the happenings in Copenhagen it was reported that work had stopped at the shipyards in Aarhus, Aalborg and Frederikshaven.

Western and Central Baltic:

Kiel was attacked by enemy planes on the night of the 16 Aug. Slight damage was caused at the Germania shipyard. Mines were suspected in the eastern part of the Kiel Canal. Large ship traffic as well as ship traffic in the Kiel harbor and in the sailing routes was interrupted. Six mines were found on the beaches at Holtenau and Heikendorf partly with time setting till the end of September beginning of October. The railway bridge Rendsburg received numerous hits of incendiary bombs with nose rods. The started fires were at once extinguished, the traffic was unhampered.

Important damage was caused at Stettin. The naval office is only partly able to work. The 5th Warship Construction Acquaintance Detachment reports complete destruction. The Office of the Naval Administration was destroyed. The harbor installations were badly damaged. Five ships burned out and were damaged, several smaller sea and inland vessels were sunk or damaged. Trains with reinforcements for Stettin were stopped for the next three days and were by-passed to Gydinia. Preparations were made to interpolate Kolberg, Stolpmünde, Rügenwalde as well as to increase the use of Elbing. It will further be examined if the harbor of Stettin cannot be relieved by means of trans-shipment at Küstrin and Frankfurt/Oder.

In the attack on Stettin, six planes were shot down by anti-aircraft artillery vessels. Mines were suspected in the Kaiser Passage at Swinemünde as well as in the outer harbor of Kiel, Bay of Kiel and in the Pommeranian Bay. The Steamer EBERHARD (749 BRT) was

17 Aug. 1944

damaged through hitting a mine northerly of Darsserort. The armed fishing vessel KFK "510" sank in the Kaiser Passage after striking a mine.

Forty nine vessels and one mine exploding vessel were employed with minesweeping duties. The following mines were swept: Bay of Kiel - nine, easterly of Fehmarn - one, northerly of Darsserort - three, Haff of Stettin - one, Pommeranian Bay - nine and north-easterly of Rixhöft - two.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

The 1st Minesweeper Flotilla on minesweeping duties in the Narva Bay swept one mine northerly of Valaste and sailed after that to Helsinki to load for the Seeigel Xb task.

The 6th Torpedo Boat Flotilla also arrived at Helsinki on the night of the 16 Aug. to load for the Seeigel Xb operation. In the evening the flotilla sailed to execute this mining operation.

Convoys and special transports sailed according to plan. Particulars in "Daily Situation Report".

Army Group North received via Riga 1675 tons of supplies on the 16 Aug.

From the operational report of the 4th Artillery Flotilla in action on Lake Peipus on the evening of the 16 Aug. the following is understood: two naval artillery barges and five patrol boats under the command of the Flotilla Chief left Praaga by the Pirisar Strait at 1830 to harass enemy operations of crossing the Warmer Lake. Artillery shelling by enemy batteries and vessels was replied. The enemy was silenced and the break through was forced. The embarkation place off Jopera was shelled, Mehikoorma was approached to a distance of four miles and the unloading places lying opposite were shelled with 8.8 cm. The naval artillery barge MAL "23" ran aground in the straits but came afloat again. On their way back to Praaga enemy fighter planes attacked and caused casualties and slight materiel damage. Defense successes were not known.

Two naval artillery barges further shelled the embarkation place and boat movements at Raskopel with 8.8 cm for a longer interval. Owing to darkness observations of success were also here not possible.

The Commander in Chief, Army Group North expressed his special acknowledgment to the Commander 4th Artillery Flotilla after examin-

17 Aug. 1944

ing the operational terms and especially for the operation carried out on the night of the 16 Aug.

Torpedo Boat T "28" received orders from the Naval Command East to transfer at once to the 6th Torpedo Boat Flotilla.

The task of the 2nd Task Force in the Riga Bay was postponed for 24 hours according to report from the Naval Command East.

IV. Submarine Warfare.

Submarine U "766" was transferred from Brest to Bordeaux. Submarine U "993" sailed from Brest for Norway. Submarine U "445" and U "650" carrying ammunition arrived at Lorient. One of the boats shot down a "Beaufighter" plane in BF 6721 on the 14 Aug. The boats will sail for Norway on the 22 Aug. without being refitted with Schnorchel, submarine U "190" sailed from Lorient to Norway.

Group "Trutz" in Northern Waters was stationed as follows:

Submarine U "344" in AB 5464  
Submarine U "668" in AB 5645  
Submarine U "394" in AB 5967  
Submarine U "363" in AB 6795  
Submarine U "997" in AB 9189

Submarine U "365" reports on the 12 Aug. the sinking of the easterly headed steamer CHAPÃO (3566 BRT) and of two escorting vessels in AT 6434. A further escorting vessel escaped. The boat reports that the enemy air force and patrols proved to be inexperienced. Nothing else was seen. The boat started its return voyage.

Submarine U "196" reports from the Indian Ocean the sinking of a freighter type Jumna (6078 BRT) in MR 28 on the 9 Jul.

Submarine U "230" sailed from the Southern French coast for the outer roads of Toulon on the 17 Aug.

---

V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Five hundred and seventy enemy bombers entered during daytime Belgium/Northern France and attacked the air bases Denain and Laon as well as railway installations.

17 Aug. 1944

From the South, two hundred enemy air entries to Western France were reported, attacking gun positions in the area of Toulon as well as coastal defenses and bridges in the area of Montpellier.

Only 15 enemy planes were reported from Belgium/Northern France on the night of the 17 Aug. without carrying out active operations. No report was received concerning air entries in Western France.

Reich Territory:

Single enemy air operations during daytime were reported from different parts of the Reich area. Eight to ten Mosquito planes attacked seven places in the Rhine-Westfalia industrial area on the night of the 17 Aug. and 50 Mosquito planes raided Mannheim and Ludwigshafen. Fires were started in the I.G. Farben plants at Oppau. Owing to heavy foil dropping, the reported harassing planes and our own fighters were partly mistaken as enemy bomber formations.

Mediterranean Theater:

Six hundred fighter bombers, fighters and reconnaissance planes were operating in the Italian front area on the 16 Aug. and attacked gun positions, bridges and stations. Fifty twin-engined enemy planes attacked also traffic targets in the southeastern part of the Po-plain. Operations on the night of the 16 Aug. were as usual.

Our own planes carried out reconnaissance on the 17 Aug. One photograph made of Alexandria during night is dubious for interpretation owing to fog and enemy defense.

Eastern Area:

Eight hundred and fifty seven own and 2724 enemy operations were reported on the 16 Aug. from the eastern front in which 56 enemy planes were shot down and we suffered 14 losses.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

1. Area Naval Group West.

a. Enemy Invasion in Southern France:

17 Aug. 1944

Two battleships, one aircraft carrier, three cruisers, 23 destroyers, 60 merchantmen of about 250,000 BRT and 150 landing and escort vessels were located in the sea area between St. Raphael and Giens on the 16 Aug. One battleship and three cruisers with several destroyers were located between Cap Negre and Ile de Levant at 2000 on the 16 Aug.

La Ciotat was shelled by several naval vessels at 0345 on the 17 Aug., the island of Marguerithe by cruisers and Ile Verte by motor vessels.

No reports were received from radar equipped Benat, Camarat and Antheor. Radar equipped Sicie and La Giotat were reported again ready for action.

Two minesweeping vessels were sunk and one destroyer damaged by battery Benat on the 15 Aug.

The batteries of Giens, La Badine Hyeres and Cap Benat were continuously attacked with bombs and by ground attacking planes. One turret is out of action at the battery of Cap Cepet. The battery was employed on the land front.

According to the wishes of the 19th Army Headquarters the railway battery "Gneisenau" was employed at St. Gilles westerly of Arles. The ships anti-aircraft artillery at Marseille was placed under the Port Command for employment as coastal batteries and for the defense of the harbor. Preparations for destruction were completed in all harbors.

All available vessels of the 6th Escort Flotilla were employed with patrol duties in the area of Port de Bouc - Marseille - Toulon on the night of the 16 Aug. Operations were also planned with the MAS, motor minesweeper and motor minesweeper of foreign construction belonging to the 7th Escort Flotilla against landing formations off Monaco and St. Remo as well as for the laying of mine fields westerly of Agde and off Sete. No reports were yet received about these operations.

b. No special reports were received from the Gibraltar area.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

According to aerial photograph reconnaissance made from Alexandria at 0210 two apparently cruisers and twelve apparently

17 Aug. 1944

smaller naval vessels were recognized. The taking of the photograph was rendered more difficult by smoke screen and defense. The berths of the two auxiliary aircraft carriers were apparently still occupied by larger vessels.

According to the second phase interpretation of the air photograph made of Tarento at 0700 the following ships were in port: two battleships of apparently the DORIA - class, one heavy cruiser, one cruiser apparently of the AOSTA - class, one cruiser apparently of the CADORNA - class, one cruiser apparently in dry dock, twelve destroyers, 14 escort vessels, 18 smaller naval vessels, one apparently submarine, four LCT's of 350 tons, 40 auxiliary landing craft, 23 smaller vessels, one troop transporter, three tankers, 40 freighters and more.

One easterly headed boat group was detected with radar equipment southerly of Cap Mele and outside of our own mine field as well as mostly off running traffic with escort vessels in the Bay southerly of Tropez.

Our own night and early reconnaissance above the Ligurian Sea and in the sea area northerly of Elba was not free of gaps on account of clouds and mist on the night of the 16 Aug. A few sighted vessels were probably PT boats protecting the reinforcements to the southern French area.

Own Situation:

First degree of alarm was ordered for the western Italian coast on the night of the 16 Aug.

Four motor minesweepers, four motor minesweepers of foreign construction, three battle ferries and three German MAS vessels were transferred to western Italian harbors for operations off the southern French Coast.

Convoy and escort duties were carried out according to plan on the night of the 16 Aug. A northerly headed convoy was attacked with bombs without effect southwesterly of Sestri Levante.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

Air reconnaissance observed at 0700 off Ancona three freighters and apparently six LCT. One convoy consisting of

17 Aug. 1944

two passenger freighters, one freighter and eight smaller vessels were observed twelve miles east southeasterly of Ancona. Apparently the vessel had discharged at Ancona.

Two coastal freighters were off Brindisi on NW course. Presumably through striking a mine torpedo boat of foreign construction TA "35" broke asunder and sank in the Fasana Canal at 0458. Colliding with our own minefield is probable. Seventy men are missing up to now including the commander.

Without success enemy planes attacked with bombs battery positions at the Lido and in the harbor of Venice on the 16 Aug. One naval landing craft was attacked by enemy fighter bombers off Chioggia and beached, damaged.

Torpedo boat of foreign construction TA "48" with a Croatian crew was commissioned on the 15 Aug.

G "104" was put out of commission by its German crew and again recommissioned by a Croatian crew.

b. Aegean:

One enemy submarine attacked without effect a coastal sailing vessel in the southern Gulf of Athen on the night of the 16 Aug. with artillery.

The war freighter PELIKAN on her way to Rhodos had an engagement with British PT boats in the sea area of Tilos on the night of the 16 Aug. and arrived at Rhodos with a few wounded and slight damage.

GA "81" on escort duty from Cania to Monemvasia capsized northerly of Cap Spatha in a NE storm and sank. Weather conditions in the Aegean were unusually bad for this season. Convoy traffic is strongly hindered by wind velocities up to 10.

c. Black Sea:

Enemy small boat operations were continued according to radio monitoring. Minesweeping operations were observed in the sea area Odessa to Tendra headland. Enemy reconnaissance planes were reported from the sea area easterly of Constanta and from the sea area off the Danube estuary.

17 Aug. 1944

One enemy mine was swept easterly of Constanta. Convoys sailed according to plan.

d. Danube Situation:

Report was not received.

---

VII. Situation in East Asia.

Japanese Homeland:

Twenty super fortresses coming from Chinese air bases attacked Nagasaki, the western and northern part of Kiushu and the southern district of Honshu on the 11 Aug. Little damage was caused.

Bonin Islands:

For the first time the American air force attacked Iwo Jima and Chichishima from the Marianan Islands on the 11 Aug. Damage was not reported.

Marianan:

At Guam the American forces were slowly progressing. According to American reports they had occupied seven villages and two air bases up to the 14 Aug. According to the same report, the American losses were: 1214 dead, 329 missing and 8704 wounded, it was quoted that the Japanese had 10,971 casualties. The Japanese intend to hold a part of the island through the advantage of the primeval forests. Tinian is totally occupied by American troops since the 2 Aug. according to an American report.

Rota and Pagan were attacked by American bombers on the 11 Aug. No new reports were received concerning the state of the land fighting.

Philippine Islands:

The harbor Davao on Mindanao was attacked from the air on the 11th and 15 Aug.

17 Aug. 1944

Molucca Islands:

Air raids were directed against the western coast of Halmahera and shipping traffic there on the 8th, 11th and 14 Aug. It is said that four Japanese freighters each of 1,000 BRT were sunk.

In the Ceram Sea air raids were made at ship targets on the 3 Aug. and on the same day the air base Liang on Amboina was bombarded.

New Guinea:

The shelling of the coast between Wewak and Aitape was continued, the Japanese attack at Afua was without larger successes. The casualties were heavy here as well as in the Driniumor Valley. Americans report that the Japanese lost about 18,000 men in this area in the month of July. It is said that the Japanese forces were withdrawing into the Toricelli Hills. In the western part of the island the American forces were slowly progressing in the area of Sansapor and Manckwari. The 2nd Japanese Army is trying to withdraw from the enemy.

Southwest Pacific:

The air raids against the Japanese island bases were consecutively pursued. Raboul and Bougainville were raided on the 14 Aug., Ruk on the 3rd and 9 Aug., the Marshall Islands on the 3 Aug., Nauru on the 4th, 9th, 11th and 13 Aug., Yap and Ponape on the 7 Aug., Wake on the 9 Aug., and the Mille Atol on the 11 Aug. Nothing was reported concerning the damage done.

Central Pacific:

Without meeting Japanese resistance American troops occupied the Baker and Howland Islands.

Formosa:

The docks of Takow as well as the shipping traffic in the Formosa straits were attacked from the air on the 13 Aug. It is said that three freighters were sunk in this attack.

17 Aug. 1944

Kurile Island:

Paramushiru and Arado were raided from the air on the 10th and 13 Aug. No damage was reported.

China:

Hengyang was occupied by Japanese troops on the 8 Aug. Enemy attacks were specially directed against the Japanese reinforcements. The Japanese intended to continue their operations from Hangyang and Canton along the railway line. The attack in the Honan area was postponed.

Shanghai:

Shanghai was attacked by American planes on the 8 Aug. The Americans report hitting harbor installations as well as the former Italian steamer CONTE VERDE.

Burma:

Japanese attacking plans in the Burma area were postponed for the time. The Japanese troops concentrated about 50 miles northerly of Imphal in strong mountain positions.

Myitkyna was evacuated by the Japanese garrison on the 3 Aug. The troops forced their way through the surrounding enemy and withdrew into hill positions ten miles off the Into-Burma frontier. The Americans report that allied forces advanced to 20 miles southwesterly of Mogaung. According to American reports the Japanese lost 22,400 men in Burma since December 1943.

Naval Shipping Losses:

According to American reports one Japanese submarine was sunk at Formosa and one at Oshima on the 9 Aug. The submarine KIEFER was lost on its way from Shonan to Japan.

Aircraft Losses:

The Japanese High Command reports the total number of enemy planes shot down respectively damaged with 1030 during the month of July. Their own losses were reported with 139.

18 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance:

The press of Moscow is blaming "reactionary Polish emigrant bands" in London for starting the revolt of poorly equipped Poles at Warsaw and of trying to establish a cheap success for their General Bor by making the most of the advance of the Red Army. The wrong timing revealed the knavish plan.

Roosevelt declared at a press conference in Washington after his return from the Pacific that Allied troops would occupy Germany and Japan even if resistance should break down before the frontiers were reached.

The U.S.A. received a plan for the organization of a world peace from the Russian Government which intends to provide an Alliance of Nations and the forming of an international air force.

---

The Commander in Chief Navy arrived in his Headquarters from the Fuehrer 's Headquarters.

---

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

I. Report concerning air situation: From enemy censure Operations Staff, Foreign Affairs Section, dated 15 Aug. the Naval Staff, Operations Division, Naval Air and Air Force Liaison Section understood:

West Area:

All Allied close combat headquarters planned to participate in the invasion were now on the continent.

It is expected that also the Heavy Close Combat Corps will be transferred to the continent.

The still in Great Britain remaining close combat formations were mostly tied down with long range reconnaissance and escort duties. In connection with the stationing of the Allied air landing army the reliable defense reports gain more importance concerning the

18 Aug. 1944

elevated parachuting readiness of the 2nd Air Landing Division in the large area of Salisbury which was the former training area of the 6th British Air Landing Division.

The tactical leadership and employment will deserve consideration. Further operations of stronger forces to annihilate the traffic communication lines in northern France especially in the Seine area. Increased Mosquito plane attacks directed against the traffic during bright nights. Extending attacks against traffic communications between the Reich and the occupied areas also by including the southwestern German frontier area. Attacks, planned - against the Rhine bridges.

Mediterranean Theater:

Air Support is given at present exclusively by formations of the close combat corps Eastern Mediterranean (control post Senegallia) to the 15th Army Group in Italy.

For the first time four-engined formations of the American Operational Air Force (ST. air force) were in action in larger night operations during the invasion on the 15 Aug.

A commanding post of the 12th American Close Combat Corps was with certainty recognized on a staff-ship in the area of St. Raphael.

According to the Operations Staff, High Command Air, Foreign Affairs Section, Foreign Air Forces East, several forebodings indicate an imminent ground attack in front of Army Group Southern Ukraine.

Apparatus detected enemy planes in a flying height of 14 to 15 km presumably B 29 if not further developed wooden Mosquito types were concerned.

The Commander in Chief, Navy reports that the new Chief of the General Staff, Air Force promised that the construction of Me 263 would go on.

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

a. To the report concerning the transfer of Group West from Paris the Commander in Chief, Navy ordered to ascertain how the valuable installations of the navy staying behind in Paris were safeguarded.

18 Aug. 1944

b. According to information from the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters it was planned that the constructions in the line Kiel - Glückstadt should be discontinued. The date of a conference was fixed for the 19 Aug. concerning the defense of the coast of our homeland at the Armed Forces High Command. The Naval Command East and North will be present. The Naval Staff, Operations Division draws attention of Operations Staff Armed Forces High Command to the fact by telephone, that also the Army Commander of Denmark should be asked to participate.

c. The surrender of the Armed Forces privileges of the Commander in Chief Naval Command North is characterized by the Commander in Chief Navy only then as fraught in meaning if they were installed to the real battle leaders of the area, but not if they should be passed for the time being to the Deputy General in command of the X. Army Corps.

d. There were no possibilities more for the German naval vessels to elude to Spain. Relevant directives will be passed to Group West.

III. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff:

a. The British Admiralty again stated the Baltic Sea area to be declared area. It must be feared that by this an intimidate effect will be exercised on Swedish shipping which will be of accessible consequences to us.

b. With regard to the Fuehrer's orders demanding protection of hydrogenation plants the General in command of the anti-aircraft artillery asked the navy to release anti-aircraft artillery batteries with crews for this purpose.

The Commander in Chief Navy ascertained unequivocally that this demand overreached the Fuehrer's authorization and will not be realized.

IV. Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament:

a. The removal of about 4000 torpedoes from the storehouse Pilsz was not started obviously owing to transportation reasons. Everything will be tried to save at least a part of the stock.

b. The Reich Minister for Armament refused to accept the salt mine Salzungen as Central Torpedo Arsenal which was placed at his disposal.

18 Aug. 1944

V. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

The foreign news service is remarkable cautious about the landing operations in Southern France. The Burgundian Gate is without a doubt the strategical target which lies at present in the same distance off the northern and southern positions of the army.

The interior situation of Greece has aggravated seriously according to information from the Foreign Office. Anglo-Saxon and Russian influences were operating heavily against each other. Evacuation of German troops from the country would throw into appearance clearly the contrast on the enemy's side.

The speech held by Bagrianoff yesterday at Sobranje indicates an entire deflection from the present superficial alliance loyal attitude of Bulgaria. Group South reports to this among others:

Bagrianoff has established among others the facts that the Bulgarian partisans only want to gain the will of the people although by illegal means which is directed to establish peace after former illegal governments led the country into war. B indicated that this government would return now to legal ways. In this direction he announced measures:

1. The calling back of all Bulgarian formations outside of Bulgarian territory.

2. A new arrangement of the Jewish question.

3. Restoration of a possibility for the free exchange of views which is understood in general as indication that parties will be readmissioned.

4. Exertions to establish the conditions of peace in which Bulgaria is not willing to stick to those nations which started the war but to those nations which will win it and of which Bulgaria hopes to receive consideration for their own righteous claims. According to interpretation here the facts indicate that the enemy will now demand essentially more from Bulgaria as the speech was held over the air without noticeable pressure from outside. Nothing is known yet about the reaction on people and armed forces but it can surely be expected that they will not be favorable to our cause. According to still unconfirmed reports

18 Aug. 1944

an amnesty is being prepared for imprisoned partisans as well as the cancellation of banishments of Jews out of towns which in the near future will lead to actions against the German Armed Forces, surprise attacks and sabotage acts. More will follow after consultation with the German Military Mission respectively Embassy.

The Naval Attache Helsinki reports to the situation in Finland: Without being asked, War Minister General Walden contradicted to the Military Attaches that there were any connections or contacts with Moscow. He also knew nothing about any private connections of this kind. On account of the personality of the War Minister there cannot be any doubt on the honesty of the assurances.

General Talvela passing through with the Chief Armed Forces High Command was heavily impressed by the situation report Baltic given to him by Admiral Wagner and will report to the Marshall about these questions which were of the greatest importance to the coalition Germany - Finland that he himself believed them to be safe even if the Baltic States were lost.

According to reports from foreign quarters there were again new Finnish-Russian negotiations via Stockholm.

Conference Restricted to a Very Limited Circle:

VI. Army Situation:

Western Front:

With strong forces the enemy is still trying to tie off the battle neck southerly of Falaise and with this to complete the encircling of the 5th Tank Army. The enemy was successful in establishing a deep tank penetration at Morteaux - Couliboeuf and at Falaise. Counter attacks were started. The enemy is following up quickly our own withdrawing forces which were suffering under shortage of fuel and ammunition. Our losses in men and material were heavy.

According to a captured order the enemy is not moving inwards to Paris between Chartres and the Loire but is continuing his advance further to the east in direction of the Upper Seine. He was successful in capturing Orleans.

18 Aug. 1944

The heroic battle for the fortress of St. Malo is finished; only the battery Cecembre is still holding out.

The same reports were at hand from the Southern French area as reported in the Naval Warfare. The German forces in Southern France received the order to fight their way through to the Italian frontier respectively to the line Sens - Dijon - Swiss frontier.

Italian Front:

Crossings over the Arno at Florence were shelled effectively by our artillery.

Between Tiber and Adriatic Coast and by increased fighting actions the enemy started thrusts against our advanced positions so that they had to be partly withdrawn under lasting heavy pressure.

Eastern Front:

Northern Ukraine:

Heavy fighting is developing in the area of Radomyl southerly of the Vistula. The enemy seems to intend here a thrust along the Vistula in southwesterly direction. The Russians were bringing up continuously further corps and divisions to the western bank of the Vistula and were concentrating here, the target of which at last seems to be the accomplishment of the operational break-through to Silesia after rolling up the German Vistula front between Sandomir and Warsaw. Changeable fighting continued between Opatow and Sandomir. Presumably Sandomir will have to be evacuated in spite of our own successes.

Army Group Central:

Little local fighting did not change the situation at the 9th, 2nd and 4th Army.

At the 3rd Tank Army the enemy tried again yesterday to break through our barely sufficient defense line rebuilt by the two German divisions by attacking with 14 infantry divisions and two tank brigades after he had occupied Wilkowschken the previous day. Heavy fighting with many casualties occurred in this and in the cause of it the enemy was successful in reaching the Eastern Prussian frontier northerly of Neustadt in a broadness of about 7 km.

Renewed break-through attempts of the enemy southerly of Raseinen were frustrated.

18 Aug. 1944

In Courland the attack of the German tank divisions in direction of Schaulen and Mitau is only gaining little headway. The enemy is able to throw heavy anti-tank gun blockades against them and brings up heavy motorized forces against our attacking spearheads under the protection of his barrage.

Army Group North:

Between Mitau and the Düna the enemy also continued yesterday his attacks to break through to Riga. In heavy and changeable fighting we were essentially able to hold the main defense line. The infantry fighting value of the corps fighting there is heavily declining. Northerly of the Düna and at the right flank of the 18th Army the enemy launched his expected attack by employing 19 divisions with tanks and supported by heavy ground attacking planes. Penetrations could not be prevented. Also here the situation is tense owing to the serious declining of the fighting strength and the missing possibility to bring up new forces from other sectors. The enemy is continuing his attacks with the same weight and strength at the front between Marienburg and Lake Peipus. Again he was successful in establishing deeper penetrations.

Field marshall v. Kluge was relieved from his post as Commander in Chief West by Field marshal Model. The command of Army Group Central was received by Colonel General Reinhart.

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

The Naval Command East instructed the Naval Staff, Operations Division by copy about directives to the commander of the 2nd Task Force concerning the execution of shelling task in the Riga Bay (compare with report from the Naval Command East dated 14 Aug.) Execution of operation on the 19 Aug. at 0400. Orders for permission to fire and cease firing will be given by Group Strachwitz. Heavy artillery will shell Tuksum and medium sized artillery will lay barrage fire on the coastal road northeasterly of Tuksum. The naval liaison officer from Army Group Central will be attached to Group Strachwitz from the 18 Aug.

Fighter protection will only be supplied for the last end of the approach as well as for the firing position.

After sufficient re-examining the danger of mines in the Irben Strait is looked upon as being very small. The formation should

18 Aug. 1944

therefore first try to enter the straits when twilight is starting and without being in formation.

Army Group North drew attention to the fact that during the fighting operations were going on besides Tukkum also Kemmern would be in question for land target shelling and that the concentration of the enemy defense might be shifted to here. Fighting group Werther in the sector Schlock will support the tasks of Army Group Central if the need should arise. The Naval communication officer Riga will attach an army liaison officer on the evening of the 17 Aug. to the sector Schlock in the main line of resistance with naval radio equipment and one set of naval radio equipment will be attached to the commander of Fighting Group Werther for the operational command.

The Naval Staff, Operations Division informed the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters, the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command Navy, the General Staff of the Army, High Command Army, the Naval Liaison Officer and the Operations Staff, High Command Air, Operations Officer, Navy.

---

Special Items

I. Concerns West Areas:

1. According to information from the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters from the evening of the 16th. the Commander in Chief, Navy ordered that Group West should be informed not to transfer back from the area of Southern France shipyard work which needed urgent repairs in agreement with the Commander in Chief West.

The further will be instigated by the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division with the Bureau of Naval Armament.

2. The Command of Small Battle Units reports:

a. Operations Staff Böhme was transferred from Paris to Amiens.

b. The ground organization of the 362nd Small Battle Flotilla will be attached at Tournay to the 364th Small Battle Flotilla.

c. PT boat of foreign construction SA "17", "18" will sail at 2300 from Spezia for Imperia.

18 Aug. 1944

3. The Naval Staff asked the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Southern French Coast if the sailing of the Swiss ships from Marseille is still possible in the present state of the harbor blocking.

II. Concerns Eastern Baltic:

1. Concerning the passage of the Irben Straits the Naval Staff draws the attention of the Naval Command East to the fact that Soviet planes might be able to drop moored mines. The contaminating of the route for a short period is therefore possible and a previous verification will not offer security. Therefore the carrying of a bow protecting gear or a protection paravane sweep will answer the purpose on advanced destroyers or torpedo boats.

2. The Naval Command East transmits the following report from the Admiral Eastern Baltic:

a. With the appearance of the 2nd Task Force the army planned to push ahead from Schlock along the coast to the NW supported by three artillery ferry barges. Moreover landing operations were planned by the 13th Landing Flotilla (five naval landing craft each with five assault boats and six pioneer boats) off Ragaciems.

b. As only a weak defense is expected no additional burden will be added to the 2nd Task Force. The landing formation will be tactically on its own.

3. The Naval Command East instructed on the 13 Aug. by copy the Naval Staff, Operations Division of the following directives to the Commanding Admiral Defenses Skagerrak concerning security measures for supplies to Army Group North:

a. Situation:

Secured supplies to the east were of deciding importance to the situation. The escort forces were at present sufficient as only troop transporters, hospital ships and tankers were sailing in convoys. Should the situation aggravate so that an escort is needed for all materiel reinforcements further forces will be necessary in the eastern area. It is tried to receive reinforcements from other areas which is poor in prospect.

18 Aug. 1944

b. Commanding Admiral Defenses Skagerrak will send six anti-aircraft artillery escorting vessels ( among these at least one minesweeper type "40" and patrol boat "1604") within 24 hours to Gydinia at the disposal of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Baltic when receiving the order "Strengthen the protection of reinforcements East".

c. A withdrawal of forces according to b. means to the Commanding Admiral Defenses Skagerrak a weakening below the allowed mark. As the protection of the eastern reinforcements have priority to all other tasks a withdrawal of forces is unavoidable.

d. Appendix for High Command Navy, Naval Staff, Operations Division.

Attention is drawn to c. A transfer of forces from the "Colanie" stock or from other areas is therefore urgent.

To this the Naval Staff decided as follows: The transfer of further protecting forces will first be possible when the necessity is at hand as the schooling has been reduced already below the allowed limit and the situation of the forces is exceedingly tense in all areas.

### III. The Fleet Reports:

1. The Navy planned to perform manoeuvres in tactical formation under the command of the Commanding Admiral, 2nd Task Force after completing the operational tasks ordered for the 2nd Task Force , but not before the 24 Aug. 44. The length of the time will depend on the fuel situation, but will require at most two complete training days.

2. It is requested that the following forces should be released at the proper time for the manoeuvres based on certain principles of agreement: the PRINZ EUGEN, the LÜTZOW and the 2nd and 3rd Torpedo Flotilla. It is also aspired to participate one or two PT boat training flotillas.

3. To observe punctually the appointed readiness for the time of the manoeuvres as ordered by the Naval Command East it will be necessary , should the need arise to ask for the release of the supply ship FRANKEN for refuelling purpose.

18 Aug. 1944

The Naval Staff decided:

1. Agree with the performance of manœuvres in formation under the command of Commanding Admiral 2nd Task Force and the cooperation of the PRINZ EUGEN, the LÜTZOW and the 2nd and 3rd Torpedo Flotilla as far as operational tasks and the fuel situation allow.

2. The answering of above mentioned No. 3 will be attended by the Naval Command East.

IV. Instructions to the director of the signal reporting center Naval Command East at Pillau were filed under: 1/SK1 24315/44 GK. in War Diary Part C, Volume III.

V. The exceedingly tense situation of the escorting vessels in all areas is characterized by the following facts:

1. Naval Command East:

Continuous losses in the Finnish Bay! - Application from the Naval Command East to increase the operating forces protecting the reinforcements to Army Group North which were at present only sufficient as only troop transporters, hospital ships and tankers were escorted. - A new British air mine offensive directed against the Baltic was started on the 16 Aug.

2. Naval Command North:

Twenty four vessels were lost between the 1 Jun. and the 25 Jul. 44, 37% of the remaining vessels were not fit for action. Reactions were felt in the Elbe-Ems traffic after the ceasing of the traffic in Holland.

3. Naval Command Norway:

The burden in northern waters was increased remarkably through enemy air raids - also PT boat raids will again start with the nights growing longer - the situation in the main has not changed in the area of the western coast. Though the deductions were very incisive owing to the long sailing routes 15 artillery ferries, three minesweepers, three whale-fishing vessels and four Wallenstein minesweepers had to be withdrawn. Also in future a further deduction will probably not be avoidable.

18 Aug. 1944

4. If the mining respectively the destruction of the Kiel canal forced us to deviate the traffic around Skagen no forces were available at present for these tasks. Forces kept in readiness for this purpose at the end of June and consisting of a few Wallenstein minesweepers and the 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla were employed in the eastern part of the Baltic and could not be missed there. Further tensions respectively demands can be expected at the corresponding development of situation in the Baltic States as well as through the ordered transfer of new constructions from the area of Holland.

5. Procuring spare parts, materiels etc.:

a. New constructions:

New constructions were absolutely insufficient apart from motor minesweepers and armed fishing vessels. No fishing vessels were built. The delivery of a minesweeper flotilla is first expected at the end of October.

b. Existing reserves in the form of vessels belonging to training centers and inspections were practically drained by the Wallenstein presumption. - Apart of vessels unsuitable for escorting service the inspectorates have at their disposal only absolutely necessary vessels. Among numerous other applications a renewed application was received from the Commanding Admiral, Submarines, asking in the first line for the return of torpedo and minesweeper vessels.

c. The Naval Staff, Operations Division approached the High Command Air to re-examine if crash boats of the Air Force could be released for mine sweeping duties. An answer was not yet received to this application.

6. On account of 1. to 5. a re-examination is needed if suitable forces could be obtained from the area of the 2nd Escort Division (Commanding Admiral, Defenses West) easterly of the invasion area for escort duties. For the tasks there under consideration as the patrolling of the area at the immediate coast line, the laying of defensive minefields and holding open the routes for PT boat operations, restrictions seem to be justified on the forces of motor minesweepers, armed fishing vessels, naval landing craft, trawlers and similar vessels. The not fully solved problems can be accepted there at first, as very serious reactions must be expected otherwise on the military and economic sea traffic in other areas, owing to the shortages in forces.

18 Aug. 1944

The following directives were therefore issued to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West and by copy to Group West:

a. The situation of the escort forces is exceedingly tense owing to the high losses which were caused in all areas. Grievous reactions must be expected to the military and economic sea traffic carried out in the Baltic, North Sea and Norway. Therefore:

b. Re-examination necessary if suitable fishing vessels, minesweepers etc. could be possibly withdrawn from the area of the 2nd Escort Division.

c. If tasks now under consideration, the importance of which is not misjudged, could be carried out by motor minesweepers, armed fishing vessels, naval landing craft, trawlers and resembling vessels.

d. The Commanding Admiral, Defenses West should at once report all easterly of the invasion area stationed minesweeper vessels, combat vessels, fishing vessels and vessels of the same size in action or held in readiness and which were in combat ready condition as well as the positions of these vessels.

VI. Classification of enemy reports intercepted by radio decoding and radio monitoring between the 31 Jul. to the 13 Aug. were enclosed in Radio Intercept Report No. 32 and 33/44.

---

Situation on the 18 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

Forty-nine planes in action were detected by 19th Group.

Five British vessels were detected in the rendez-vous area.

Destroyer patrols and groups of PT boats were reported westerly of Jersey concentrating in BF 2699 during the 17th and at 2100 destroyers in BF 2675 southerly of Guernsey.

18 Aug. 1944

Four American air landing divisions were loaded in Southern England with small tanks and guns according to the report from an agent. One American parachute regiment received plans of the town of Paris as well as corresponding training courses.

The construction of special quays in Cherbourg by American sappers made it possible for the first time that two ammunition transports arrived directly from the U.S.A. in this port. American convoys will probably sail in future directly for these ports.

Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

The dropping of several mines was observed on the Gironde and off La Pallice. Two mines were swept on the 16th off La Pallice. Minesweeper M "306" was damaged off the Gironde through the detonation of a mine close by. Minesweeper M "4207" sank on the lower Gironde by striking a mine. Minesweeper M "4408" hit a mine and arrived at La Rochelle.

Land Situation Brittany:

St. Malo:

Communications with St. Malo at 1558 on the 17th. The last teletype from the fortress commander said: "Fighting has ceased. Cecembre is continuing the fight."

The Naval Communication Officer of the Channel Islands tried without results to contact Cecembre by radio. The transmitter of the battery was heard faintly by Alderney at 2045 on the 17th. The fortress commander made the following report to the Fuehrer:

"My Fuehrer. The battle of St. Malo will cease today or tomorrow. Under the heaviest shelling one stronghold after the other is crumbling up to a heap of ruins. If we are going down it will only be after a battle to the last. My Lord God hold his hand protectingly above you. Long live our Fuehrer!"

Brest:

One hundred four-engined planes attacked from a height of four to 5000 meters, the harbor, the naval school and the

18 Aug. 1944

surroundings. A gun of the battery 3/803 received a direct hit. One minesweeper started leaking and had to be beached. One attacker was probably shot down. Enemy artillery fire is covering the eastern part of the fortress. Our own artillery shelled the enemy with good results at Guypavas.

St. Nazaire:

No special reports were received.

Lorient:

No special reports.

Sea Area Channel:

The batteries of St. Adresse near Le Havre, Cap de la Heve and 2/1253 fired each seven vollies of harassing fire at enemy targets. Off Fecamp an enemy PT boat was forced to turn off through firing of the Army Coastal Battery 2/1256.

An approaching destroyer was shelled by an army coastal battery at 2100 on the 17th southerly of Guernsey. Further targets which were detected in BF 3546 and 3543 were shelled from Alderney.

Enemy fighter bombers attacked without effect forces belonging to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West between Ostende and Boulogne on the night of the 17th. Contact was made between our own defense forces and gun boats northerly of Cap de la Heve. The enemy received direct hits. We suffered no casualties.

Two groups of the 8th PT Boat Flotilla advanced from Boulogne against a convoy off the British coast. Both groups were several of times engaged with destroyers and motor gun boats. One Zaunkönig was launched against a destroyer, but results were not observed. A second Zaunkönig missed the target owing to faulty attendance. Direct hits were observed on board of the enemy's motor gun boats, enemy fighter bomber attacks were without effect. When entering, one boat drifted into the net barrage Boulogne after having engine troubles, but was towed into the harbor.

The successes were increased of the Marders in action on the night of the 16th. Two destroyers and two transporters were in total sunk, a further transporter of 15,000 BRT was torpedoed. It can be expected that further vessels were sunk as eight more

18 Aug. 1944

detonations were heard. For report from the Commanding Admiral, Small Battle Units see teletype 0030. From the 42 employed equipments, 17 operators returned. One of these was picked up by French fishermen.

---

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

Naval anti-aircraft artillery shelled in all sectors of the Heligoland Bight entering enemy air formations on the night of the 18th. Bremen was heavily raided from 0002 to 0030. Fires were started at Deschimag; particulars were not yet received.

Shipping was reopened again in the Kiel canal.

At noon a convoy was attacked in Zeeland waters without effect by enemy planes with bombs and gunfire. Minefield K 4 with 84 coastal mines type "A" was laid off Texel.

Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Thirty-one enemy planes in action were detected by 18th Group.

Own Situation:

Four sabotage plots were made against refuelling stations of the Armed Forces in the Oslo area on the night of the 17th. The naval refuelling station Soon, containing 836 cubic metres of heavy diesel oil and 3865 cubic metres of furnace oil, was blown up by an armed raiding party after overwhelming the Norwegian crew, the saboteurs fled.

Submarine chaser "1103" sank off Lister in front of the western coast after ramming. A harbor defense vessel NM "05" which ran aground off the northern coast in AF 8282 capsized.

In the area of the Arctic Coast an easterly headed convoy was attacked northerly of Vardoe by enemy PT boats at 2351 in which Patrol Boat VP "6112" was sunk by a torpedo. In a renewed attack shortly after midnight against the same convoy, Patrol Boat VP "6102" and steamer KOLMAR (3992 BRT) were sunk. Two of the attacking planes were destroyed for certain and probably one more.

18 Aug. 1944

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

Enemy Situation:

Special incidents were not reported.

Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

The patrolling of the western Jutlandic coast and mine-sweeping duties in the Baltic Sea Entrances were carried out according to plan.

A mine field section in mine field K 2 was laid with 80 coastal mines type "A" southerly of Tyboroen according to plan. The strikes came to an end in Aarhus, Aalborg and Frederikshaven. A new strike was started at Odense.

Western and Central Baltic:

Fifty one vessels and five minesweeper planes were employed with minesweeping duties. Eight mines were swept in the Haff of Stettin and three mines northerly and northwesterly of Swinemünde. The traffic in the Kiel Canal and in the Western Baltic was again re-opened.

Among others the cruiser KÖLN was escorted.

Admiral Commanding Eastern Baltic:

Torpedo boat T "30", T "32" and T "22" were badly damaged and lost through detonation when carrying out the mining task "Seeigel 10b" in AO 3744. Torpedo boat T "32" was sighted floating easterly of the Seeigel minefield. The facts were not yet indisputably established if the loss of the vessel was caused by enemy mines, our own mines or through torpedo attack. Statements received up to now, dread that the formation drifted into our own mine field. The commanders of torpedo boat T "32" and T"30" as well as 144 soldiers were rescued up to now. Rescuing work was carried out by the 25th Minesweeper Flotilla and planes of the distress at sea service. The employment of the rescuing planes was rendered more difficult by the interference of Russian patrol boats and planes. Continuation is tried through the operations of strengthened fighter protection. Torpedo boat T "23" made contact with enemy PT boats on its way back to Helsinki.

18 Aug. 1944

The naval forces employed with the rescuing action: four mine-sweepers, three artillery ferry barges, one anti-aircraft artillery vessel; one Finnish PT boat flotilla and two of our own PT boats were withdrawn during the day except three artillery ferry barges. The Finnish navy reported that diver work was started by enemy special vessels on the 17 Aug. under the protection of smoke screen in the Viborg Bay at the place where submarine U "250" was lost. The work was harassed by Finnish artillery. Operations for our own and Finnish PT boats were planned. Owing to the shortage in forces operations of our own air force were not possible. The Finnish air force was asked for support. It was planned to destroy the wreck lastingly with depth charges.

One mine was swept northerly of Reval.

Continuous air attacks were made at a group of naval artillery barges with bombs and gunfire, off Praaga at Lake Peipus on the 17th. at forenoon which caused casualties. Owing to the withdrawal of the land front, the mouth of the Emsbach will be closed in a few days to the 4th Gun Carrier Flotilla. As tasks remain, the withdrawal of a company of Piirisaar's and the defense of the western and northern shores of Lake Peipus as far as our own boats were fit for operations. It is planned to employ them in the secondary waterways of the Embach as floating batteries or their armament on land.

The Naval Command East reports that the operation for the 2nd Task Force will be carried out in the Riga Bay at 0400 on the 20 Aug.

---

#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

The situation is unchanged in the submarine bases Brest, Lorient, and St. Nazaire. In an air raid at Bordeaux the submarine bunker received three direct hits. Radio monitoring reports from the Indian Ocean that a British steamer was attacked by submarine with a torpedo which missed in LC 7123. One of our own submarines is concerned in this attack.

No special reports were received from other operational areas.

---

18 Aug. 1944

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

Enemy air operations were very active during the day in the occupied western areas.

About 1550 planes were reported carrying out attacks in the area of Paris and in the operational areas of their own troop formations.

Numerous planes from the south entered the invasion area and attacked gun positions in the area of Toulon as well as bridges in the Rhone valley up to Valence.

About 150 planes were reported above Belgium/Northern France on the night of the 18th. dropping bombs in the area of Ghent as well as on air bases. No reports were received from Western France concerning air penetrations during this night.

Reich Area:

Single enemy planes were reported during daytime from different parts of the Reich territory.

A formation of several hundred bombers entered Northern Holland and raided Bremen on the night of the 18th. Particulars were not known yet. Twenty to 25 Mosquito planes advanced up to the area of Berlin. The Ruhr chemical plants Holten and Cologne in the Rhine-Westfalian industrial area were attacked by about 150 bombers.

Mediterranean Theater:

Five hundred and ten enemy planes were in action in the Italian front area and attacked the area southerly of Bologna, southerly of Udine and southwesterly of Venice.

One formation of about 400 four-engined planes with heavy fighter protection advanced across the Adriatic and entered the Serbian area where the air base Nisch was raided successfully. After that the formation advanced to attack Ploesti where damage was done in four refineries. Seven planes were shot down for certain with ten probables. Eighty three of our own fighters were unsuccessful. Ploesti was again attacked by weaker enemy forces on the night of the 17th and damaged. In addition, five enemy planes were reported planting mines in the Danube between Orsova and Vardia. Our own planes carried out reconnaissance flights.

18 Aug. 1944

Eastern Area:

Eight hundred and fourteen of our own and 3640 enemy air operations were reported from the eastern front of which 98 enemy planes were shot down and of which we suffered ten losses.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea:

1. Area Naval Group West:

a. Enemy Invasion in Southern France:

According to enemy reports the following vessels were employed in this action:

British Naval Forces: The battleship RAMILLIES, the cruisers COLOMBO, DELHI, CALEDON, ORION, AURORA, ARGONAUT, BLACK PRINCE, ROYALIST, SIRIUS. The aircraft carriers: KHEDIVE, PURSUER, EMPEROR, SEARCHER, ATTACKER, HUNTER, STALKER.

French Naval Forces: The battleship LORRAINE, the cruisers GLOIRE, GEORGES LEYGUES, MONTCALM, DUGUAY, TROUIN, EMILE BERTIN, JEANNE D'ARC, the destroyers LA FANTASQUE, LETERRIBLE, LE MALIN. A number of these vessels, among them the RAMILLIES were already employed at landings in the Seine Bay. It is possible that the RAMILLIES passed the Straits of Gibraltar on the 7 Jul. The passage of the two French cruisers GEORGE LEYGUES and MONTCALM through the Gibraltar Straits on the 14 Jul. was valued by the Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division as a sign for the imminent invasion of Southern France. According to the survey of foreign enemy armies west the participating American VI. Army, formerly stationed in the area of Naples enclosed three divisions to which was added most probably each one tank battalion. It also must be expected that to these American formations participating a parachute regiment and from North Africa possibly one or two infantry divisions were added.

The total strength of the employed French Army B under the command of General de Lattre de Tassigny is believed to be about seven formations of which two to three were tank divisions as well as one or two parachute regiments. Of British troops is probably only one air landing division participating.

18 Aug. 1944

According to the report from the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Southern French Coast at 1900 the radio station Le Grau was blown up at 2300 on the 17th. The tug CEPET sank in the harbor of Marseille. Shipyard work was cancelled in La Ciotat and Marseille. Battery 13/1291 exchanged fire with enemy cruisers off La Croisette. Battery Hyeres (naval artillery unit 627) shelled two motor minesweepers and two destroyers in forenoon hours which laid a smoke screen and turned off.

The destruction of the harbor of Toulon was ordered for 1140 on the 17th. Battery Cap Bernard was blown up and evacuated. The crew is forcing its way through to the west.

Four of our express escort vessels respectively submarine chasers were lost, particulars were not received.

The survey of our own reports is very insufficient.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

According to photographic reconnaissance the harbors of Cypres were occupied by fishing vessels.

A number of enemy vessels presumably PT boats were detected by equipment in the area southeasterly of Imperia and westerly of Celvi protecting the reinforcements to the Southern French area on the night of the 17th. The detecting of enemy units with radar equipment was not successful.

Own Situation:

Our own convoy was several of times attacked without effect by enemy planes with bombs between San Remo and Savona on the night of the 17th. Four motor minesweepers and four motor minesweepers of foreign construction, three artillery barges and three German MAS vessels were operating off the Southern French Coast on the night of the 17th. The motor minesweepers which were continuously illuminated by the enemy arrived in San Remo respectively Monte Carlo.

One workshop barge sank southerly of Sestri Levante.

One mine carrier and two mine naval ferry barges carried out the mining operation "Block" according to plan. Convoy and escort duties were carried out on the night of the 17th without incidents.

18 Aug. 1944

3. Area Naval Group South.

a. Adriatic:

Three gun boats were reported heading west on the afternoon of the 17th. westerly of Lagosta. The convoy "HAMMER" consisting of four coastal sailers and two infantry boats, on their way from Carcula to Dubrovnik were attacked by at least six enemy gun boats and shelled from the Peljesac coast on the night of the 17th. Two armed coastal sailing vessels sank after heavy defense. One infantry boat capsized, the second arrived with the survivors at Doli. Three boats of the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla which were operating on escort duties reported that the situation was so incalculable so that no attacking possibilities were at hand.

When fire was opened against two gun boats, they turned off without defense under a smoke screen.

The steamer NUMIDIA (5339 BRT) was sunk by an enemy PT boat with torpedoes under way from Trieste to Pola off Parenzo.

On account of contacting enemy motor minesweepers two MAS boats under way from Venice to Pola had to return.

Through the report of survivors of the lost torpedo boat of foreign construction TA "35" in the Fasana canal the suspicion of hitting a mine is not assured and a torpedo hit might be possible.

It is planned to carry out the mining task Chinchilla 2 south-erly of Promontore on the night of the 18th.

b. Aegean:

According to the report from an agent the Swiss General Staff is of the conception that an operation on a small scale must be expected in the next days to recapture the Dodecanes Islands.

Weather conditions at the time do not allow a reopening of the convoy traffic.

No special incidents besides these were reported.

18 Aug. 1944

c. Black Sea:

One target without being recognized accurately was located by our night reconnaissance in the coastal area between Odessa and Sevastopol, 15 miles southerly of Odessa. According to radio monitoring, the movement of smaller vessels is concentrated off the northwestern coast. Naval plane activity is increasing.

At least two submarines must be expected off the Romanian coast.

One minesweeping success was established in the training area easterly of Constanta.

Convoys sailed according to plan. Several enemy planes were over Sulina at noon, without carrying out aggressive operations.

d. Danube Situation:

The dropping of mines was observed at Km 949 and 1049. According to the air situation report mines were laid between Km 930 and 1060.

One freight barge, two lighters and one tug sank through hitting mines, and two lighters were badly damaged. Minesweeping successes were reported at KM 530, 647, 1090 and at 1095. Ship "192" was attacked with plane gunfire at KM 629. One four-engined bomber was damaged, a second one was shot afire.

---

VII. Situation East Asia:

According to a report from the Naval Attache Tokyo the situation in the Pacific has hardly changed. The air attacks in the north, directed against the Kurilen were discontinued. As a preparation for the attack against the Philippine Islands, the enemy obviously is trying in the south to eliminate the island group of Halmahera from the air. On account of the clearly depreciation of the Japanese a landing is expected not on Mindanao, but on Luzon, and an out-flanking of Palau and Jap might be possible.

18 Aug. 1944

The enemy has strengthened his submarines seriously in the eastern and southern Chinese Sea. But it is said that the sinking successes of the enemy declined remarkably through the strengthening of the convoy protection.

---

19 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

Field Marshal Keitel paid a short visit to Marshal Mannerheim and delivered high military decorations. At this occasion Mannerheim declared:

"Obligations to Germany accepted by Ryti were rejected by the majority of the Finnish people. Therefore Ryti had to resign. The change in the president indicates that the Finnish politic is again free."

---

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1135.

I. In connection with the report concerning the situation in the East it was mentioned that for the first time four-engined American planes were in action against Dorpat.

II. Report, Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

a. Directives to Group West concerning the non-performance of sailings to Spain. Particulars in War Diary Part C, Volume IX.

b. The TIRPITZ will be presumably out of combat readiness from the 20 Aug. owing to final caulking of the ship body. The fitting of caissons will be started on the 19 Aug. Presumably three to four weeks will be needed.

III. Report, Quartermaster General, Naval Staff, about:

a. The distribution of the 3.7 cm fully automatic anti-aircraft artillery guns arriving for the first time in September.

The Commander in Chief, Navy remarked to this that the new constructions should not be taken into consideration for test proportions as this new kind of weapon will be employed at the fronts as soon as possible.

b. The cruiser KOLM reported turbine damage.

19 Aug. 1944

IV. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff, Organization and Mobilization Branch reports about:

a. Application of the special commissioner Danube concerning the creation of a defense division Danube and declining attitude of Group South as already mentioned. The Naval Staff is of the opinion that the application should not be granted as the tasks in question does not concern the Navy. The aspired aim will be reached more quickly through embarked soldiers as through the forming of convoys which in addition would also require more men. Besides a new office would have to be established as the inspector of the minesweeping operations would not be able to handle this task also.

But the Commander in Chief, Navy would be willing to accept these difficulties if the cause would be essentially assisted by this.

The Quartermaster General draws attention to the fact that vessels to be used as escort flotillas were entirely missing.

After this the Commander in Chief, Navy decided not to agree to proposal.

b. Questions concerning the Naval Shore Command Crete: The fortress commander (Army) claims the total leadership of the island inclusively that of the coastal artillery.

Group South partly agreed as Crete only is of little interest to naval warfare. The Group proposed to dismiss the Naval Shore Command Crete.

But the Chief, Naval Staff and the Commander in Chief, Navy were of the conception that a Naval Shore Commander is necessary as long as the island is occupied. Application therefore should be rejected.

V. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The situation of the 5th Army became more serious owing to the enemy's advance in direction of Trum. The encirclement of the army is nearly completed. The enemy is heavily pressing with tanks against Rambouillet from northwest, west and south.

19 Aug. 1944

The development of the situation in Northern France is further on marked by the encirclement and annihilation plans of the enemy westerly of the Seine. Captured materiel as well as the organization of the American forces on the open southern wing indicate that the enemy is here trying to reach the area south-erly of Paris on a broad front. It cannot yet be decided if this is for the present a screening of the battle in the Normandy on a large scale or if the enemy command intends to advance into Champagne.

In Southern France the enemy will try to obtain as quickly as possible the entrance to the Rhone valley. He will also turn against Toulon and Marseille from the land side.

The share of the British troops seems to be proportionally very small participating in the invasion of Southern France. The total strength of the troops at disposal is assumed to be about 14 formations at present participating in the landing operations in the western area of the Mediterranean. Air landing operations on a large scale were first of all not expected according to the received survey of enemy forces.

#### Italian Front:

In the western section the enemy carried out reconnaissance thrusts in strength of a company which were everywhere repulsed causing the enemy serious and heavy casualties.

Local fighting activity increased in the eastern section.

Along the Adriatic coast the enemy carried out attacks in battalion strength. Advanced positions had to be withdrawn. The fighting still continued, an increase of these operations must be expected. Re-grouping, transportations to the front and the presence of heavy bridge materiel indicate that preparations for an attack and a break through into the upper Italian lower plain were made by concentrating there. Preparations were also noticeable concerning the air force.

Preparations indicating a Southern Balkan operation were not perceptible at present.

19 Aug. 1944

Eastern Front:

Army Group Southern Ukraine:

Enemy attacks in regimental strength were repulsed near Tiraspol.

Heavy artillery harassing fire is noticeable in the area of Jassy.

According to his forces at disposal the enemy is at any time in the position to carry out an operational thrust between the Carpathian Mountains and the Black Sea.

Army Group Northern Ukraine:

The enemy continued his attacks in the area westerly of Sanok. A few villages changed their owner several times. Embittered fighting is going on at Radomysl. As our own attack made little headway during daytime in the area southwesterly of Sandomir, it was finally called off in the evening.

In the progress of his attacks carried out by strong forces and tanks the enemy was successful in the penetration area with his bridgehead southerly of Zawichost and cutting off the 72nd Infantry Division through this operation. After heavy fighting Sandomir was lost.

Army Group Central:

At the 9th Army the enemy was inactive today on the Vistula front, but he launched his expected attack at the inner flank of the 9th and 2nd Army after intense bombardment and supported by tanks and air force. As the attacks could be intercepted at most places the enemy was successful at the army seam in establishing a deep penetration to the railway line Warsaw-Bialystock.

Southerly of the Memel the enemy continued his break through attempts against the 3rd Tank Army supported by tanks. In continuation of his attacks of the previous day he penetrated again our blocking front southerly of Wilkowischken with strong infantry and tank forces in the forenoon hours. Counter attacks were started.

19 Aug. 1944

Embittered fighting was also raging between Wirballen and the Memel. The enemy was intercepted in our own artillery positions.

Both tank corps continued their attack in the Baltic area. Tank spearheads reached the area three km westerly of Schaulen. Further tank forces arrived in the area of Schagarren.

Army Group North:

While no larger fighting actions occurred in front of the 16th Army the enemy continued his heavy attacks in the area northerly of the Duna. He could only be repulsed in very heavy fighting and penetrations could not be prevented.

The enemy attacked the II. Army Corps easterly of Walk with a total of seven divisions and was able to occupy ground in westerly direction through several frontal gaps. He was intercepted in the battery positions through the counter-attacks of our own weak forces. The enemy was successful in establishing a deeper penetration along both sides of the railway line Werro-Walk which we were not able to block.

An enemy regiment which broke through to the north was dispersed easterly of Lake Wirz at the XXVIII. Army Corps.

In the course of heavy defensive operations 545 tanks were put out of action. Ninety-nine guns were captured and 1700 prisoners were taken by the 18th Army during the period from the 16 Jul. to the 16 Aug.

Army Formation Narva:

The enemy is increasing his pressure in direction to Dorpat. Partly the front had to be withdrawn a few km.

No activity on the Narva front.

VI. Commanding Admiral Small Battle Units:

Presumably 25 Biber will be brought on their way from Lübeck to the western area on the 20 Aug. An advantageous date for operation will be the 31 Aug. The first 60 Molche will be brought on their way from Lübeck on the 23 Aug.

19 Aug. 1944

The Commander of the 211th Small Battle Unit, Lieutenant-Commander Bastian reports about the two last Linsen operations in the Seine Bay.

---

Special Items.

I. Concerns West Area:

1. Group West received orders from the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division to instigate accomplishment concerning transfer of coastal batteries into the fortresses according to orders from the Commander in Chief, West.

2. The Chief Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command understood from the last teletype dated 18 Aug. from the fortress commander of St. Malo that General von Aulock is in battery Cecembre. The Führer ordered to have him brought back. The Naval Staff issued orders to the Naval Shore Command, Channel Islands to examine possibilities of operation. The carrying out of operation is considered with a fishing vessel, but not with a submarine.

The Naval Shore Command Channel Islands reports that they would try at once to carry out orders.

In the meantime the assumption of the Operations Staff Armed Forces High Command, that Aulock is in Cecembre proved to be wrong. Therefore measures were cancelled.

3. The desertion of 40 naval soldiers to the enemy, mentioned in the situation report by the fortress commander St. Malo at 2300 on the 13th, concerns, after ascertaining facts at the Port Command St. Malo, members of the coastal police force, who were attached to the river police. Therefore the Naval Staff informed among others the Reichs Fuehrer of the SS and the Chief of the German police.

4. According to a report from Group West, the Commander in Chief West asked the Armed Forces High Command if Sete and Bayonne should be held. Group West proposed that La Pallice and if the need should arise, also Sete be treated as fortresses.

19 Aug. 1944

The Naval Staff transmits to this the following attitude to Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy and to the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters:

"a. In regard to the importance as an own base the proposal was made to declare La Pallice as defense area and to appoint Vice-Admiral Schirlitz to the post as commander.

b. We were not interested in using Sete as an own base. But the harbor must be destroyed and must be withheld from the enemy as long as possible to render invasion operations more difficult. Therefore the proposal was made to hold Sete as defense area by the Army.

c. Bayonne should be abandoned, the naval forces there should be used in strengthening Bordeaux and later Le Verdon/Royan."

Group West and the Commanding Admirals Atlantic Coast and Southern French Coast will be informed accordingly.

To this the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters reports that La Pallice belonged to the defense area of Rochelle. The nomination of Schirlitz was proposed. Contrary to original plans Sete will not be defended owing to shortages in forces, and likewise not Bayonne. Destruction of the harbors is necessary. The forces stationed there were considered to strengthen the fortress and defense areas.

The Naval Staff, Operations Division transmits this information to Group West and to the Commanding Admirals Atlantic Coast and Southern French Coast.

The following information was received for the Chief Submarine Division, Naval Staff, from the Commander Submarines West in person:

"1. The personality of the fortress commander La Rochelle is insufficient for such an important task as the defending of our last submarine base. Admiral Kober in charge of ship building yard agrees with us. Colonel Preusser, who is already 64 years old, now more or less always sick, and of tender feelings is therefore practically unfit to work together with. Admiral Kober intends to explain the case tomorrow to the 64th Army Corps. A hard and efficient man is needed. According to our estimate here a naval officer is not suitable on account of insufficient knowledge of case.

19 Aug. 1944

2. The fortress is well constructed, but weakly equipped with personnel and weapons, particularly with all kinds of anti-tank combat means and especially after a part of the already insufficient stores were delivered to the northern fortresses. Only the 3rd Submarine Flotilla possesses a few recoilless anti-tank grenade discharges which I was able to obtain. The Commanding Admiral Submarines demanded the delivery of 500 recoilless anti-tank grenade discharges from Germany on the 12 Aug. which never arrived. The outfit of ammunition is poor and with these stores we have to make also deliveries to the northern bases.

Weapons from submarines and destroyers were offered for employment on the land front, but the fortress only laid hands on them hesitatingly.

3. The anti-aircraft artillery consisting of four 8.8 cm batteries is totally insufficient and will soon exhaust all its ammunition. Therefore continuous attacks against the bunkers. Today one bomb pierced a bunker. The shipyard depends for current supply on one ready Diesel. It is proposed to strengthen the anti-aircraft artillery urgently. We understand that the anti-aircraft artillery is close at hand at the air bases Cognac for instance."

The Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters was informed. The Naval Staff Quartermaster Division is examining if the Navy could support the transfer of anti-aircraft artillery.

5. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command transmits the following orders from the Fuehrer to the Commander in Chief West, to the Commander in Chief Southwest, to the Naval Staff and to the Operations Staff, High Command Air:

"a. Switzerland should first of all be held in investment. In addition to this the line Cote d'Or - Lyon - Aix les Bains should be held as long as possible. The dividing line between Commander in Chief West and Commander in Chief Southwest should run from the western corner of Lake Geneve to Aix les Bains and further to Grenoble.

b. On account of the completing of submarines, Bordeaux town and harbor should first be abandoned after heaviest enemy pressure. The forces should then be withdrawn into the fortresses of Gironde-North and Gironde-South.

19 Aug. 1944

c. The 1st Army Command must be restrained westerly of the Seine. Reinforcements should be brought up as quickly as possible, and if the need should arise, also from group Eberbach."

To this the Naval Staff, Operations Division ascertained which troop formations were in Bordeaux, respectively which formations were appointed by the army to hold the place.

6. The following order from Group West to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Southern French Coast was also read by the Naval Staff, Operations Division:

a. The Commander in Chief West asked the Armed Forces High Command if Sete should be held. Decision will follow.

b. In the withdrawal movement of the Army to the Rhone and to the north, all those naval troop formations should be attached and placed under the command of the Army which will not be needed for the defense of Marseille-Toulon.

c. If the batteries easterly of Port de Bouc should be held for the defense of Marseille, should be clarified with the 19th Army Command.

d. If possible, Port Vendres should also be strengthened with guns.

e. The GNEISENAU should decide independently.

f. The Commanding Admiral should go to the north with the Army, the Naval Shore Commanders should stay with their troops.

g. Vessels undergoing repairs should be placed out of service, according to b., the crews should be used as submarine crews or shipyard workers in agreement with the submarine flotillas."

The Naval Staff, Operations Division draws the attention of Group West to the fact that the order for a strengthening of Port Vendres could not be understood as a defending of this place was not planned according to the directives from the Armed Forces High Command.

7. The last group of the 363rd Small Battle Unit Flotilla will cross the Seine on its way back on the night of the 19 Aug. according to the report from the command of Small Battle Units.

19 Aug. 1944

PT boats of foreign construction SA "17", "18" and "19" were transferred from Imperia to Monaco. Intentions: Thrust to the height of St. Tropez.

8. Should the danger of cutting off arise, the German Naval Command Italy proposes a break through operation of the TA and SG vessels of the 6th Escort Flotilla to Italy. The Naval Staff, Operations Division issued instructions to the Commanding Admiral Southern French Coast to act according to his own estimate, if no combat possibilities were given against landings.

II. Concerns Eastern Baltic:

a. The 2nd Task Force presented operational order No. 1 dated 17 Aug. for the shelling of the area of Tukcum at 0400 on the 20 Aug. in support of the 3rd Tank Army Command. Execution according to 1/SKL 25732/44 Gkdos in War Diary, Part C, Volume III.

b. The Naval Staff sent the following teletype to the Operations Staff, High Command Air and by copy to the Naval Command East, to the Commanding Admiral 2nd Task Force, to the signal reporting centre of the Naval Command East, Pillau, and to the Admiral commanding Eastern Baltic:

"1. Operation Tukcum will be carried out by the 2nd Task Force at 0400 on the 20 Aug.

2. The duration of the operation and the start of the return trip will depend on the progress of the army operation.

3. In addition to the telephone conversation between Colonel Gaul from the General Staff and Lieutenant Colonel von Greiff from the General Staff, Fighter Forces were asked to be held in readiness for the return voyage of the formation starting at Libau, as an enemy attack from the air might be possible after the ceasing of the surprise moment.

4. We beg to instruct the participating air force to work together with the signal reporting centre of the Naval Command East, Pillau."

c. A prevention of enemy diver work at the place where submarine U "250" was lost in the Finnish Bay, can, unfortunately, not be supported by our own air force, according to

19 Aug. 1944

information from Operations Staff, High Command Air, Chief of Operations Branch, Navy. All our own fighters, ground attacking and night ground attacking air formations were tied up in the defense battle southerly of Dorpat and in our own attack at Mitau - Schaulen as well as in the protection of the Riga Bay. But the Finns were in the position to help out with fighters, as no activity prevailed at the Karelian front, and as the place of the accident is directly off the Finnish coast. The air force liaison officer attached to the Finnish Air Force received orders to make a relevant application to the Finnish Air Force.

III. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command transmits:

"The Fuehrer has decided that rebuilding measures of the Heligoland Bight outside of the military area should at present not be made, especially the construction of field works should be stopped in the line Kiel - Glückstadt. Guiding directions will follow for preparations of eventual later construction through popular conscription."

IV. From the transportation situation (brief report) No. 9 made by the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Supply and Fuel Branch, dated 19 Aug. we understood:

"1. Norway:

With difficulty sufficient.

The shortage in shipping space will soon be more perceptible owing to the transfer of submarines to Norway. All attempts to procure new supply ships were without effect up to now.

2. Baltic States and East Prussia:

The sewing machine is good.

Evacuation of Memel was accomplished.

Supplies cannot reach Memel anymore by railway, but only occasionally by naval vessels.

3. Black Sea:

"Operation Stein" was again started. Speed  $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
Transportation jam in Hungary was removed.

19 Aug. 1944

4. Greece:

Lines were again free.  
Contingents for single transportation (up to 20 cars) in August were exhausted.

5. Italy:

Daily new destructions were caused through air raids and bands, especially in the eastern and western area of Northern Italy. Genoa can only be reached via Mailand owing to the tunnel destruction.

6. West:

France, westerly of the line Paris - Orleans - Montdidier will still be evacuated as far as possible. The General of the transportation service and other central transportation services of Group West were transferred to Nancy and Operations Staff to Remis. The communication lines were interrupted. All transportation announcements were made as usual. Transportation possibilities at present only via Holland-Belgium."

V. According to a report from the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, it is possible to make Zaunkönige ready with two carting regulating stations at Ostende, Dunkirk, Boulogne, Dieppe and Le Havre.

Up to now, further bases were demanded in Holland and Belgium.

VI. Summary of armament conference on the 9 Aug. concerning Small Battle Units and submarine new constructions as well as construction of mine exploding vessels is filed in 1/SKL IIIa 25244/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part D, Volume V.

VII. The report concerning enemy situation was made by the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff under No. 16/44 dated 19 Aug. Copy according to 1/SKL 25706/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part D, Volume 8b.

Concerning the Mediterranean it said among others;

19 Aug. 1944

"As diplomatic relationship ceased between Turkey and Germany, the possibility must be expected that delivery of war materiels from England and the U.S.A. to Russia via ports of the Persian Gulf might be suspended and might be directed to Russian harbors in the Black Sea via the Dardenelles."

---

Situation on the 19 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Fifty three planes in action and in bulk were detected by 19th Group in the western entrance to the Channel. Six British vessels were detected in the rendez-vous area.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

The islands of Noirmoutier and Ile d'Yeu were evacuated on orders from the Army. Re and Oleron will stay occupied. The Commanding Admiral Atlantic Coast will transfer presumably to the 64th Army Corps on the 22 Aug. at Poitiers to direct collectively the total withdrawal.

According to a further report from the Commanding Admiral Atlantic Coast to Group West, the 64th Army Corps decided that St. Jean de Luz and Bayonne should be abandoned and Bordeaux evacuated as it will not be possible to hold it on account of maintenance. The Commanding Admiral Atlantic Coast demands an urgent decision concerning the submarine base and ship yards with the remark that the 64th Army Corps will order the complete destruction.

Group West decided:

"1. For the withdrawal of submarine men and shipyard workers of the Brittany fortresses the issued orders from the Commanding Admiral, Submarines and from the group were in force according to the meaning.

2. Destroyer Z "23", "37" and all vessels in charge of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West which will not be in war readiness by the 5 Sep. should be put out of commission. The Armament

19 Aug. 1944

should be employed on the land front. Special personnel in first line, not needed for the defense of the fortresses should be attached to the Army. The Commanding Admiral, Atlantic Coast respectively the Commanding Admiral Submarines will decide which officers will participate in the march across the country.

3. Destroyer Z "24" and T "24" will stay commissioned. The command will be in the hands of the Commander, 8th Destroyer Flotilla.

The Naval Shore Commander of the Loire ordered the destruction of the high-powered radio station Basselande near Bordeaux.

Enemy harassing fire from land side is covering the eastern part of the fortress Brest. One Army battery was put out of action by a direct hit.

One vessel was sunk at the quay in Concarneau. The harbor and the location centre were in our hands."

Sea Area Channel:

Enemy planes attacked the lock at Tancarville on the forenoon hours of the 18 Sep. (Translation should obviously be August, not September) without causing materiel damage. Three harbor defense boats were sunk in an attack on Le Havre at noon.

Fighter bombers attacked Group B of the 18th Patrol Boat Flotilla and Group C of the 36th Minesweeper Flotilla in the sea area Ostende - Gravelines on the night of the 18 Aug. The attacks were warded off by well aimed anti-aircraft artillery fire. Three to four planes were reported destroyed.

When on patrol position Group D of the 36th Minesweeper Flotilla contacted enemy motor minesweepers off Le Treport which turned off under high speed when fired upon without returning the fire.

Submarine chasers and groups of motor minesweepers were several of times engaged with destroyers, motor minesweepers and gun boats off Cap Antifer when being transferred from Dieppe to Le Havre. Two enemy motor minesweepers were set afire. Direct hits were observed on destroyers and motor minesweepers. Motor minesweeper R "218" was lost out of sight and damaged by a shell and later sunk by a torpedo according to the reports of rescued men. The most of the survivors were picked up by British boats.

19 Aug. 1944

Five men landed on our own coast. Our own casualties after all, were small. For brief report of engagement, see teletype 0000.

It was planned to send five vessels of the 2nd Minesweeper Flotilla from Le Havre to the north on the night of the 19 Aug.

The mine field K 5b (coastal mines type "A") and L 34f were laid easterly of Dunkirk and northerly of Dieppe.

---

## II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

### North Sea:

To the air attack on Bremen on the night of the 18 Aug. it was additionally reported that the Atlas plant was badly damaged. The Deschimag reported only small damage through fire.

Patrol boat, escort and minesweeping duties were carried out according to plan. Seventy four coastal mines, type "A" were laid off Nordwijk and 166 off Texel.

Twenty seven detonations were heard off the Dutch coast between Texel and Flushing at sea on the night of the 18 Aug. and three detonations in the area between Den Helder and Hook von Holland on the forenoon hours of the 19 Aug. caused through unknown motives.

### Norway, Northern Waters:

#### 1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty three planes in action were detected by 18th Group without any noticeable point of concentration.

#### 2. Own Situation:

Heavy exchange of artillery shelling was reported from the area of Petsamo on forenoon of the 17 Aug. Battery Sensenhauer shelled an enemy PT boat.

With regard to the loss of patrol boat VP "6112", a PT boat attack was not confirmed. After a detonation, the boat sank which might be traced back to a torpedo or a mine.

19 Aug. 1944

The returning convoy from Petsamo was shelled by enemy artillery on the night of the 18 Aug. Motor minesweeper R "310" was towed to Kirkenes after receiving a direct hit.

Eight mines were swept in the Lepsoe canal on the night of the 17 Aug.

Twenty three ships were escorted to the north and 24 ships to the south.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

Two minesweeper divisions and 38 naval vessels were detected by radio monitoring in the Finnish Bay on the 18 Aug. Air reconnaissance established only limited ship traffic in the area of Lavansaari - Seiskari at 1800 on the 18 Aug. Three naval vessels were southerly of Lavansaari at 2116 of which probably two were torpedo boats and four naval vessels were northwesterly of Lavansaari presumably minesweepers on westerly course. Six torpedo boats and one steamer passed Seivastoe on southerly course at 1630 on the 18 Aug. according to an own submarine report.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

No special incidents were reported.

Western and Central Baltic:

Fifty seven planes and three minesweeper planes were employed with minesweeping duties.

Three mines each were swept in the Bay of Kiel and off Swinemünde; four mines were swept in the Haff of Stettin.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

Rescue work in the Narva Bay was interrupted, as sea distress planes could not be employed more, owing to enemy

19 Aug. 1944

supremacy in the air and through the defense of the patrolling vessels. The Admiral commanding the Eastern Baltic believes with certainty that torpedo boat T "32" sank as it was not sighted again by air reconnaissance on the afternoon of the 18th. But this is not indisputably ascertained. With small mine-sweepers the Finns were clearing the route of approach to the place of the sinking of submarine U "250" as watching buoys were observed on the surface. After that the operation of the 5th Minesweeper Flotilla with depth charges for the destruction of the wreck was planned to prevent the enemy from raising the same.

Three mines were swept northwesterly of Reval.

Convoys and special transports sailed according to plan. Particulars see in "Daily Report".

Two hundred and thirty tons of supplies for Army Group North were transferred to Riga on the 18 Aug. and 1846 tons to Reval.

The island of Pürisar in Lake Peipus was evacuated on the night of the 16 Aug. The Navy suffered a few casualties in an attack made by ten four-engined American bombers against Dorpat on the 17 Aug.

With the arrival of submarine U "711" in Reval, eleven submarines were stationed in the Finnish Bay, of which at present, two were in the operational area of the Narva Bay and one northwesterly of Schepel.

---

#### IV. Submarine Warfare.

No special reports were received from the submarine bases at the French Atlantic Coast.

Submarine U "20" sailed for its eighth operation in the Black Sea.

Colombo reported renewed the sighting of submarine by an American steamer in MP 48. The presence of a German submarine is possible.

No special reports were received from Northern Waters nor from the Atlantic.

19 Aug. 1944

V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Only 40 enemy air entries without offensive operations were reported during the day from Belgium/Northern France. In Western France, 150 to 200 four-engined planes were in the forenoon hours operating in the invasion area.

Four hundred twin-engined planes and fighter-bombers entered the area of the Rhone valley from the south at forenoon and carried out attacks against gun positions and bridges. In addition, attacks were reported from the area of Toulon. One hundred and forty enemy planes were detected in the sea and coastal area of Corsica.

On the night of the 19 Aug., ten enemy planes were reported from Belgium/Northern France and single long range night fighters from Western France as well as 40 planes from the Southern French area.

Three hundred and seventy six of our own planes were reported in action during the day carrying out attacks in the area of Falaise - Argentan. Three Me 109 were employed in operations against guerillas in the area of Vallon.

Ninety-six of our own planes raided Falaise with observed effect on the night of the 19 Aug. Five planes were lost. Twelve planes attacked Mezidon. Three Ju 88 patrolled the area of Elbeuf - Rouen.

Reich Territory:

No special air entries were made.

Mediterranean Theater:

Six hundred four-engined enemy planes with strong fighter protection crossed the Adriatic and entered the area southerly of Weisskirchen on the 18 Aug. A formation of 80 planes attacked the air base Alibunar. The bulk carried out concentrated attack at Ploesti where one refinery was badly damaged and a second one lightly. Our own fighters shot down two enemy planes, our anti-aircraft artillery one.

19 Aug. 1944

In the Italian frontal area, one hundred and twenty enemy planes were employed in a bulk at the Adriatic coast.

The usual air entries were reported from the Balkan as well as from the Danube area and from upper Italy on the night of the 18 Aug. Twenty long range naval reconnaissance planes were concentrated off the Southern French Coast and 30 nightfighters were in the area between the Southern French Coast and Corsica.

Our own air reconnaissance intercepted a convoy northwesterly of Benghazi on the 19 Aug.

Eastern Area:

Three hundred and seven own and 1945 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front on the 18 Aug. of which twelve enemy planes were shot down and five of our own planes were lost.

In the Black Sea, Sulina was attacked by 28 Russian planes, each on the forenoon and afternoon hours of the 19 Aug. Three PT boats were sunk, one was damaged and one oil barge started burning. Three of the attacking planes were shot down.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

1. Area Naval Group West:

a. Enemy Invasion in Southern France:

Seventeen enemy vessels were in the sea area of Drammont at 1700 on the 18 Aug. and those were one heavy cruiser, 15 destroyers and one landing vessel which shelled the coast in the direction of Theoule. Battery Hyeres (Naval Artillery Unit 627) is surrounded and heavily shelled by the enemy and was captured by the enemy after defending themselves.

The radar sites of Antibes and Cap d'Ail were several of times attacked without effect by gunfire from enemy planes in the forenoon hours. Damage and casualties were caused off Port de Bouc when two naval landing craft were attacked by fighter bombers.

The harbor of Carnes was occupied by the enemy. The mining of the harbor and Bay of Antibes was carried out.

19 Aug. 1944

The 6th Escort Flotilla was disbanded on orders from the Commanding Admiral, Southern French Coast. The radio station was put out of action. A part of the flotilla was employed for service on the Rhone. The remaining soldiers will be employed in land fighting.

Rear Admiral Scheurlen took over the office as Commanding Admiral, Southern French Coast at noon on the 18 Aug. No reports were received from our own MAS boats which sailed from Italian bases to operate against the enemy landing fleet on the night of the 17 Aug. According to a British radio report a German PT boat formation tried to harass disembarkations at the Southern French Coast early on the 18 Aug. It is said that four PT boats were sunk through the interference of American destroyers. According to radio monitoring one enemy PT boat was sunk in an engagement which was detected early on the 18 Aug. Four motor minesweepers, three motor minesweepers of foreign construction and three combat ferry barges returned from operations off the Southern French Coast on the night of the 18 Aug. without sighting the enemy. The boats met continuous night fighter bomber activity in the area of Imperia up to Nizza.

b. Gibraltar Area:

Four freighters, one tanker, five corvettes and two submarines left Gibraltar at 1800 on the 18 Aug. for the Mediterranean.

UGS 50, in strength of 70 vessels among them 52 freighters, eight tankers and nine corvettes, was off Europe Point at 1630 on the 19 Aug. entering the Mediterranean.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Own air reconnaissance reported at 0912 a SE steering convoy in strength of one passenger boat, two tankers and eleven freighters about 140 miles northwesterly of Benghazi.

Enemy boat groups inside of our own minefields were detected in the area SE of Imperia and southeasterly of Cap Mele on NE course on the evening of the 18th. and on the night of the 18 Aug. No contact was made.

Own Situation:

First degree of alarm was ordered for the Western Italian Coast on the night of the 18 Aug.

19 Aug. 1944

The German Naval Command Italy reports that the commanding officer of the Italian office Mariser in Genoa and a further Italian officer were military executed according to martial law on account of issuing orders to the personnel of the Italian Port Command St. Remo to move off without attracting attention. Mariser and officers placed under them in Genoa and westerly to the frontier were disbanded. The personnel was disarmed and taken into custody. (see teletype 1300.)

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

When protecting two infantry vessels, four boats of the 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla had an engagement with enemy PT boats near Peljesac on the night of the 18 Aug. After being badly damaged, PT boat S "57" was blown up by its own crew. The crew was rescued. The other three boats arrived in Dubrovnik with few casualties.

The radar sites at Ostro and Molunat were attacked by partisans on the night of the 17th. without casualties. The attacks were repulsed. The mining operation Chinchilla 2 was carried out according to plan. Eighteen coastal mines, type "A" were further laid off Rimini.

b. Aegean:

One mine was swept in the harbor of Rhodos on the 18 Aug.

Submarine chase off Samos was up to now not possible owing to the weather conditions. Through this the rotation of the transportation tonnage to Crete was delayed.

One coastal sailing vessel was sunk southerly of Kilos by an enemy submarine at 1900 on the 19 Aug.

c. Black Sea:

Northwesterly of Trapzon one freighter of 2,000 BRT and one Turkish destroyer on easterly course were observed at 1515 on the 18 Aug. by air reconnaissance.

The cruiser KRASNY KRIM was presumably in the sea area of the eastern coast on northwest course according to radio monitoring.

19 Aug. 1944

Active movements of smallest vessels were concentrated in the sea area of Odessa. In total, four PT boats, one submarine chaser, three unknown smaller vessels as well as several motor gun boats and patrols were detected. The activity of small vessels was not unusual in the Crimean sea area and along the Caucasian coast. The presence of five submarines must be expected along the western coast of the Black Sea.

In the reported air attack on Sulina carried out by Russian planes, PT boat S "72" was first of all damaged. In addition, three PT boats became later a total loss and the office of the Naval Communications Officer started burning. The radar site was destroyed.

Two minesweeping successes were established in the sea area off Constanta.

Convoys sailed according to plan.

d. Danube Situation:

No dropping of mines nor losses through mine hits were reported. Twenty three vessels and two minesweepers were employed with minesweeping duties. Six minesweeping successes were established.

---

VII. Situation East Asia:

No special reports were received.

20 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

No special reports were received.

---

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief Navy at 1100.

I. Chief of Naval Staff, Operations Division:

The Commander in Chief, Naval Group West has asked for full power to put out of commission naval forces which were no more in combat readiness. The Naval Staff proposes to grant permission to such patrol forces which will not be necessary more for operations in the Gulf of Biscay.

The Commander in Chief Navy agreed.

II. Naval Air and Air Force Liaison Section, Naval Staff, Operations Division reports from the enemy survey Operations Staff, High Command Air, Foreign Affairs Section dated 20 Aug.: A promoted parachute descending readiness of allied airborne divisions is perceptible in Great Britain.

Combat behavior of the enemy air force is marked by actions concentrated against the total European oil-fuel economy.

Attacks against traffic targets in which the area of Metz, Lüttich, Maastricht were specially favored.

Attacks against air bases in the total northwestern area with a temporary discarding of attacks directed against the launching positions of V1.

Air base construction units were landed in Southern France. The appearance of seven British auxiliary aircraft carriers and two American aircraft carriers off the landing area is remarkable. With this, all intercepted carriers of the Mediterranean were in action.

20 Aug. 1944

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

The inquiry made by the Commander in Chief, West was answered by the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command thus far that Sete and Bayonne should not be defended. Concerning Bordeaux, the attention was drawn to the directives dated 18 Aug. It was further stated in the directives from Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command:

"Deficiency in mobility cannot be accepted as a reason for the staying behind of forces above those considered beforehand necessary for the defense of the fortresses. All forces, which were not intended to be employed in the fortresses or defense areas, should be made as mobile as possible by using all horses and vehicles of the population so that they were able to follow the withdrawal movement. Agree to leading back of the naval units into the nearest fortresses or defense areas now stationed on the Atlantic Islands."

The directive was transmitted by the Naval Staff to Group West.

The Commander in Chief, Navy demands that above the needed personnel to garrison the fortresses, sufficient forces should be kept there to make submarines ready for actions. If the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, West should have more forces available as needed for the remaining tasks, they should be put out of commission and the personnel led back. The particulars of this measure should be left at the decision of the local officers.

IV. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff: According to the report from an agent, the embarkation capacity of the Normandy was now so progressed, that daily a division embarked and was brought on its way.

The following report was received from Group South concerning the situation in Bulgaria:

"No political general directions were received from the side of the German Embassy up to the evening of the 18 Aug. A personal consultation of the Chief of the Staff of the German Military Mission proved that the conviction is there accepted that the leading representatives of the Bulgarian Armed Forces were not consulted by the Prime Minister before the drawing up of his speech, and were highly surprised by the contents. Contrary to Bagrianoff, who under circumstances might also appear

20 Aug. 1944

active, they were not expecting enforcement of intentions mentioned in the speech of Bagrianoff without further ado.

According to other information, it must be apprehended that the enemy will answer the appeal addressed to him with summons to Bulgaria which might lead under circumstances above the intentions of the government, and might develop and bring in the future radical parties into power even against the opposition of the armed forces. With this the possibility would be given that the behavior against the German Armed Forces could change; the result of which would mean trouble to our communication - and reinforcement lines and the latter especially to Greece."

Several French Ministers among them Laval were interned at Belfort according to British radio reports. It is said that Petain will follow on the 20 Aug.

The Commander in Chief, Navy confirmed the correctness. The Fuehrer wants to prevent that a government is formed in France on a large base.

V. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The 5th Tank Army tried to force the encirclement of the 7th Army in direction of Trun on the morning of the 19 Aug. The attack was not successful owing to fuel shortage as well as through heaviest enemy fighter bomber activity. The attack will be renewed on the early morning hours of the 20 Aug. in the same direction after the fuel supply was taken care of by our own fighter protection.

The 7th Army is withdrawing to the railway line Falaise-Argentan in embittered fighting during the night of the 18th. Protecting their flanks heavily they will try to break through to the east behind the Dives sector on the night of the 19 Aug.

American forces advanced up to the Seine between Nantes and Vernon. For the present the enemy was prevented from crossing the river.

The enemy only pushed strong reconnaissance forces ahead against our barred zone of Paris and against the front southerly of this.

20 Aug. 1944

According to reports from the front, the participation of the enemy air force in the ground fighting surmounts anything ever seen before.

Southern France:

The General Command of the LXII Reserve Corps did not participate at Dragnignan and was apparently smashed up by the enemy. The danger arose that the enemy might break through our barrier in direction to Nians.

Italian Front:

We were trying to establish contact with our forces stationed in Southern France but were unsuccessful up to now. Parts of the 148th Reserve Infantry Division were staying at present in the line easterly of Fayence - southeasterly of Montauroux-Tremblant-La Napoule. The enemy broke through our lines near Fayence. The division received orders to withdraw with its mass behind the Var - sector.

Hard and embittered fighting was going on at the Adriatic coast. In spite of stubborn defense by our own troops the enemy was successful in penetrating to a depth of 3 km. Nineteen tanks were disabled from 80 attacking tanks, the enemy suffered many casualties. Our own casualties were also serious.

Eastern Front:

Army Group Southern Ukraine:

The enemy launched his expected large scale attack in the area of Tiraspol and westerly of Jassy supported by strong air activity and after intense bombardment. He established several deep penetrations with his first waves especially where Romanian troops were posted.

Heavy changeable fighting was also continued today westerly of Sanok. In the main our own positions were held but our own attack gained only little local ground against a strengthening enemy resistance.

On both sides only fighting of local importance occurred westerly of the Vistula in the area southwesterly of Sandomir.

20 Aug. 1944

Our own attack to the south was successful near Sandomir and led to the establishment of communications with the surrounded 72nd Infantry Division. Fighting is still going on here at present with an enemy who was successful in the evening hours in breaking through again.

Army Group Central:

While the enemy is continuing his day before yesterday started break-through attempts with strengthened forces north-easterly of Warsaw he launched yesterday as expected his attack from the Vistula bridgehead southerly of Warsaw in direction of Radom. The enemy was successful in establishing deep penetrations which were mopped up or intercepted through counter attacks.

After heavy fighting the block of the Technical High School was recaptured in Warsaw. An east-west traffic is now possible again during night hours. The Vistula bridges were shelled by the enemy during the day.

Fighting only of local importance occurred between the Bug and Sudauen.

At the 3rd Tank Army the focal point was yesterday situated at both sides of Wolfsburg.

Supported by heavy artillery fire and continuous activity of ground attacking planes the Russians broke again through our lines which had to be withdrawn three km after that.

In the Baltic States the two attacking German tank corps could only gain little headway against a continuously reinforcing enemy resistance. Fighting was heavy. The attack against Schaulen broke down about twelve km southwesterly of the town in heavy enemy anti-tank gunfire. Attacks directed against the front and flank of our own tank corps were driven off by disabling 43 tanks of the enemy.

Army Group North:

Still during darkness and in thick early fog the enemy broke into the town of Bauske after intense artillery preparation and pressed in the bridgehead at the I. Infantry Corps. Fighting inside of the town is still going on and counter attacks were launched.

20 Aug. 1944

After not being able to obtain successes in the last days and even in spite of employing 22 formations westerly of Modohn against the embittered defense of own forces, weakened by many casualties, the enemy employed the bulk of a new tank corps. He broke through the front and was able to advance into the area of Ergli.

The withdrawal movement to a shorter position was carried out in the area of Marienburg without enemy pressure.

Stronger enemy attacks were repulsed southerly of Lake Peipus.

Army Formation Narva:

Strong enemy pressure was continued against the weakly protected front in direction of Dorpat. Communications with the neighbouring army to the right consisted only in patrols.

No activity at the Narva Front.

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

The Reich Security Head Office proposed to transfer the fuel not needed anymore by the naval forces from Western France to Spain.

The Commander in Chief, Navy does not object. The following order was issued among others to the participating Group West:

"It is in German interests to transport the furnace and heavy Diesel oil to Spain not needed by the forces. The Reich Security Head Office and the director of the Madrid firm Sofindus Bernhard will try to arrange a transfer of limited amounts across land. The area commander will state the amount in agreement with the appointed representatives of Bernhard stationed with the Naval Shore Commander, Riviera and with the Naval Shore Commander, Gascogne."

---

Special Items

I. Concerns West Area:

a. Group West instructed the Naval Staff by copy of the following directives:

20 Aug. 1944

aa. To the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West, to the 3rd and 4th Escort Flotilla and to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Atlantic Coast:

"The Commander in Chief, Navy agrees with the placing out of commission of all not needed Atlantic forces under the command of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West. The Commanding Admiral, Defenses West should order at once in particular a re-examination of vessels according to the following principles:

1. Controlling ground mines so that the departure of submarines is safeguarded.

2. Reinforcement across the sea will gradually cease. Only trivial exchange will continue from fortress to fortress. Attachment of the existing coastal auxiliary sailing vessels to the defense groups will be carried out according to 3.)

3. In all places which should be held, one defense group each should be formed. The Commanding Admiral, Defenses West, should appoint group leaders. The harbor defense vessels should be attached to these groups. Duty: Extend harbor patrol to sea, and occasionally the forming of convoys. The change will be left to the defense division, later if such be the case, group Lorient and La Pallice will be placed at disposal of defense division. It is planned to place the remaining under the Naval Shore Command."

bb. To the Admiral Commanding the Southern French coast:

"The Commander in Chief, Navy agrees to the intended placing out of commission of not needed vessels of the 6th Escort Flotilla. The remaining tasks will purely be the patrolling of the sea outside of Marseille and Toulon. The Admiral of the Southern Coast is in command of every single vessel. Released personnel should be treated according to the existing directions. The armament should be employed on land with personnel from Toulon and Marseille. Boats should be used to block the harbor."

cc. To the office of the German Navy at Bordeaux, to the Commanding Admiral Defenses West and to the Admiral in Command of the Atlantic Coast:

"The Fleet Office of the German Navy at Bordeaux and the Naval Rifle Battalion should be disbanded without dispersal.

20 Aug. 1944

The Commanding Admiral, Defenses Atlantic Coast will decide about the personnel according to issued instructions. Already ordered convoys should be carried out. Existing coastal auxiliary sailing vessels should be distributed to all places which should be held."

dd. To the Commanding Admiral, Southern French Coast:

"The office of the German Navy at Marseille as well as all offices at Marseille and Toulon which were not necessarily required for the fighting should be disbanded without dispersal. The Naval Shore Command will decide about the personnel according to issued instructions."

b. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Quartermaster Division transmitted the following order:

"The Fuehrer ordered:

Commander in Chief, West received the unrestricted right of decree over the total military and civilian truck transportation service of his commanding area limited to the 31 Aug. to bring up reserves and supplies.

The demand of the Commander in Chief, West for truck transportation space was fulfilled by Naval Group West and 3rd Air Force. By this the Commander in Chief, West will be responsible for all consequences which might occur at other places by claiming the truck transportation service of the Navy or Air Force. Army troops were not allowed to confiscate motor truck vehicles belonging to the Navy or Air Force."

c. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command ordered:

"The commanders of the defense areas La Rochelle, Marseille, and Toulon received at once the same authorization as those bestowed on the commander of a surrounded fortress. Forces of all branches of the Armed Forces and other organizations surrounded in the defense area were completely under his command.

As long as there were connections across the sea the operations of naval forces will be the task of the navy. The operational readiness of the naval forces should be guaranteed by preservation and supplies as long as operations were possible.

20 Aug. 1944

The commanders have full jurisdiction over all persons stationed in their defense area and have power over life and death. In all prosecutions they have the full right of suspensions and sanctioning and that of grace against the country inhabitants."

d. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command issued the following order at 2240:

"Vice Admiral Schirlitz has been appointed Commander in Chief of the defense area La Rochelle with immediate effect. After handing over office Colonel Preusser should return."

II. From the Situation Report Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters:

"During the report concerning the treachery of Italy the Fuehrer expressed that Italians, taken into custody should be at once transferred to Germany for labor employment.

In the meantime the Commander in Chief Navy informed the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters that the case is taken care of accordingly.

The Naval Staff will not deal with the disbanding of the 10th MAS-Flotilla incited by General von Zangen to the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters as long as the German Naval Command Italy supports the opposite attitude.

III. Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff extracts from the enemy survey General Staff of the Army, Foreign Armies West dated 19 Aug. the following for the instruction of the upper Operations Staffs Navy:

"Re-grouping has been carried out since a certain time in the easterly section of the Italian front the amount of which was not yet recognized in details. Extensive transports to the front, the bringing up of heavy bridge material and the mentioning of the 5th British Army up to now stationed in the rear area indicates that a new focal point is forming here and that preparations were made for a break through into the upper Italian lower plain. Compared with all other sectors real favorable supposition in ground confirms the expectations of a break through to the Appenin in the sector of the Adriatic. Also a strengthened ground organization and radar equipment correspond with these preparations as well as the establishment of the fleet control station "Close Combat Corps Eastern Mediterranean" in the area of Ancona."

20 Aug. 1944

Situation on the 20 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Thirty nine planes in action were detected by 19th Group as well as three British vessels in the rendez-vous area.

The detecting of enemy targets was reported from the sea area of Auet, Fecamp, Cap Antifer, and Cap de la Heve on the night of the 19 Aug.

Two destroyers and four PT boats were northwesterly of Guernsey heading south at 2010 on the 19 Aug.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

The wrecks of four minesweepers were attacked by four Mosquito planes off the southern point of Noirmoutier at 1210 on the 19th. The rescuing squad suffered casualties.

In an air raid carried out on the same day at 0500 on La Pallice fifty nine bombs were dropped in the shipyard of which nine fell on the submarine bunker. A ceiling which already received a direct hit on the 9 Aug. was pierced. Plant installations in the bunker were badly damaged but the submarines suffered only little damage.

Twenty enemy planes carried out a high-level attack against the base, against the northern and outer break-water as well as against the anti-aircraft artillery position La Pallice from 0830 to 0920 on the 20th.

One mine each was swept off Brest and Gironde on the 18 Aug.

Land Situation Paris and Brittany:

Paris:

The naval ministry was attacked by terrorists on the night of the 19 Aug. The attacks were repulsed causing the attacker many casualties. Three thousand two hundred naval

20 Aug. 1944

soldiers were stationed in Paris. The situation was calm at noon on the 20th. Agreements made with the Commanding General Armed Forces for an armistice were accepted unconditionally by all parties from the left to the right to stop further shooting. The town administration of Paris is supporting the endeavours to establish peace and order. The front situation is still unclarified. Preparations were made for a withdrawal from Paris. Existing mercury stores were loaded and transported off. Nothing was reported about the transportation of the torpedo stores. Defense formation Homeyer (Seine shipping) was placed under the command of the 5th Tank Army Command and will be employed by them. No contact exists more with defense formation Prates (St. Quentin Canal).

Concarneau was mopped up from terrorists. One 4 cm and one 3.7 cm anti-tank gun was recaptured.

Lorient:

An enemy thrust in strength of a company was repulsed three and a half km southwesterly of Pont Scorff. Enemy artillery harassing fire is covering the fortress. The Port Command Les Sables and Rochefort received orders to join army troops when abandoning post. One lieutenant and 69 men from battery 2/708 forced their way through from Granville to Lorient.

Sea Area Channel:

Eighteen survivors belonging to the crew of motor minesweeper R "218" were rescued by the British in the engagement off Cap d'Antifer according to radio monitoring.

The mine fields K 9 and L 24 E were laid northerly of Le Havre as well as the mine field in the Seine estuary on the night of the 19 Aug. Therefore the Seine mouth is closed from Rade de la Crosse to Honfleur.

Operations of the 2nd Minesweeper Flotilla had to be postponed owing to weather conditions.

The Channel Island convoy had an engagement with two enemy destroyers in the sea area of Guernsey on the afternoon of the 19 Aug. Minesweeper M "432" was towed into the harbor damaged. With good results the batteries on Jersey and Guernsey participated in the action. For a brief report of engagement see teletype 2258.

20 Aug. 1944

Group A of the 38th Minesweeper Flotilla had several engagements with enemy PT boats off Cap de la Heve between 0240 to 0300 on the 20 Aug. One enemy target was shot afire. Two of our own vessels were slightly damaged and suffered casualties. For a brief report of engagement see teletype 0900.

Torpedo operations were taken in view for the 2nd, 8th and 10th Minesweeper Flotilla on the night of the 20 Aug. After that the Commander 8th Minesweeper Flotilla will transfer with four boats to Dieppe.

---

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

One hundred and sixty six more coastal mines type "A" were laid into the mine field K 4 off Texel.

After all no special incidents were reported.

Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty five planes in action were detected by 19th Group above the Northern North Sea.

Planes of the weather forecast service sighted one cruiser, three destroyers and two corvettes in AB 7854, steering 0° course and advancing with a speed of 20 miles per hour at 0820. Demanded additional air reconnaissance was rejected by the 5th Air Force owing to shortage according to report from the Naval Command, Norway.

Carrier aircraft were reported in AB 5480 by submarine U "344" at 1757. Carrier telephone communication was located through bearings in AB 4950 from 1930 to 2000 according to report from the 5th Air Force.

A British vessel was detected in AN 2962 at 0816.

20 Aug. 1944

2. Own Situation:

Three enemy PT boats in total were sunk for sure and probably two more in the PT boat attack made in AC 8467 on the 19 Aug.

From the area of the Commanding Admiral, Arctic Coast nine sorties. (Translator should obviously mean 29 or 39 sorties.) were reported on the 18th and 19 Aug. of which 23 alone were made in the area of Vardoe.

Submarines attacked a German convoy without effect at the southern entrance of the Karmsund in the area of the Commanding Admiral West Coast on the afternoon of the 20 Aug. Torpedoes exploded on shore.

Nineteen ships were escorted to the north and 28 ships to the south. Convoy traffic was stopped for certain times between Kr'sand South and Stadlandet owing to the enemy situation.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

Three minesweeper divisions and about 50 naval vessels were observed in the Finnish Bay on the 19 Aug. by radio monitoring.

Two patrol vessels were reported on easterly course eight miles southerly of Vigrund on the afternoon of the 20 Aug. Further reports concerning the enemy were not received.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Patrolling of the western coast of Jutland and minesweeper duties were carried out according to plan.

A mine field section of 80 coastal mines type "A" was laid into the mine field K 2 southerly of Thyboroen on the 19 Aug.

20 Aug. 1944

One troop transporter each was escorted among others to the north and to the south.

Westerly and Central Baltic:

Forty nine vessels and six minesweeping planes were employed with minesweeping duties. One mine was swept in the Pommeranian Bay. One auxiliary sailing vessel hit a mine off Swinemünde on the afternoon of the 19 Aug. and was beached on the harbor breakwater.

The cruiser LEIPZIG was escorted among others.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

Torpedo boat T "28" sailed from Libau for Helsinki at 1430.

Three artillery ferry barges were employed with shock troops from battery "Blücher" in searching thoroughly for suspected agents through the Uhtjo Islands in the Kunda Bay.

One mine was swept in the Riga Bay.

Operation of the 2nd Task Force was carried out in the Riga Bay in early morning hours to support the land operations of Army Group North and Center.

The Naval Command East sent a teletype to the 2nd Task Force at 0230 stating that the appointed object will probably not be obtained by Group Strachwitz on the 20 Aug. but that the support of the 2nd Task Force will be welcomed in spite of all as disturbances will be caused in the enemy command. Strachwitz will probably first need the main support on the 21 Aug.

Army Group North asked the 2nd Task Force for naval artillery fire at 0154 to be applied to the whole town of Kemmern, to the road four km northwesterly of Kemmern and to the road junction eight km northwesterly of Kemmern.

The 2nd Task Force informed the Corps Headquarters Staff Kleffel at 0246 that two destroyers would be at disposal at dawn to shell Kemmern on demand.

The Corps Headquarters Staff Kleffel issued orders for the shelling of Kemmern at 0542. Task Force dismissed destroyer Z "28" and "25" for the disposal of Corps Headquarters Staff Kleffel.

20 Aug. 1944

The PRINZ EUGEN fired 240 shells of large calibre on Tuckum at 0814.

The 2nd Task Force reported at 1230:

"Up to now a few planes were above Tuckum, otherwise no observations."

Advance party of Group Strachwitz marched into Tuckum at 1310 and advanced with parts along the road to Kemmern.

The signal reporting station of the Naval Command East reports at 2205 that the 2nd Task Force was dismissed with thanks by Army Group Centre and North and started its return voyage to Gydinia.

The Naval Command East instructed the Naval Staff, Operations Division by copy of the directions to the 2nd Task Force that the LÜTZOW should exchange providently ammunition so that the utmost largest amount of nose fuse shells were in store for the shelling of land targets. After carrying out instructions a three hours alert will be ordered for the LÜTZOW. The plans were to employ the LÜTZOW in the Bay of Riga when the PRINZ EUGEN had to return to Gydinia to accomplish ammunition and when further support is necessary to the army without interruption.

Five hospital ships respectively transporters with wounded, five troop transporters and three tankers were escorted to the east and one steamer with 2500 Jews from Reval to Danzig, further five transporters with about 12,000 wounded, soldiers or prisoners were escorted to the west.

Two thousand six hundred and thirty tons of supplies were carried to Riga for Army Group North on the 19 Aug. and 935 tons to Reval.

Two naval artillery barges shelled Raskopel and Ostroutso lastingly on Lake Peipus on the night of the 18 Aug. Observation of effect was not possible, owing to poor visibility.

Five naval artillery barges, one ZPK, three naval and 17 patrol boats were ready for action.

Naval artillery barge "20" received a direct hit in an air raid and suffered many casualties.

20 Aug. 1944

The lower course of the Embaches has now moved into the main line of resistance owing to the withdrawal of the land front five km easterly of Kastre according to the "Situation Report" from the Admiral Commanding Eastern Baltic. Through this Kastre is endangered as a base. The danger of enemy tank spearhead penetrations will always exist at times for Dorpat. Therefore both bases were loosened up and prepared for evacuation.

A new task was prepared by Army Group North for the 4th Gun Carrier Flotilla under the command of Army Formation Narva; Protection of the evacuation of Piirisar and defense of the western and northern shore of Lake Peipus. The Admiral commanding Eastern Baltic intends to abandon his secret recess in Embach as late as possible as the screening is essentially weaker in the new bases at Mustvee and Ranna Pungerja.

Seven patrol boats were transferred to Lake Wirz with special orders.

---

#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

From the western bases sailed submarine U "714" for the operational area Channel, submarines U "180" and U "195" as transport vessels to Japan.

U "963", under way from Brest to La Pallice reported plane attack in BF 6855 at about midnight.

In the western Atlantic an American steamer reports a torpedo which missed from the area of CA 1851. Submarine U "154" might be concerned.

Submarine U "861" reports from the Indian Ocean the sinking of a freighter and a tanker each of about 8000 BRT in JA 11 and 12 from a small convoy. Submarine U "862" sank two ships in KQ on the 19 Aug.

In Northern Waters Commander Submarines Norway informed Group "Trutz" and submarine U "307", on special mission to Spitsbergen, of the reported cruiser formation which might be steering for Spitsbergen or might protect a carrier. Group "Trutz" received orders not to start any operations against formation.

20 Aug. 1944

Submarine U "307" carried out SS shock troop operation on Spitsbergen and destroyed an armed cutter in the Mijonfiord. The shock troops destroyed the Svea group and annihilated the anti-aircraft artillery position Revnes.

Submarine U "466" and U "967" were destroyed in the harbor of Toulon. Submarine U "230" came aground when loading off land and was also blown up, as it did not come off again. Radio station Aix was destroyed. The leadership of submarines still in the Mediterranean will be taken care of by the Commanding Admiral Submarines. Submarine personnel of the base Toulon was employed in defense.

In the Black Sea submarine U "9" was destroyed in an enemy air raid on Constanta. Submarine U "20" reported a Zaunkönig miss on a westerly headed enemy submarine.

---

#### V. Aerial Warfare.

##### West Area:

The weather situation during the day or night did not permit any air activity worth mentioning. Four hundred and seventy enemy planes from the south entered the Southern French area and attacked bridges and gun positions in the area of Toulon - Rhone Valley as well as the air base Valence.

##### Reich Territory:

Single enemy reconnaissance planes were above the total Reich area.

A sortie of about 600 bombers with fighter protection from the south poured forth into the Hungarian area. Parts of these forces attacked from here the Upper Silesia industrial area. Among others the hydrogenation plant Auschwitz and the oil refinery plant Tschechowitz were heavily attacked and damaged. Look for further particulars in "The Daily Report".

Forty enemy planes coming from the south caused insignificant damage in the area of Linz through dropping single bombs on the night of the 20 Aug.

20 Aug. 1944

Mediterranean Theater:

Two hundred four-engined planes with strong fighter protection attacked in the forenoon hours refineries at Ploesti. The damage caused was small owing to a well laid smoke screen. One attacker was shot down by anti-aircraft artillery.

Three hundred and fifty enemy planes were operating in the Italian front area against the usual targets.

Four hundred and seventy enemy planes attacked gun positions and traffic targets in the Southern French area. Fifteen night fighters concentrated between northwest Corsica and Southern France and 25 naval long range reconnaissance planes concentrated between the Gulf of Lions and Genoa were reported on the night of the 19 Aug.

Our own planes carried out photographic reconnaissance of Port Said on the 19 Aug. where one Greek armoured ship, one transporter, six steamers and two blockading vessels were located in the outer harbor.

Eastern Area:

Five hundred and eighty seven own and 2661 enemy missions were flown at the eastern front on the 19 Aug. in which we suffered seven losses and 19 enemy planes were reported shot down.

Thirty to 35 Russian planes raided heavily Constanta from 0955 to 1100 on the 20 Aug.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

Area Naval Group West:

a. Enemy Invasion of Southern France:

The enemy bridgehead was enlarged seriously through air landings and tank reinforcements.

20 Aug. 1944

Continuous air raids were reported from Toulon and islands in front made on forenoon hours of the 19 Aug. Toulon was shelled by a formation of several battleships, nine cruisers and destroyers as well as by PT boats at 1800 on the 20 Aug. The shelling was answered by the coastal batteries in which direct hits were scored on a battleship and a cruiser. Fires were observed on both ships. Further hits were scored on two torpedo boats and one destroyer.

Ship concentrations and enemy landings were reported off Cannes.

Aix was attacked by the enemy from southeasterly direction at noon on the 20 Aug. The Commanding Admiral Southern French Coast and Commander Submarines Mediterranean were withdrawing to Carpentras northeasterly of Avignon.

The demolition of Port Vendres and Sete was accomplished. The destruction of La Ciotat was ordered for the 19 Aug. and of Marseille for 2000 on the 20 Aug.

Radio monitoring intercepted a report from an enemy vessel concerning several detonations after PT boat attack in connection with the thrust of PT boats of foreign construction SA "17", "18", "19" against St. Tropez on the night of the 18 Aug. Our own reports were not available.

The planned break-through of our TA and SG-boats to Italy is no longer possible. All vessels of the 6th Patrol Flotilla suitable for the Rhone will enter the river via Port de Bouc and will form the Rhone-Flotilla under the command of the Commander 6th Patrol Flotilla. All other vessels will stay in their instantaneous ports.

Gibraltar Area:

No special reports were received.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Three large transporters and five smaller naval vessels were at anchor in Livorno Roads at 2000 on the 19 Aug. Presumably three freighters were detected at about midnight 25

20 Aug. 1944

miles northerly of Calvi and presumably two destroyers 18 miles northwesterly of Calvi on north northwest course. One group of boats each was detected with radar equipment sailing out of the Tropez Bay respectively southerly of Nervi outside of our mine fields heading east.

Own Situation:

Four motor minesweepers and two motor minesweepers of foreign construction were operating off the Southern French Coast on the night of the 19 Aug. The vessels entered port again without contacting the enemy, were intercepted by reconnaissance at 0127 and illuminated for 35 minutes. The enemy took the boats as minelaying formations.

Enemy planes attacked without effect a naval landing craft convoy under way from Spezia to Genoa with bombs at 0030.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

The laying of coastal mine type "A" minefield was continued along the eastern Italian coast. A German naval landing craft sank after hitting one of our coastal mines type "A". No special incidents were reported after all.

b. Aegean:

A strongly protected naval escort under way to Tripolis was attacked by partisans northerly of Turia and suffered casualties. No further reports of importance were received.

c. Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance intercepted on the evening hours of the 19 Aug. two PT boats 60 miles westerly of Sevastopol, four gun boats 85 miles west southwest of Sevastopol and a Turkish freighter ten miles westerly of Zonguldak heading east.

On the forenoon of the 20 Aug. were according to radio monitoring in Odessa: 17 PT boats, 18 motor gunboats, eleven minesweepers,

20 Aug. 1944

twelve LCS, nine armed tugs, eight armed smaller vessels and others. Reconnaissance made of Otschakow at the same time established the presence of 15 motor gun boats, four armed smaller vessels and three coastal vessels.

The cruiser KRASNY KRIM was located with probably one PT boat and three submarine chasers in the area of the central eastern coast on the night of the 19 Aug. Six submarines were detected at sea off the western coast. For days the submarines were continuously informed about the stations of our own submarine chaser groups.

Continuous enemy reconnaissance concentrated in the area of Constanta was intercepted by planes in the Romanian and Bulgarian coastal areas.

Own Situation:

Sulina was attacked with bombs and gunfire from 0905 to 0940. One Romanian barge was shot afire. About 30 to 35 JL2 with strong fighter protection attacked Constanta in four waves from a height of 2000 to 4000 meters from 0955 to 1100. Three planes were shot down for certain and probably one more. The effect of this attack was serious. PT boat S "42" and "131" of the 1st Minesweeper Flotilla were destroyed through fire, PT boat S "52" was sunk by a direct hit, PT boat S "28", "27" and "149" were badly damaged. Motor minesweeper R "37" of the 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla was damaged by a direct hit. Motor minesweeper R "164" and "205" were damaged. Submarine U "9" belonging to the 30th Submarine Flotilla was sunk by a direct hit. Submarine U "18" and "19" were slightly damaged. F "568" of the 1st Landing Flotilla was totally lost. F "894" was badly damaged. Submarine chasers "103" and "111" belonging to the 1st Submarine Flotilla were damaged by splinters. Minesweeper M "206" and G "3105" belonging to the 2nd Coastal Speed Boat Flotilla were sunk, SM "244" was gutted by fire. The torpedo boat NELUCCA belonging to the Romanian naval forces was sunk. The destroyer REGELE FERDINAND was badly damaged by a direct hit. The Italian CB-boats "4" and "6" were damaged. Three flying boats were sunk and two damaged by the air force.

A 6000 ton dry dock started burning in the ship building yard, a 2000 ton dry dock was damaged. The PT boat ship building yard was destroyed. Submarine repair shops were badly damaged.

20 Aug. 1944

Numerous barracks, storehouses, sheds and the shipyard office were destroyed or damaged. Casualties were not known yet.

The attack was carried out without any advance-warning so that the vessels ready to sail at once when enemy formations approached did not leave. A submarine chaser group southeasterly of Constanta was several of times overflowed but not attacked.

d. Danube Situation:

No dropping of mines was reported. The additional sinking of a tug was reported at km 516 on the 11 Aug. caused through hitting a mine.

Vessels established five minesweeping successes on the 17 Aug. at km 731 and one minesweeping success on the 19 Aug at km 652.

---

VII. Situation East Asia:

Special reports were not received.

---

21 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

General de Gaulle disembarked in Cherbourg on the 20 Aug.

---

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1115.

I. In connection with the situation report Naval Staff, Operations Division, Operations North, the attention was drawn to the advance statement from the 9th Defense Division that the 6th Torpedo Flotilla would not be able to participate in the Narva Bay on the night of the 17 Aug. Copy according to 1/Skl 25972/44 Gkdos in War Diary, Volume III. While the commanders of torpedo boats T "30" and T "23" were inclined to believe that the detonations were caused by enemy PT boat torpedoes; the 9th Escort Division believes it probable that a navigational drift of the formation into our own 9B mine field was the cause.

The posture of the Admiral commanding Eastern Baltic and of the Naval Command East must first be awaited.

Further report about the 2nd Task Force concerning operation in the Riga Bay on the 20 Aug. runs conform to reproduction in War Diary dated 20 Aug.

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

a. Group West transmits teletype from the Commanding Admiral Southern French Coast: "The battle for Toulon has started." The Commanding Admiral Ruhfuss reports later (1445): "I am engaged in the final battle of Toulon. Fighting is going on at Battle Headquarters of the Naval Shore Command. Long live the Fuehrer! Hail Hitler!"

The Commander in Chief Navy ordered the following teletype to be sent to the Commanding Admiral Ruhfuss and by copy to Group West and Commanding Admiral, Southern French Coast:

"You are the first naval fortress commander who received the proud task from fate to defend his fortress to the last respiration. I am expecting from you and your men a spirit of self-sacrifice and a fight to the last cartridge and small

21 Aug. 1944

arms as the Fuehrer ordered. Capitulation is unknown to us just as a ship's captain does not strike his colors. It is the main deciding factor of the battle in Southern France on which the success of our operations depend that the important harbor of Toulon is withheld from the enemy as long as possible. Proud and full of confidence our country is looking upon you and your men. The battle of Toulon must go down in history as your heroic achievement.

Hail our Fuehrer! Yours Dönitz, Admiral of the Fleet."

b. The Admiral commanding submarines reports on the 17 Aug: "The loss of Torpedo recovery vessel TF "11" by an aerial torpedo in the Eastern Baltic on the 13 Aug. increased further the situation of the torpedo recovery vessels of the submarine training service. Eighteen motor minesweepers, six torpedo boats, five minesweeping vessels and five torpedo recovery vessels were withdrawn from the area of the Commanding Admiral Submarines by operation Colanie. The remaining motor minesweepers of foreign construction, torpedo recovery vessels, torpedo recovery vessels of foreign construction, minesweeping vessels and four Norwegian torpedo boats forced us to limit the training service and reduce training demands especially of the firing flotillas in connection with convoy attacking exercises. Therefore we demand a renewed examination if the returning of torpedo and minesweeper vessels were possible which were also employed with mine searching, mine sweeping and escort duties as other vessels by the Naval Command East, Commanding Admiral Skagerrak, Naval Command North and Naval Command Norway, as well as an information in which amount and at which time employment of these vessels might be expected again for training tasks. Support is necessary for the planning of training measures for new submarine types."

The Naval Staff answered as follows:

"1. Through the heavy losses the situation of the escort forces developed very serious in all areas especially in extensive escort and mine defense tasks when demanded and with it the protection of reinforcements to Army Group North as well as the clearances of routes in the Baltic, North Sea and Entrances to the Baltic.

2. As long as no relief is felt a return of the vessels tied up by operation "Colanie" is not possible as the under 1.) mentioned tasks have got to be absolutely taken care of.

21 Aug. 1944

3. Actions were started in the west area to gain a few suitable vessels. The Naval Staff expects further relief as soon as the new constructions of minesweepers from the 1943 program will arrive in the end of October.

Results must be awaited."

III. Rear Admiral Stummel was released by Captain Kraus as Chief, Naval Communications Division, Naval Staff.

Conference Restricted to a Very Limited Circle:

IV. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The surrounded parts of the 7th Army started a break through to the east in several assault columns under the command of Tank Group Eberbach on the morning hours of the 20th. They were successful in contacting parts of the II. SS Tank Corps attacking to relieve forces. Break through fighting was continued for five hours at St. Lambert till the beach was forced. Therefore the materiel losses were very high, as nearly all vehicles and fuel reserves were set afire in enemy fighter bomber attacks and the artillery was destroyed by heavy enemy artillery in concentrated shelling. Also all radio stations of the Army were put out of action by planes and artillery so that they at last lost their means of command.

Infantry forces of the enemy crossed the Seine between Vernon and Nantes. It is the plan of the enemy to push the German forces away from the Seine.

The enemy was inactive between Paris and the Lire with the exception of armoured reconnaissance raids.

Active operations of terrorists in Paris.

Rians in Southern France had to be abandoned owing to stronger attacks of tanks. No special combat operations occurred in the defense area of Toulon.

The present forces of the now in France employed Army Groups of roughly 45 large formations, permits the enemy to carry out operations over a large area at far stretched goals so that

21 Aug. 1944

operations of the still in England stationed 1st American Army with further 40 large formations might first be planned in the far distance and in connection with a totally new war theatre. Actions of the allied airborne army must be expected at any time in connection with the present operations in which the area northerly of Paris seems to be especially endangered.

Three American Infantry Divisions, two French Infantry Divisions and one French Tank Division seemed to be operating up to now in Southern France. The Rhone Valley seems to be the main target of the enemy.

Report was given about the Fuehrer's orders dated 20 Aug. concerning further combat leadership issued to the Commander in Chief, West and to the Commander in Chief, Southwest. Copy according to 1/Skl 2517/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in War Diary special file, Invasion 20 Aug. Group West and Naval Command Italy received instructions to keep themselves well informed about directives at Commander in Chief, West respectively Commander in Chief, Southwest.

Italian Front:

Liguria:

Contact was made by an officer patrol with the in Grenoble stationed 157th Reserve Division. The defile roads between France and Italy were at present exposed by German troops but a reoccupation was ordered at once.

Southern Front:

The enemy attacked Cerasa on the Adriatic coast supported by tanks after intense artillery bombardment. Embittered fighting in the streets is continuing. Further preparations of the enemy were observed.

Eastern Front:

Army Group Southern Ukraine:

After an intense bombardment which lasted one and a half hours the enemy launched his attack with strongest forces from the area of Tiraspol. He succeeded in penetrating the front of a Romanian mountaineer division on its whole length and routed the division. A weak defense line was built up in the

21 Aug. 1944

evening by German reserves and remnants of the Romanian troop parts running from Rascaeti to Festelita.

Also in the area of Jassy the enemy launched his attack, supported by heavy air activity and established very quickly deep penetrations at the 7th and 5th Romanian Infantry Division, who abandoned their positions without fighting. The enemy entered the western part of Jassy in the afternoon where heavy fighting developed in the streets under participation of the inhabitants.

The enemy was also successful in establishing deep penetrations between Jassy and the Sereth, but these were partly hemmed in by counter attacks.

Army Group Northern Ukraine:

After an intense bombardment lasting two hours the enemy launched his attack easterly of Radomysl and Debica supported by tanks and employing ground attacking planes, and pressed our own troops back to the south. A large amount of the ground was recaptured in a counter attack.

During the whole day the enemy attacked westerly of the Vistula the sector of the III. Tank Corps on a broad front without being able to establish essential successes.

The withdrawal of the group under the command of Major General Hohn from its investment northwesterly of Sandomir was accomplished by carrying with them all their weapons.

Westerly of Lublin the enemy launched his expected attack with five divisions at the left flank of the Army Group and was able to throw back the German divisions stationed there to the west causing us serious casualties. A counter attack is progressing.

Army Group Central:

In continuous heavy fighting, remarkable attacking successes were established yesterday in the areas of concentration to which newly the bridgehead westerly of Kaziniers was added, along the northern flank of the Army Group and contact was made with Army Group North under the command of Major General Count Strachwitz.

21 Aug. 1944

The enemy was able to establish deep penetrations in heavy and changeable fighting northeasterly of Warsaw. The withdrawal to the Bug was ordered along both sides of Wyszkwow to restore again a defensive front.

The Russians continued their heavy attacks with undiminished strength northerly of Kalvarien along the Eastern Prussian frontier. In spite of tough counter defense the division tied up since days in heavy fighting was penetrated at numerous places and was thrown back to the west up to three km.

Our own tank corps continued the attack in the Baltic States and were able to occupy more ground. Fighting continued southwesterly of Schaulen. Schagarren was reached further north. Group Strachwitz forced the strongest enemy resistance in the attack on Tuckum, captured the town in the noon hours and wheeled inward to the east. Contact was made near Kemmern with the from the east advancing forces of Army Group North. The road of advance lying behind the group was for the time being intercepted by the enemy.

Army Group North:

Northerly of the Dūna our own forces gained the lake straits easterly of Ergli. Up to now all counter attacks of the enemy supported by tanks were repulsed. Also further east our own front was pushed ahead after warding off enemy attacks. Thereby the strong enemy thrust at this place with the operational task of reaching Riga was for the present stopped.

The enemy carried out four unsuccessful attacks along both sides of the road Pleskau - Riga.

Army Formation Narva:

After receiving reinforcements the enemy attacked again in direction of Dorpat. In the main the attacks were repulsed after mopping up local penetrations.

---

Special Items.

I. Concerns Eastern Baltic:

- a. Confirming telephone conversation between Chief of

21 Aug. 1944

Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division and Fleet Inspectorate, Naval Command East and Naval Staff agrees to a present withdrawal of the 6th Destroyer Flotilla from the Riga Bay.

b. The Naval Command East reported on the 16th that the premeditation concerning a possible evacuation of the Baltic States (compare War Diary 15 Aug.) was informed by the Fuehrer's decree which stated that the Baltic Countries should be held further.

Concerning the occasional situation the Naval Staff believes the premeditation and adaptations still necessary as the situation might still develop unfavorable in spite of the Fuehrer decree and the conception and intentions of leading naval and army officers should early harmonize and as conferences were already held between the Admiral commanding Eastern Baltic and Army Group North.

The Naval Staff, Operations Division draws the attention of the Naval Command East to the difficulties which would arise of carrying out evacuations, heavily concentrated from Riga through the Irben Strait if it should happen that these were under enemy influence. The size of the bridgehead which should be held by the Army must be adjusted to guarantee a safe embarkation and evacuation; Hochland and Tüters must also be held to hem in enemy break-through possibilities if not differently ordered. Making the most of Hangö will depend on the situation of Finland. Copy according to teletype 1/Skl. I op. 2518/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary Part C, Volume III.

c. The Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters transmits orders from the Fuehrer to the Navy and Air Force, asks for judgement of reinforcements to be presented for the Mountaineer Army Headquarters Staff 20 in case of operation Birke and to make allowance for enemy interference along the Norwegian coast especially along the Arctic Coast and in winter.

The Naval Staff, Operations Division issued directives for an urgent attitude to the Naval Command Norway, East and Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch. Copy of decree I op. 2525/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary Part C, Volume III.

II. The Commander in Chief, Naval Group West reported about question under the 10 Aug. if the more and more noticeable claim

21 Aug. 1944

of leadership by the Army in opposition to the Navy is justified in the chosen form. The report enumerates a large number of examples which must make the now practised habits seem doubtful.

The composition of report according to l/Skl. 2486/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in War Diary Part C, Volume a.

The report touched the question of Army/Navy organization when defending coast and Reich and showed the little understanding on the part of the Army in general against questions of the Navy concerning coastal defenses respectively Reich defenses. The Chief, Naval Staff concludes from the statements that it would be better if the navy would take over the job of coastal defense themselves although not trained for it. An assimilation of the Reich defense is and will continue to be a difficult and undissolvable question.

Compare also remark of Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch to the report.

III. The TIRPITZ reported on the 20 Aug. that the combat readiness will stay unchanged for the time being as the caisson sank when it was tried to attach the same. The Naval Staff informed the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters.

IV. According to information from the Foreign Office, Consul-General von Spiegel is surrounded in the building of the Consulate. The Naval Staff issued directives to the Port Command Marseille and by copy to the Commanding Admiral Southern French Coast and Group West to establish contact in agreement with the Army.

V. The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division answered the proposal of Group South concerning the coastal defenses of Crete according to directives of the Commander in Chief Navy as follows:

"1. The question of employing a Naval Shore Commander on Crete cannot be judged alone from the point of the artillery coastal defense. Crete will always be of certain importance to the Navy as a base for operations in the Aegean. The presence of strong local representatives of the Naval Shore Commanders will be necessary.

2. Special circumstances of the coastal defense of Crete which force a deviation of the Fuehrer's principles decree 40 cannot be accepted. The demands for special allowances of land

21 Aug. 1944

tactical artillery tasks by the fortress commanders can also be met in agreement with the Fuehrer's decree 40. The situation might at any time make it necessary to combine coastal artillery and defense forces in operation. Attention is drawn to the coastal defense flotillas under the command of the Naval Shore Commanders.

3. Proposal must therefore be refused. A re-examination was ordered by Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command of the issued orders from the fortress commanders. It was agreed that the intended attribution of the Naval Shore Commander under the artillery commander of the fortress should be turned down. Further notices concerning this will follow."

VI. Group South transmits report from the Commanding Admiral, Adriatic concerning appearances of disintegration among the Italian soldiers of the in Brioni operating Naval Artillery Unit 621, as there are desertions, provocations, acts of violence, refusal of service. Disregarding court-martial measures, steps were taken to disarm all Italians and to keep them separated from the civilian population as well as employment in special supervised labor gangs. Investigations were going on about the size of possible seditions etc.

VII. The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea reports after inquiry:

The Anti-aircraft artillery armament of Constanta consists at present of four German air force batteries with a total of 24 8.8 cm guns, three Romanian batteries with a total of twelve 8.8 cm guns and three Romanian batteries of each five 7.5 cm guns. The last mentioned were changed into three batteries with each four 8.8 cm guns.

VIII. Position in coastal mines type "A" operations on the 13 Aug.

Constructed in total		31,714
laid:		
in France	6,555	
in Southern France	476	
in Holland/Belgium	6,415	
in Denmark	6,812	
in Heligoland Bight	1,831	
in Baltic Countries	2,855	
in Finland	914	
in Italy	158	pieces.
in total	26,016	pieces.

21 Aug. 1944

Situation on the 21 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Seventy-one planes in action were detected by 19th Group; two allied vessels were detected in the rendez-vous area. According to radio reports the monitor ALBATROS shelled the coastal batteries in the Le Havre Bay on the 20 Aug. The position report of five convoys in the landing area was re-read on the 21 Aug. An unknown vessel tied up alongside of pier 22 owing to engine troubles.

PT boats northwesterly of Jersey and northwesterly of Guernsey were shelled by our batteries on the night of the 20 Aug. and turned off after well aimed salvos.

Ile d'Yeu sighted one cruiser and two destroyers on the forenoon hours of the 21 Aug. and fired 102 shells of 7.5 cm calibre at these vessels at a distance of 7000 to 11,000 meters. A few direct hits were observed. The cruiser returned fire till the formation turned off.

Twenty-two vessels, among them cruisers, destroyers and LST were reported on southerly course five miles northwesterly of Cap de la Hague in the morning.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

The gate of the big lock was hit in the reported enemy air attack at La Pallice (see War Diary 20 Aug.) on the 19 Aug.

After demobilization and disembarkation of the military crew, the aircraft tender IMMELMANN sailed on the 19 Aug. for San Sebastian according to report from the 3rd Air Force. Patrol Boat VP "409" and Minesweeper M "4214" was sunk off Les Sables in an attack by 18 fighter bombers with bombs and gunfire at 1940 on the 20 Aug. After an exchange of fire between battery "Essen" on Ile d'Yeu and an enemy cruiser 25 impacts of projectiles were counted in the base.

21 Aug. 1944

Destroyer Z "23" was placed out of commission at 0930. Five minesweepers and five submarine chasers each will stay commissioned for Brest and Lorient from the 3rd Escort Division as well as all armed fishing vessels. All other vessels will transfer to St. Nazaire. Destroyer Z "24" and Torpedo Boat T "24" will stay commissioned for patrol duties in the area of La Pallice - Gironde.

The demolition of all Atlantic harbors which were not needed anymore was ordered.

In the course of the intended transfer of batteries from the Atlantic Coast to strengthen the fortresses it was agreed with the Army to employ as far as possible batteries from the area southerly of the Gironde inclusively anti-aircraft artillery training school 2 in the area of the Gironde estuary. The artillery arsenal Rochefort will transfer to Royan, the ammunition from Jonzas will be transferred into the fortress areas as far as serviceable and the rest will be destroyed.

Land Situation:

Paris:

It was additionally reported from the 19 Aug.:

Admiral Lindenau, the naval commander of Paris is Commanding Admiral of the Naval Office Paris. All naval offices with the exception of the torpedo personnel were concentrated in the area of the naval communication battalion. All women and watchmen were sent on their way to our homeland. The remainder of the III. Naval Arsenal were employed in the Army. Forces belonging to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West were protecting the routes between Paris and Rouen as well as the canal systems Paris - St. Quentin. Violent fighting with terrorists was reported on the afternoon of the 20 Aug. from the lodgings of Latin and the Law - Courts.

Brest:

The enemy moved up with combat ready formations to total fore-lying area of the fortress on the 20th. Strengthened artillery and mortar firing was covering the fortress and the eastern part of the fore-lying country. Our own shock troop operations captured booty and prisoners in the fore-lying area.

21 Aug. 1944

Battery "Holtzendorf" shelled detected targets without observed effect. Reinforcements for Audieme in three lobster boats were under way.

Concarneau is free of enemy, the inhabitants were partly evacuated.

No special new reports were received from Lorient and St. Nazaire.

Sea Area Channel:

Several of times approach flights were started by enemy fighter bombers against patrolling vessels northwesterly of Ostende on the night of the 20 Aug. in which the dropping of bombs was prevented by well aimed defensive fire. Boats of the 18th Patrol Boat Flotilla patrolling the fore-lying area north-erly of Ostende shot down one enemy plane, when unsuccessfully attacked by fighter bombers.

The 14th Minesweeper Flotilla had an engagement with enemy PT boats northwesterly of Antifer when protecting and transferring a convoy from Le Havre to Fecamp. Two PT boats were sunk for certain and three more were damaged. The convoy was not attacked and reached port of destination according to plan. Our own formation suffered casualties. Two minesweepers and one submarine chaser were slightly damaged; one minesweeper was badly damaged. For a brief report of engagement see teletype 2315.

Brief reports from the Commander PT Boats concerning the operations of PT Boat Flotillas on the night of the 20 Aug. were not yet received. According to previous report torpedo operations were carried out by the 8th PT Boat Flotilla from Boulogne and by the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla from Le Havre. Boats were chased by destroyers. The 8th PT Boat Flotilla arrived in Dieppe. A number of boats from the 10th PT Boat Flotilla transferred according to plan from Ostende to Boulogne.

A harbor defense vessel and a lobster boat sailed from the Channel Islands for Cecembre to deliver a station constructed by the Hanseatische Apparatbau-Gesellschaft Neufeld und Kuhneke. With this set complete radio communication will be guranteed.

Immediate readiness was ordered for the 10th PT Boat Flotilla and for the 2nd Group of the 8th PT Boat Flotilla sailing at 2215 on

21 Aug. 1944

the 21 Aug. for torpedo operations as on the 20 Aug. Immediate readiness for torpedo operation was ordered for the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla and for the 1st Group of the 8th PT Boat Flotilla westerly of Beachy Head.

Contrary to instruction from Group West the 364th Small Battle Flotilla travelled on to Reims from Tournay. Re-transfer to Tournay was ordered. The flotilla will be attached to ground organization 362 at Tournay and will be prepared for operation. The Flotilla should operate, if the front situation possibly allows, in the area westerly of the Seine as the only successful chances were given here for the Seine Bay. Operational possibilities were not possible from Le Havre even if the equipment would be towed in the beginning, as the route of advance is too long in each case.

---

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

One hundred and sixty-five coastal mines type "A" were laid into minefield K 4 off Texel.

Convoy 1261 - Hook van Holland-Elbe- consisting of four Hansa steamers sailed at 2200. Protection is given by four boats of the 13th Patrol Boat Flotilla, minefield escort will be given by two boats of the 7th Minesweeper Flotilla. Additional protection will be supplied by the combat group of the 7th Minesweeper Flotilla.

No special incidents occurred beside these.

Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Thirty-seven planes in action were detected by 18th Group without any perceptible point of concentration.

Radio monitoring observed telephone communication between carriers from 0824 to 1025 in the area 250 miles northeasterly of Jan Mayen presumably on northeast course. In addition,

21 Aug. 1944

British telephone conversations were listened in at forenoon in the area 180 miles northwesterly of Alta. In the afternoon a British vessel called Horsea very urgently for SBNO-Murmansk.

Submarine U"344" reported at 1020 a convoy in AB 5450 at 0600 in 60 degree. After inquiry submarine U "344" reported at 1620 that three steamers of a starboard column of the convoy were sighted, with them several destroyers, corvettes and patrol boats as protection. A cruiser protection consisted of one cruiser, two destroyers, one frigate and one corvette. Carrier planes were also present. The cruiser formation was obviously the same as already reported on the 20 Aug.

2. Own Situation:

Convoy traffic was cancelled at 2045 on the 20 Aug. between Tromsø and Hammerfest and at 0230 between Bodoe and Tromsø owing to the presence of carrier borne planes.

Twenty-two ships were escorted to the north and twenty ships to the south.

On account of the enemy report from submarine U "344" the 5th Air Force ordered three BV 138 for air reconnaissance.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

Six minesweeper divisions and thirty naval ships were detected by radio monitoring in the Finnish Bay on the 20 Aug. Movements of enemy smallest vessels were detected in the Narva Bay on the 20th. and 21 Aug. Five patrol vessels, one tug and one auxiliary gun boat were on position in the Wiborg Bay on the afternoon of the 19 Aug. One patrol boat was shot afire by the Finns.

Naval Command Hungerburg reported at 0500 on the 20 Aug. that one enemy patrol boat hit a mine. (Minefield Seeigel Súd C.)

Minesweeper M "3137" sighted indisputably on the same day at 0415 southerly of the Kalbada Grounds periscope with foamy streak. A patrol boat established indisputable location.

21 Aug. 1944

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Patrol boat "101" stationed in the northern entrance to the Sund reported at 1703 a Swedish plane in a height of 200 meters on northerly course in a distance of 1000 meters which turned off after being fired upon.

A mine section of Minefield K 2 consisting of 80 coastal mines type "A" was laid southerly of Thyboroen on the 20 Aug. The coastal mine type "A" formation was not in action on the 21 Aug. owing to weather conditions. The formation will transfer to Frederikshavn after laying the last in Esbjerg constructed coastal mines type "A".

Two mines were swept in the southern entrance to the Sund.

Western and Central Baltic:

Fifty-two vessels and four minesweeping planes were employed with minesweeping duties.

Torpedo boat T "155" hit a mine southeasterly of Greifswalder Oie at 0602. The boat arrived unassisted in Swinemünde. Forced escort was ordered for route 51 number 1 to 11 and route 53 for all naval vessels from a destroyer upwards and for submarines effective at once.

Without effect a Boston plane attacked the transporter REGINA with torpedoes, and gunfire northwesterly of Windau at 0337.

Admiral Commanding Eastern Baltic:

The 2nd Task Force returned in the afternoon to Gydinia according to plan. Destroyer Z "35" damaged ships-body and propellers when touching ground in the Fettel Bay along the southeast coast of Oesel. Torpedo boat T "28" arrived at Helsinki at 0630.

One mine was swept in the Bay of Reval.

The Naval Command East placed the 3rd Torpedo Flotilla at the disposal of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic respectively,

21 Aug. 1944

Chief of Convoys, East effective at once for the protection of convoys especially those of fast troop transporters. In operations the extraordinary strained fuel situation should be taken into consideration.

The Naval Staff, Operations Division approved already on the 5 Aug. the plan of using the 3rd Torpedo Flotilla for escort duties.

Troop and special transports sailed according to plan. For particulars see "Daily Report".

One hundred and eighty-eight tons of supplies for Army Group North were transferred to Riga on the 20 Aug. and 1,198 tons to Reval.

---

#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

No new reports were received concerning the situation of the bases in Western France.

In La Pallice arrived from Verdon submarine U "766" and from Brest submarine U "963".

Submarine U "863" sighted on the night of the 21 Aug. shortly after midnight a convoy on northeast course in ED 2541 with a speed of 11 to 13 knots. Boat lost contact.

Trinidad repeated at 0542 on the 21 Aug. the report of an American steamer concerning a torpedo which missed in CA 8851.

After sight report from submarine U "344", Group "Trutz" received orders in Northern Waters to operate against the reported convoy. Two more boats sailed from Tromsø. Submarine U "344" launched a three torpedo fan at a cruiser of the DIDO class and heard three successive detonations. The sinking is expected. Two hours later the boat observed at the same place still one destroyer, two frigates and a large spot of furnace oil as well as numerous ship fragments. Submarine U "344" was forced to submerge by three carrier borne planes.

21 Aug. 1944

Again carrier borne planes were reported by another submarine at 1900 in AB 6146.

In the Mediterranean submarine U "407" sailed from Salamis for operational area off Benghazi and Derna.

No special incidents were reported from the operational areas of Group Centre, Finnish Bay and Black Sea.

---

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

Strong formations of twin-engined enemy planes were participating in the ground fighting. Two hundred single-engined planes were reported from the Rhone Valley. Single enemy planes were above the area of Montes in Western France on the night of 21 Aug. Further air activity was not reported.

Reich Territory:

Fifty to sixty bombers from the north entered the oil area southerly of Komorn for an attack on the night of the 21 Aug. Some damage was caused in the refinery.

Mediterranean Theater:

Five hundred enemy bombers were operating in the area of Bologna - Ferrara Modena on the 20 Aug. attacking maintenance of rail communications. The usual enemy planes operations were confirmed from the Balkan area, from the Upper Italian area and from the sea area off the Southern French Coast on the night of the 20 Aug.

Two hundred enemy bombers with fighter protection entered the area of Debrecin and attacked there air bases on the 21 Aug. Eleven planes were destroyed on the ground, more were damaged.

Our own planes carried out reconnaissance flights off the Northern French Coast and off the Western Italian Coast on the 21 Aug. Active convoy traffic was detected with radar equipment in the late evening hours 40 miles east southeasterly of Toulon respectively southerly of Cannes.

21 Aug. 1944

Eastern Area:

One hundred and seventy-seven own and 3634 enemy operations were registered at the eastern front on the 20 Aug. We suffered eleven losses and 41 enemy planes were shot down.

No reports were yet received concerning the reconnaissance operation of the three BV 138 against carrier formation respectively convoy in Northern Waters.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

1. Area Naval Group West:

a. Enemy Invasion in Southern France:

The Naval Shore Commander Languedoc started his ordered withdrawal with the 4th Air Force Field Corps at 2100 on the 20 Aug. At 2320 on the same day the Naval Shore Command, French Riviera reported by teletype: "A further break-through was accomplished in the late hours of the afternoon about 13 km east northeasterly of Toulon and northerly of La Grau and also a deep penetration was established by Americans and colored soldiers on the land front North. Counter attack was unsuccessful, the situation is serious."

About the battle of Toulon and telegram exchange with Rear Admiral Ruhfuss was reported.

In addition it was reported that the mine field ES 7 was laid south southwesterly of Sete on the 17 Aug. consisting of 90 JMC mines.

The 6th Escort Flotilla was transferred with the bulk of the vessels under the command of the flotilla commander to the Rhone, to attend to transportation tasks and ferry services.

Six one-man and 14 two-man assault boats were brought on the way to their operational base via Genoa on the 20 Aug.

b. Gibraltar Area:

No new reports were received.

21 Aug. 1944

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Four groups of boats were partly detected by radar equipment in the sea area off the Riviera during the night presumably being patrolling destroyers and PT boats - protection for the landing area. A further boat group each was stationed southerly of St. Remo outside of our mine field heading east respectively southwesterly of Tino inside of our mine field which were presumably PT boats in ambush. No contact was made.

Air reconnaissance intercepted three medium sized freighters and three smaller naval vessels in the roads of Leghorn and two small naval vessels six miles southerly of Leghorn.

Own Situation:

Four motor minesweepers of foreign construction had an engagement with cruisers and destroyers in the thrust against the patrolling belt off Antibes on the night of the 20 Aug. Motor minesweeper of foreign construction RA "250" sank when trying to break through to the east; motor minesweeper of foreign construction RA "259" was gutted by fire and later sunk by own crew. The crew was rescued. Motor minesweeper of foreign construction RA "251" is ready to sail at the western coast of the peninsula of Antibes. Motor minesweeper R "252" arrived in Nice. It is planned to transfer motor minesweeper R "251" on the night of the 21 Aug. Particulars were not yet transmitted owing to difficult communication lines.

Four motor minesweepers arrived from delaying position and three battle ferries from coastal patrol without meeting any special incidents.

Owing to strong enemy patrol and insufficient forces the German Naval Command, Italy is cancelling all offensive operations against the Southern French Coast. The fore-lying sea area to the west will be patrolled.

Convoy and escort duties were carried out according to plan on the night of the 20 Aug.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

21 Aug. 1944

An enemy air raid was made on Corsini at 1800 on the 20 Aug. One naval landing craft was damaged. Enemy planes attacked in several waves Ravenna with bombs at 1015 on the 21 Aug. Harbor installations and approaching roads were damaged.

One naval landing craft was sunk in the bomber fighter attack on Venice on the afternoon of the 21 Aug. The wreck of the CONTI DI SAVOIA received two direct bomb hits.

b. Aegean:

An enemy submarine shelled the radar equipment on Cap Spatha at 0650. The firing was returned, a direct hit was scored on the tower of the submarine. This same submarine sank a large sailing ship westerly of Cap Spatha at 0730. One more sailing vessel was probably sunk by the same submarine northerly of Cap Spatha at 1645.

The island of Sfakteria was attacked by enemy planes on the afternoon of the 20 Aug. and Zante on the morning hours of the 21 Aug. Coastal defense vessels were damaged in Zante and we also suffered casualties.

Special operation at the western coast of Peloponnes was carried out on the night of the 20 Aug.

c. Black Sea:

Romanians reported at 2100 on the 20 Aug. that the coast was shelled at Budaki. Reconnaissance thrust by the 1st PT Boat Flotilla from Sulina did not contact the enemy. Concerning the air raid which was made at Constanta on the 20 Aug. it was additionally reported that RK 1 was sunk and RK 26 was badly damaged. The steamer ARDEAL and the tanker FRIEDERIKE were slightly damaged. A Romanian tank barge with 500 tons of furnace oil became a total loss. Submarine U "24" was slightly damaged above the water line.

Sulina was again attacked by enemy planes in nose dives from 0750 to 0820 on the 21 Aug. The accommodation ship UNGAR and barge "417" were damaged. Two planes were shot down by ship and land anti-aircraft artillery. The accommodation ship UNGAR was totally destroyed in a renewed attack carried out by twelve ground attacking planes and bombers from 1505 to 1530.

21 Aug. 1944

Accommodation and Staff buildings of the harbor defense groups as well as the coastal defense flotillas were damaged.

The roads and harbor of Constanta were attacked at 0900, 1255 and 1450 by a total number of 60 bombers and fighters with numerous bombs and gunfire. The anti-aircraft artillery shot down two planes, naval forces and fighters each shot down one plane. Report concerning the damage caused was not received yet.

d. Danube Situation:

Dropping of mines was not reported. A supply ship of the Air Force sank at km 1296. Twenty eight vessels as well as minesweeping planes were employed with minesweeping duties. Minesweeping successes were not reported.

---

VII. Situation East Asia:

Special reports were not received.

---

22 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

The so-called World Security Conference in Dumbarton-Oaks near Washington started on the 21 Aug. According to Reuter a conciliation was reached between Tito and the Jugoslavian Exil-Government whereupon the present government of Tito was acknowledged. General Mihailowitsch is not mentioned anymore.

Ex-King Viktor Emanuel arrived in Rome according to a further new report from Reuter. In regard to the conferences of Churchill in Rome this report deserves attention. The impression is received as if Churchill also tried among other things to settle the domestic political difficulties in Italy. From another report it is understood that the Italian Armistice Statuta will be changed in favor of a provisional peace arrangement in which the exertion is noticeable to check the radical domestic political currents and to strengthen the influence of the Badoglio circles. A similar conservative tendency is also noticeable in the management of the domestic conditions in Jugoslavia. Also here Churchill is looking obviously for a solution in which the influence of Tito in bondage with Moscow should be held within certain bounds by the acknowledgment of King Peter.

According to Domei, Foreign Minister Shigemitsu stated in a radio address that the war in East Asia impersonates the self-awakening of all Asiates. The military operations of Japan in China were not directed against the Tschungking Government but against the Anglo-American aggression!

In the discussion of the situation by the Commander in Chief, Navy the Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff reports about the political situation in Bulgaria.

---

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1125.

I. Report Naval Air and Air Force Liaison Section, Naval Staff, Operations Staff: From the survey of enemy situation dated 22 Aug. from Operations Staff, Air Force, Foreign Affairs Section:

1. Eastern Area:

The basis of operations against our fuel economy in

22 Aug. 1944

Upper Silesia and Romania from the southern area acknowledges that the Anglo-Saxons postponed the reforming of the strategical air force in Russia for the present.

2. Mediterranean:

Four pursuit groups and one reconnaissance group were already transferred to Southern France. The "Close Combat Corps Eastern Mediterranean" transferred to Corsica before the start of the Southern French invasion, was again transferred to the Continent. A reliable agent reported several of times that the 5th British Air Landing Division was placed at the disposal of the Air Force Command Balkan. According to the same source the planned operation of the air landing division in the area of Pola needs still further examination and confirmation.

The Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff remarked to No. 2: Several reports of new untested agents were received lately which refer to intended landing operations in the area Trieste-Fiume. Concrete signs of an intended thrust in the northern Adriatic were not yet recognized from the situation at sea.

II. Operations Branch, North, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

a. The following brief report from 1625 of the 21st was received from the 2nd Task Force:

The shelling of land targets in the Riga Bay was carried out by the 2nd Task Force with the PRINZ EUGEN, 6th Destroyer Flotilla and the 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla. The advance of Group Strachwitz and of the 3rd Tank Army Headquarters Staff in direction of Tuckum was supported by the PRINZ EUGEN; the advance of Group Kleffel and Army Group North in direction to Kemmern was supported by Destroyers Z "28" and Z "25". The remaining vessels were employed with patrol duties.

In due time at 0400 the vessels were on position and bid their time as Group Strachwitz did not advance quickly enough and the reconnaissance of targets was prevented by heavy mist. As the inquiries to Group Strachwitz concerning targets were not answered, the observer of the 5th Close Reconnaissance Unit opened fire on the targets independently. In total four rushes with 285 shots of heavy artillery were fired (0701 to 0725, 0737 to 0746, 1027 to 1036 and 1647 to 1704.). Firing position was about three miles off the coast.

22 Aug. 1944

The shelling of land targets was carried out without difficulties due especially also to the service of our shipboard planes which were nearly always above the targets. The distance of the engagement was 25,000 meters; the support of the 5th Close Reconnaissance Unit was very effective; communications with the Army suffered under difficulties of news communication which were totally interrupted at the most important times. It is not known why the naval radio detachment with experienced radio petty officer from the PRINZ EUGEN placed at disposal in Libau was not employed by Group Strachwitz. There were also no continuous communication between Group Strachwitz and Kleffel. Partly I have been acting as mediator, when arriving on firing position I at once offered Group Kleffel destroyers. As no reply was received, I detached on my own account at 0630 two destroyers which were able to take up communications with Group Kleffel at 0830. On demand the destroyers shelled with forwarded observer the appointed target area from 1027 to 1112 (in total 168 shots). The immediate artillery support given to an advanced group without a solid front could only be effectively solved with advanced observers. At larger distances even then successes were doubtful owing to the dispersion of the batteries. Numerous and detailed reports were at hand from our air observers but they were so contradictory after the arrival of Group Strachwitz respectively Kleffel in the area of the target section that the firing could not rely anymore on them. Devastating consequences would have been caused if the results of air observations would have been taken as a base. The shelling of point targets on such a big distance was useless. With better communication lines to the army a remarkable increase in our operation would have been possible. The establishment of the signal reporting centre Naval Command East stood the test. As Army Group North and Centre had no more task for the 2nd Task Force the return voyage was started at 1800. The execution of operation was favored as no enemy counter attacks occurred at sea against our expectations. Single enemy planes were reported above the target area. The surprise was fully successful and I believe it possible, that the enemy still is confused about the employment of heavy vessels in the Riga Bay. The task inspired the crew with a strong driving power, every single man was filled with enthusiasm and was attending to his duties indefatigable.

The PRINZ EUGEN is especially suitable for operations of this kind owing to the convenient heavy calibre, good anti-aircraft artillery and well chosen personnel.

22 Aug. 1944

The report was transmitted by Naval Staff, Operations Division to the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters, to the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy to the Naval Liaison Officer, High Command, Army, General Staff of the Army and to the Operations Officer, Naval Liaison, High Command Air Force.

b. As to the operation of the 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla the Naval Command East reports:

1. The 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla reports to the participation in operation of the 2nd Task Force on the 19th, 20th, and 21st of Aug: Sailed from Libau at 1330 on the 19 Aug. with torpedo boat T "1", "4", "8", "9" and "10" according to 82/44 AI Gkdos. of the 2nd Task Force. Arrived in grid square AO 6717 near the PRINZ EUGEN at 1745. Transferred army radio detachment and Captain (Army) Heller. Continued voyage at 1826. The 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla was forming an anti-aircraft artillery defense belt on all sides and carried on with the same task during the shore shelling of Tuckum in grid square AO 6837 by changing positions always to the PRINZ EUGEN. The 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla was attached in line astern to the PRINZ EUGEN during the night. The 6th Destroyer Flotilla joined the 2nd Task Force at 0028 on the 20 Aug. and was dismissed at 2205. Return voyage was started at 1850 from grid square AO 6837. Took over army radio detachment for Libau in grid square AO 5969 at 1450. Was dismissed for Libau at 0500. Air raid alarm at 0615. Two not clearly recognized planes passed over on northerly course in 8300 meter height. Alarm was cancelled at 0719. Arrived with torpedo boat T "1", "4", "8", "9" and "10" in Libau at 0800. No contact with the enemy was made during the operation or other incidents happened.

2. The Admiral in Command of the Eastern Baltic sent a teletype concerning the operations of the 13th Landing Flotilla and artillery ferry barges: At the end, the corps order from General Kleffel stated: "Our attack was prominently supported by engineers and navy. I express my warmest appreciation to all leaders and soldiers. Long live the Fuehrer."

c. The Naval Command East presented further the following report from the Commander, 13th Landing Flotilla:

"The agreed operations could not be carried out at first owing to early mist on the morning of the 20 Aug. As soon as visibility improved we went close under land to locate the landmarks of the appointed target areas to attract the enemy fire. The target

22 Aug. 1944

area 04 was shelled and obviously heavily occupied by the enemy. An enemy 7.62 battery was put out of action on the southeastern beach of Bigaunziens. Casualties and damage is not worth mentioning. Firing ceased at 1100 as no further demands were made by the command and no enemy targets were recognized. Received orders and tried to annihilate command Bigaunziens from 1600 to 1830. This order was carried out by employing all weapons in eight waves at a distance of 2000 to 1500 meters. Remark by Naval Command East: Specification of target area 04 is not known here.

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

a. Group South reported on the 21 Aug:

The interior developments of the situation in Bulgaria, the military breakdown of the front parts occupied by Romanian troops in the area of Jassy and Talmaz and the difficulty in rebuilding a new defense front caused by the panical fleeing also of the Romanian reserves, further the reaction of this event on Bulgaria in the tendency of an accelerated desertion to the enemy's side demands at once the preliminary operation of a transfer of the Group Command to the alternate position Werschatz to:

a) Lose the possibility of command only for the shortest possible time while carrying out transfer in proportionally orderly conditions and

b) to guarantee a stern command through already newly appointed Group Commands if the situation should be brought to a head in the area of the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea or that of Commanding Admiral, Aegean.

The Naval Staff proposed the following decision: Group South receives permission to prepare transfer according to proceedings and to carry out a partial transfer. Final transfer should only be made in agreement with the representative of the Reich and with the German General.

The Commander in Chief, Navy agreed. The participation of the Commander in Chief, Group South at the conference of the Commanding Admirals in "Koralle" on the 24th and 25 Aug. was not considered. The dispatching of a representative was submitted to Group South.

b. Group South reported further:

"1. After the break down of the front parts in the area of Jassy and Talmaz occupied by Romanian troops it must be

22 Aug. 1944

expected that the retrograde movement at least will take place quickly to Seedonau and to the line Galatz - Fossani - Carpathian Mountains; a lasting defense at this line is also doubtful.

2. After that: There will only be restricted naval tasks left to the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea:

a) Operations of offensive means, PT boats and submarines should be used for the protection of the flank and for combat against enemy naval forces.

b) Submarine chase and escorting will have to be cancelled owing to the absence of transportation movements.

c) The coastal patrol with vessels (fast motor minesweepers and artillery ferry barges) will be limited to a minimum.

3. Therefore necessary supplies for the base should be left in Constanta and if the need should arise should be replenished at once from the area of Galatz.

4. All vessels in the Black Sea which cannot be employed there more should be at once transferred to the Danube and up the river to Galatz. Vessels which might be necessary for a transportation across Seedonau should be left there and if the need should arise be allotted in such fashion that especially a large number of naval landing craft can be withdrawn up the Danube River.

5. Withdrawn vessels might be used on the Danube for:

- a) Service on the Danube (minesweeping etc.)
- b) Supporting the army front confined to the Danube.
- c) For ferrying operations above Galatz.

6. The loosening-up of Maureb Galatz and Braila as well as similar offices to the Upper Danube River should be prepared at once.

7. If the situation should not develop so unfavorable it will be easy to cancel the ordered measures.

From the side of the Naval Staff, nothing more is to be mentioned to this.

22 Aug. 1944

IV. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff:

a. If, however, PT boat bomb-proof shelters in Boulogne were prepared as submarine repair shops the places will not be available more for bunkering to PT boats.

b. The Naval Command, Norway transmits the information from the 5th Air Force according to which the mobile anti-aircraft artillery forces were weakened in such a manner in Norway that under no circumstances could the anti-aircraft artillery defense of the Aasenfiord and Christiansand Súd be guaranteed, which was caused through the delivery of three mixed anti-aircraft artillery formations, among them one mobile formation to the eastern front.

To this the Naval Command Norway reports that alternations could not be accomplished more.

V. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

The Bulgarian Foreign Minister Draganoff is making a definition to Sobranje this afternoon concerning the foreign policy of the government. According to British expectations it was possible, that Bulgaria would be the first ally of Germany who would try to "obtain a free passage home" according to Churchill's offer. With further press reports from Anglo-Saxon sources Draganoff informed the Russian charge d'affaires about territorial arrangements which would be acceptable to Bulgaria after the war. With it the forming of a Mazedonian Federal State with Jugoslavia is proposed, preserving the rights of the Bulgarian minority as well as the return of Greek - Trazien by forming a passageway to Cavalla - Dedeagatsch.

Group South reported at 2000 on the 21st that the political situation in Bulgaria was not yet completely clear but that the tendency to treason against the German alliance was noticeable and that effective counter forces were not perceptible among the people and armed forces. It must be expected that the Bulgarian situation will be brought to a head in the near future which will also spread to the Greek area in the face of obvious deciding Russian successes at the southern front. According to different British reports a French British agreement will be signed on the 22nd in London between Eden and Foreign Commissioner Massigli concerning the civil administration of France. The agreement will also divide war materiels left behind by Germans in French territory. A relevant agreement with the U.S.A. will be signed between General König and General Eisenhower.

22 Aug. 1944

VI. Position of the Army:

Western Front:

The enemy launched the outflanking attack against the front of the 5th Tank Army, situated on the southern bank of the Seine on the noon hours of the 21 Aug. The attacks were concentrated on the area of Lisieux and between Verneuil and Dreux. Superior enemy tank forces were successful in breaking through to Lisieux. Further advance was prevented by a counter thrust.

With two tank divisions the enemy broke through our far stretched defense front between Verneuil and Dreux and reached the line Rougles - Breteuil - Damville in the evening.

Our troops were engaged in a heavy battle against superior enemy tank forces between Eure and Seine.

The II. SS Tank Corps was successful in absorbing further parts of the 7th Army which broke through.

The enemy formed bridgeheads between Vernon and Nantes and scouted the area to the north.

The western front of the 5th Tank Army was withdrawn in the previous night to the line Touques - Lisieux - Orbec - Rougles. The enemy launched an attack also at the 1st Army between Etampes and Pithiviers in easterly direction and captured Etrechy and Maiesherbes.

The activity of terrorists is increasing in Paris; the construction of barricades was started.

Our own losses in men and materiel were serious and especially in armor piercing weapons as the enemy is by-passing and surrounding our bases.

In the south, the 19th Army Headquarter Staff withdrew into the line St. Chamas - Aurons - Mallemort according to plan. The attack against the defense area of Toulon started on the 20th. Serious enemy penetrations were established on the land front. Our own counter attack was not successful.

Italian Front:

The withdrawal movement of the 148th Reserve Division along the Italian/Southern French frontier has not yet started as up to now all the available equipment and weapons could not be recovered.

22 Aug. 1944

After heavy fights with well equipped and organized partisans the 90th Tank Infantry Division reached Saneboco and Valdieri.

Today's fighting was again concentrated along the Adriatic coast. Supported by 110 tanks the enemy attacked in several groups our advance positions, pressed them back into the main line of resistance and achieved local penetrations which forced us to withdraw the main line of resistance to the northern bank of the Metauro.

Eastern Front:

Army Group Southern Ukraine:

The enemy was successful in the area of Tiraspol in occupying a remarkable amount of terrain. In the main the strong enemy attacks were intercepted westerly of Jassy. The conduct of the Romanian soldiers is unreliable.

Army Group Northern Ukraine.

In heavy fights the enemy was able to enlarge his penetrations southerly of the Vistula in the area of Radomysl. Counter attacks were only successful in recapturing limited area.

Only little local fighting took place in the Vistula bridgeheads.

The strange withholding of the enemy between Vistula and Memel after the heavy attacks which were launched the day before yesterday can only be explained by the heavy casualties of the day before yesterday and in a closing up and bringing up of reinforcements.

Army Group Centre:

Embittered fighting is going on in the Stock-Exchange Building at Warsaw where every single room had to be recaptured from the rebels.

At the 2nd Army the enemy is following up acutely our own withdrawal movement across the Bug.

In the area southerly of Wirballen we were successful in rebuilding a barely sufficient front in the line occupied yesterday and repulsing all enemy attacks with the exception of one break through.

22 Aug. 1944

Southwesterly of Schaulen we were successful in surrounding weaker enemy units and recapturing ground.

When trying to continue the attacks the tank corps in action southwesterly of Mitau met heavy counter attacks and was involved in serious defense fighting near Schagarren.

Army Group North:

Mopping up operations in the area of Tuckum were continued, enemy attacks at Bauske were repulsed. Northerly of the Dūna and in the face of strengthening enemy defense our own attack easterly of Ergni recaptured only 3 km ground; important straits of the lakes were blocked. Counter attacks were repulsed in the main.

Supported by tanks and ground attacking planes the enemy launched his expected attack against the total front of the II. and XXVIII. Army southwesterly of Lake Peipus. In the main we were able to intercept and repulse the attack.

The enemy continued his attacks against Dorpat with strong forces and tanks which were repulsed in heavy and changeable fighting.

Crossing preparations of the enemy were recognized at the Narva front.

VII. Report Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division:

The 261st Small Battle Unit Flotilla was brought on its way from Lübeck to Tournay with 24 "Bibern". The 411th Small Battle Unit Flotilla will be delayed as the operators showed symptoms of poisoning owing to continuous testing so that a caulking will be necessary against gas.

Local reconnaissance established no launching possibilities for "Marder" along the coast northerly of Le Havre to the area of Fecamp. Battle formation 364 is not able to operate more in the Seine Bay.

The Commander in Chief, Navy decided to proposal to transfer the next 60 "Marder" to the south where favorable launching places should be established in the area of Cannes.

The Commander in Chief, Navy further ordered to examine and prepare "Marder" operations in the Finnish Bay.

22 Aug. 1944

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

Commanding Admiral, 2nd Task Force proposed to the Naval Staff, Operations Division by telephone to employ the LUTZOW again in operation "Rotbuche". For the time being the Commander in Chief Navy decided to decline as in the present situation the ships might be expected to operate elsewhere and the military importance of "Rotbuche" compared with the connected incompatible danger at present do not correspond.

Corresponding teletype from the 1/Skl I op 2533/44 Chefs. will be sent to the 2nd Task Force and by copy to the Naval Command East and Fleet.

---

Special Items.

I. Concerns Situation West Area:

1. Group West reported that destroyer Z "24" and T "24" will be held ready for action for tasks as fighting enemy forces, protecting occasional convoys from fortress to fortress, patrol duties in the area of La Pallice - Gironde, supporting submarine departures and if the need should arise participate in land fighting in the battle of a fortress. First of all they were placed for operations under the command of the 4th Patrol Division, later relevantly with the situation and if the need should arise under the command of the fortress.

2. Group West transmits the application from the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Atlantic to strengthen the shore defenses from La Rochelle to La Pallice by employing air force anti-aircraft artillery batteries from Bordeaux in this area. The Commander in Chief West rejected relevant application from Group West with the argument that the air force had asked the Reich Marshall already to withdraw all anti-aircraft artillery batteries from Bordeaux. If this proposal is accepted not only the land defenses of La Pallice will be too weak, but practically the total air force and a large amount of the army will leave with the exception of weak fortress garrisons and garrison of Bordeaux while the Navy must stay behind in Southwestern France with the bulk of its soldiers. The air force batteries in Bordeaux consist of eleven heavy batteries not counting

22 Aug. 1944

the medium sized and light anti-aircraft artillery batteries of which nine were immobile and two were motorized. The group believes it bearable when at least a part of the immobile guns were mounted in time at La Pallice and in the same fashion as the coastal guns from the naval batteries southerly of the Gironde were transferred to the fortress Gironde - North and South. The Naval Staff, Operations Division asked the Armed Forces High Command for a decision.

3. Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, Enemy Situation Branch issued a summary of all intercepted enemy naval ships with names participating in the French area since the start of the invasion. Copy according to 1/Skl. 25988/44 Gkdos. in War Diary special file "Invasion 20 Aug."

This includes also losses, announced by the Admiralty respectively by the U.S. Naval Ministry. From destroyer downward vessels only were admitted as two British, four American and one Norwegian destroyer, two escort destroyers, three frigates, one minesweeper, three fast motor minesweepers, three trawlers, one tug, one auxiliary boat and purely one transporter.

4. The Naval Staff asked the High Command Air for 450 cbm fuel B IV needed for operations by the sea defense means in the landing bridgehead of Southern France. In question is the employment of the only available offensive weapon of the navy in this war theatre, assault boats, equipped with Alfaromeo engines. Maximum results can only be achieved with plane fuel. Measures were started to refit for the use of motor vehicle fuel.

II. The Naval Staff informed the Naval Liaison Officer of the General Staff Army that:

1. Group South and the Admiral Commanding Black Sea received instructions on the 5 Aug. to make carefully in advance premeditations for the case that a withdrawal of the army front to the Danube - Carpathian position is necessary in which the oil areas should be held. In addition the demanded support asked by the General Staff of the Army should be considered in advance for this case when transferring the withdrawing divisions across the Seedonau above the Delta, where no bridges were..

2. To this Group South reported the possibility of operations for thirty naval landing craft of the 1st Landing Division as well as that of thirty vessels of the coastal defense flotilla of

22 Aug. 1944

which 24 were armed fishing vessels. Six artillery carriers of the 3rd Artillery Flotilla were in addition at disposal as anti-aircraft artillery convoy defense, provided that no other sea-operational tasks were under consideration. Above this thirty naval landing craft were at disposal in Braila for operations at any time until further notice which were now refitted into mine exploding vessels, for the Commanding Admiral Black Sea and Danube. Group South received instructions on the 10 Aug. to take up communications with Army Group Ukraine, on orders from the Chief of the General Staff of the Army. Up to now the smallest number of persons should be informed about the operation. (Compare War Diary 8 Aug. "Special Items" No. IV. respectively War Diary 9 Aug. "Special Items" No. III.

III. The Naval Staff, Submarine Division reports that the Commander Submarines, Mediterranean resigned from command which was taken over by the Commanding Admiral, Submarines on the 20 Aug.

IV. The Naval Staff, Submarine Division reports further, that the Mercator boats U Jt. "24" and U Jt. "25" should not start the return voyage to home waters according to relevant directive by the Commander in Chief, Navy. In question is only a breaking up for the benefit of our boats or a delivery to the Japanese. The Bureau of Naval Armament was asked to attend to the case.

---

Situation on the 22 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

Forty-two planes from the 19th Group were detected in action. Today no essential knowledge was gained by radio monitoring from the landing area.

The LXIV. Infantry Corps transmitted a report from inhabitants according to which enemy landing was taking place at St. Jean de Luz since the morning of the 22nd. Apparently parachute troops were employed. It was reported from San Sebastian that one cruiser and two destroyers tried to enter the harbor entrance of St. Jean de Luz at 0730 on the 21st. in which connection a destroyer probably was shot afire by the coastal battery. The formation turned off under the protection of a smoke screen.

22 Aug. 1944

No new reports were received from the Channel area.

Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

Our naval forces were attacked by Mosquito planes on the Gironde on the afternoon of the 21st. Minesweeper M "272" sank after receiving several direct bomb hits. Patrol Boat VP "407" was damaged.

It was reported that two planes were shot down for certain and probably one more.

SG "5" was damaged off the Gironde by a mine detonation and towed to port on the evening of the 20th. One mine was swept off La Pallice and two off Royan on the 19th. One vessel was escorted from Quiberon to Lorient and one tanker from St. Nazaire to Lorient. One submarine arrived in Lorient, one submarine each was escorted to the open sea from La Pallice and from the Gironde.

The Staff of the Commanding Admiral, Defences Atlantic Coast arrived in La Rochelle on the 22nd and were ready for action as far as not attached to the withdrawal movement of the LXIV. Infantry Corps.

In connection with the continuous return transportation of wounded and women from the Gironde area by air it was agreed with the 3rd Air Force to include about 140 naval nurses and dangerously ill naval members.

Land Situation:

In Paris at present the enemy feels his way continuously ahead against the fore-lying defense line. The situation inside only appears to be quiet. Firing was reported from different town areas. The re-transporting of the naval communication formation in strength of 200 men was accepted.

St. Malo:

Battery Cecembre reported to the Naval Shore Command, Channel Islands: "Fortress commander of St. Malo is not in Cecembre. Harassing fire is covering the island."

22 Aug. 1944

An attack, made by two destroyers who shelled FK 57 and battery was repulsed at 1135 on the 22nd. The Naval Shore Commander ordered a new set of radio equipment for the battery.

The Commander in Chief, Group West sent the following teletype to battery Cecembre via Naval Shore Command Channel Islands on the evening of the 22nd:

"I know that you will preserve the glorious reputation and the honor of your battery. The whole navy is looking upon you."

Brest:

The fortress shelled enemy batteries, armoured cars and motor truck vehicles on the 21st.

Our own harassing fire was covering enemy supply traffic near Guipavas as well as the air base North with observed effect on the 22nd. Evacuation of Cancarneau was started. The evacuation of Audierne was planned.

Lorient:

Crossing attempts were repulsed northerly of Pontscorff. The whole bulk of a Georgier battalion, known up to now as reliable deserted to the enemy on the occasion of a patrolling operation after murdering the Commander of the Company and the German Staff.

Sea Area Channel:

Thirteen patrol boat positions were occupied. Two vessels were escorted between Le Havre and Fecamp. No mines were swept more in the area of the 2nd Escort Division since the 26 Jul. Several batteries in the area of Fecamp - Cap de la Heve shelled detected targets on the night of the 20 Aug. The tanker KARIBISCHE MEER and one 3,000 ton steamer were sunk in the Seine Bay as block ships. The shipyard Le Trait was blown up.

Owing to weather conditions operations by the PT Boat Flotillas were cancelled on the night of the 21st.

In addition it was reported that the Seine estuary was mined on the night of the 19th. One barge was sunk and three damaged in a fighter-bomber attack on Tancarville on the afternoon of the 21st. The departure of ammunition transports for the fortress Le Havre,

22 Aug. 1944

consisting of four artillery carriers and one naval landing craft from Dieppe and six carriers from Le Treport had to be postponed on the night of the 21st, as the ammunition arrived not in time.

---

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

Convoy 1261 Hook - Elbe with the Hansa new construction program was carried through to the Helder. Continuation up to Borkum is planned on the night of the 22nd.

Patrol boat positions in the Heligoland Bight and off the Dutch coast were only partly occupied owing to rough sea. Minesweeping operations were postponed.

Norway, Northern Waters.

Enemy Situation:

Twenty seven planes of the 18th Group were detected in action.

The convoy, reported on the 21st was observed by our air reconnaissance in AB 37 at 0225 on the 22nd. A carrier or patrol group was detected by radar equipment in AB 38 at 0220.

A submarine, sailing from Hammerfest at noon was attacked by four carrier planes. Two enemy air craft carriers were sighted by submarine in AB 9333 at 1700.

Own Situation:

An enemy air attack was made on the Kaafiord at 1252. The TIRPITZ reports no damage at 1312. The 1st Task Force reported at 1555: "Attack repulsed, no damage caused, up to now one plane was shot down by a patrol boat in the Kaafiord."

In the attack off Hammerfest, carried out at 1310 against submarine U "69", the commander and 10 men were wounded. In addition the light artillery carrier MORDAN was attacked. The wireless beacon Ingoey was raided in a low flying attack by six enemy planes. The

22 Aug. 1944

equipment was destroyed by gunfire. The Kaafiord was again attacked at 1910. The TIRPITZ reported at 1935: "The first wave has passed, no hits."

According to a report from the commander of the Altafjord, fifteen carrier planes attacked the Altafjord without causing damage. Several planes were reported shot down.

Patrol boat V "6504" was attacked with bombs and gunfire by nine carrier planes at 1900. The boat suffered one casualty and twenty-one wounded and shot down four planes.

A technical report was received from the Command of the TIRPITZ about the failure in attacking the caisson. Copy see radio message 2325.

Several enemy planes were reported from the area Bergen-Sognefjord.

Eighteen ships were escorted to the north and 25 ships to the south.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Three minesweeper divisions and thirty-two naval vessels were detected by radio monitoring in the Finnish Bay.

Two boats were reported on position in the Narva Bay on the 22nd. Nothing more was sighted.

According to a radio report from Moscow, naval forces of the Russian Baltic Fleet sunk four 1800 ton torpedo boats. Vessels of the Red Fleet rescued 100 German soldiers and officers among which was also the Commander of the 6th Torpedo Boat Flotilla.

Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

No special incidents occurred.

22 Aug. 1944

West and Central Baltic:

Forty-six vessels and five minesweeper planes were employed with minesweeping duties. One mine was swept in the Kiel Bay. Six of the enemy mines dropped in the Kiel area on the night of the 16th were found to be equipped with a mine fitting setting of three to forty-six days so that they would have been primed about 23 Sep. to the 2 Oct. Patrol boat V "435" was rammed by a fishing vessel in the Kiel Bay and sank. Crew was rescued.

The commander of the 24th Submarine Flotilla reported the presence of a submerged target ten miles northwest of Memel detected by armed fishing vessels. After summons by sonic telegraph a depth charge attack was made. The presence of an own vessel is out of question. The Commanding Admiral Submarines doubts report. Submarine U "1195" was attacked without effect by plane with aerial torpedo off Memel at 1300. Experimental vessel INSTER was attacked in the same position just as ineffectively with gunfire.

Four torpedo carrying planes and five fighters were reported from the sea area of Memel on forenoon hours of the 21st. and nine enemy planes were reported in the sea area west of Libau at noon.

Four enemy fighters attacked without success submarine U "982" in the afternoon.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

Two mines were swept in the Reval Bay. Troop and special transports sailed according to plan.

For particulars see "Daily Report".

Five hundred and forty-four tons of supplies were transferred to Riga on the 21st for Army Group North.

---

IV. Submarine Warfare:

The situation has not changed in the submarine base Lorient, St. Nazaire and Bordeaux.

The returning submarine U "663" reports from the operational area of

22 Aug. 1944

the Seine the sinking of a destroyer and of 15,000 BRT in the area BF 22.

Three submarines sailed from Lorient for transfer to Norway.

According to radio monitoring an American steamer was torpedoed in BA 9616 at about midnight. Submarine U "154" is in question concerning this success.

In addition to Group "Trutz" one returning and three outward bound submarines were employed against the convoy in Northern Waters. From these nine boats, a north-south running patrolling channel was formed from AC 1525 to 4252. Carrier planes were several of times reported when on their way to the patrolling channel. The ordered air reconnaissance by three BV 198 had to be cancelled at noon owing to weather conditions.

Submarine U "354" reported the combination of the carrier group, intercepted in AB 9333 at 1700 as two aircraft carriers, one heavy cruiser, one destroyer and two patrol boats on southerly course.

A detonation was heard twenty-one seconds after the launching of a T3 Tat (Tr.n. special type of torpedo) at an auxiliary aircraft carrier. The target received a slight list to starboard. The smoke of the detonation was observed midship. After launching a Zaunkönig at the same target a detonation each was heard after five respectively seven minutes. Depth charge defense was not made. Enemy patrols disappeared to the west from the spot of the torpedo attack at 2330. A large oil stain, drifting and empty pneumatic boats, many drifting tins and other articles of equipment were observed on the spot of destruction. Based on this report the Commanding Admiral Submarines believes the sinking of an auxiliary aircraft carrier as assured. The loss of an aircraft carrier is also indicated by the circumstance that a much smaller number of planes participated in the 2nd Attack against the TIRPITZ than in the first one.

A new patrol channel from AC 2546 to 2785 was ordered for Group "Trutz".

Also slight damage of the boat's body was suffered by submarine U "965" in the attack of Hammerfest besides the reported casualties. Submarine U "1193" was withdrawn from the eastern operations in the Finnish Bay and will return to the 24th Submarine Flotilla.

22 Aug. 1944

No special reports were received from the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

---

V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Only little activity of twin-engined formations and fighter bombers during the day were reported from Western France and the appearance of 20 reconnaissance planes was reported from the Southern French area.

Eighty enemy planes were detected in Belgium/Northern France in the area of the Channel coast attacking six airbases in this area.

Thirty enemy planes were above the Belgium area on the night of the 22nd without attacking.

Our own operations included during the day 395 planes in four sorties attacking enemy bridges and concentrations in the area of Mantes and Vernon with mortar and gunfire.

Various own forces attacked enemy troop concentrations on the left bank of the Seine and northwesterly of Mantes with bombs and gunfire and partly observing results on the night of the 22nd. Ten Ju 88 were patrolling the ferrying places on both sides of the Rouen. Thirty He 111 carried out supplying tasks in the area of Bernay.

Reich Territory:

Single enemy planes were reported above Northern Germany during the day. About 500 bombers protected by fighters entered the area of Pressburg from the south and attacked with 300 bombers Vienna. The industrial damage caused is small. One tanker was set afire in the winter harbor. In addition, four air bases were attacked in the area of Vienna without special successes. Two hundred enemy planes flew into the upper Silesian industrial area and attacked Heydebreck, Blechhammer and Odertal. One plant received medium sized damage in Odertal.

22 Aug. 1944

Mediterranean Theater:

One hundred and fifty four-engined enemy bombers with fighter protection and coming from the south attacked railway installations and air base Nisch on the 21st where they destroyed ten planes. Two hundred twin engined planes with fighter protection raided traffic installations in the rear of the Italian front area. About 600 enemy fighter bombers, fighters and reconnaissance planes were operating in the total area of the front.

The usual enemy operations were reported from the Greek-Italian area on the night of the 21st.

Eastern Area:

Twelve hundred and sixty nine of our own and 3064 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front on the 21st in which we suffered twelve losses and in which 43 enemy planes were shot down.

The 4th Air Force carried out at noon photographic reconnaissance of Sevastopol. Three MLB, Nine armed smaller vessels, one tug, one barge and seventy-five boats were recognized. The position of the wreck has not changed.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea:

1. Aera Naval Group West:

a. Enemy Invasion on the Southern French Coast:

No special reports were received.

Group West sent a request to the naval communication officer Marseille demanding at once teletype concerning situation in Marseille and transmitting all known facts concerning Toulon.

b. Area Gibraltar:

No reports were received.

22 Aug. 1944

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

According to reconnaissance through observation and radar sets, strong enemy convoys in strength of 40 to 50 respectively 10 ships were 24 miles south southeasterly of St. Tropez at about midnight on the 21st. Three ships were detected 28 miles southerly of Toulon and two ships probably destroyers 42 miles southeasterly of Tropez.

Three groups of boats probably suspended destroyers and PT boat patrols were detected by radar in the line St. Tropez - Calvi on the night of the 21st. No contact was made.

No new facts were established by our reconnaissance during night and early morning hours from the Ligurian Sea and from the sea area northerly of Elba. Three small naval vessels were observed southwesterly of Leghorn at forenoon on northwest course and one small naval vessel was observed south of Leghorn on southern course.

Own Situation:

Le Napoule and battery Theoule near Cannes were shelled from the sea on the 21st. Damage was not reported. In addition a fighter bomber attack was made during daytime at Nice and San Remo without any particular effect. One plane was probably shot down in a fighter bomber attack carried out on the 22nd at San Remo.

One group of the German trained division San Marco belonging to the Ligurian Army deserted with their weapons according to a report from the German Naval Command Italy.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

A convoy of two naval artillery barges, one armed sailing vessel and two infantry boats with four PT boats as escort on their way from Doli to Corcula turned back on the night of the 21st as gun boats and corvettes were detected and sighted.

Torpedo boat T "20" with two Siebel ferries sailed in the evening from Fiume to carry out mining tasks. Two Siebel ferries started with the laying of coastal mine type "A" minefield east northeast of Venice near Cortellazza.

22 Aug. 1944

Operations of two PT boats were planned from Pola against Ankona on the night of the 22nd.

b. Aegean:

An enemy submarine was reported 30 miles north-westerly of Milos at 2330 on the 21st. Zante was attacked without effect by 14 enemy planes with 30 bombs at about 2300 on the 21st.

A coastal defense boat established a minesweeping success in front of the harbor of Rhodos in the morning hours of the 21st.

c. Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

The Commanding Admiral of the Russian Fleet embarked probably on cruiser KRASNY KRIM according to radio monitoring. The position is probably in the area Gelendshik - Novorossisk. Five submarines must be expected off the western coast. Submarine "H" was detected 40 miles southeast of Varna.

One submarine attack each was made without effect on a convoy of two motor minesweepers and two war freighters at 0550 ten miles southeast, respectively at 1020, 15 miles southerly of Constanta.

An easterly of Varna detected submarine was engaged.

Own Situation:

Six to seven enemy planes attacked the harbor and roads of Constanta with incendiary bombs and gunfire in the morning without causing any real damage.

Two PT boats were carrying out reconnaissance operations to Bugatz without results on the night of the 21st, demanded urgently by the Commander in Chief of Army Group Dumitrescu. PT boat S "148" sank on return voyage caused through a mine or torpedo hit. The crew was completely rescued.

When leaving Sulina PY boat S "51" was rammed and damaged by FW-boat and transferred to Constanta for repairs.

22 Aug. 1944

The Italian submarine CB "3" could not sail for operations against the enemy owing to damage in oil pressure lead and was transferred from Sulina to Constanta for repairs. When carrying out mine-sweeping operations, one mine was swept easterly of Constanta.

d. Danube Situation:

The dropping of mines was observed between Km 743 and 747. Our air force does not believe them to be mines, but reserve fuel tanks as the planes concerned were Russians. Three barges were slightly damaged at km 1092 by hitting a mine. Mine-sweeping successes were not reported.

Group South instructed the Naval Staff by copy of directives to the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea. Copy according to 1/Skl 26056/44 Gkdos. in War Diary Part C, Volume XIVa.

"The enemy crossed Djestr Liman and the lower Djestr and is advancing further. Army Group Dumitrescu is starting to withdraw according to order on the evening of the 22nd into the defense position Danube-Delta. Group South drew the attention of Army Group Southern Ukraine to the fact that the course of this defense position is interrupted easterly of Jalpug connecting Danube - Black Sea by the southerly Kilia branch. As base defense is only possible in the Kilja branch a long advantage of the Seedonau cannot be expected. The route western entrance of the Sulina canal from Tulcea to Isaceca is within reach of enemy long range artillery and will therefore only be passable during night time.

It will be the present task of the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea in supplying the Army with reconnaissance and patrolling the sea flank, by screening and carrying out troop evacuations from the area northerly and near Inbrejeni in close agreement with Army Group Dumitrescu. The attention of the group should be drawn to the fact that an evacuation across the sea should only be arranged for those troops for which a retreat across the Danube or against the stream of the Kilja branch is already cut off.

The total other available tonnage should be used for ferrying service in the evacuation of Kilja - Ismail and if the need should arise also of Valcov. The coastal defense should be prepared urgently against penetrations and it should be tried to block the Danube estuary as well as outflanking landings southerly of this should be watched carefully

22 Aug. 1944

Also Romanian destroyers and as far as possible also Romanian PT boats should be engaged in these transportation tasks. The carrier flotilla and in cooperation the Romanian Danube Flotilla were at disposal in the northern part of the delta and might be employed if the need should arise for a break through to the Kilja branch in westerly direction.

The leadership of command of the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea with the Russian Danube Division should be arranged by a Liaison Officer.

Energetic officers should be appointed as leading commissioners and traffic regulators at the crossing points for the evacuation tasks and if possible strong formations of anti-aircraft artillery support should be assigned to each place. For this purpose ship anti-aircraft artillery is at disposal.

Unnecessary and for the Danube service appointed vessels should be withdrawn later from the Black Sea up stream as far as the situation allows after completing the ferrying of the army.

Evacuation of Sulina should be prepared for the case that the withdrawal of the front to the St. Georg branch is necessary. A loosening up should be started at once.

As long as transportation movements were carried out the war freighters and submarine chasers will stay in the Black Sea as escorting vessels.

---

VII. Situation East Asia:

No special reports were received.

---

23 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

According to reports from Switzerland Marshal Petain informed the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps before his removal from Vichy on the 20 Aug. that he considered himself a prisoner of the Germans and that he regarded his office as Head of the State as finished.

The Bulgarian Foreign Minister Draganoff proposed unconcealed to Russian goodwill and grace in his announced Sobranje address on the 22 Aug. and tried to describe the existing attitude of Bulgaria as coercive conclusion of the political development since 1914.

---

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief Navy at 1115.

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

The Swedish War Assurance Office decided not to accept any war risk assurances after the 22 Aug. for ships touching German Baltic ports. Already since the 11 Aug. no assurances were accepted for ships sailing for a German North Sea harbor. These measures mean a renewed aggravation of the German transport and armament situation, the handling of which will not easily be maintained. Intentions of the Reich Commissar for Shipping must first of all be awaited in case that cancellation or limitation of measures might not be assumed through diplomatic channels.

II. Connected with the northern situation a brief report from the 1st Task Force concerning air attack against the TIRPITZ on the 22 Aug. was cited.

a. "Brief report of the 1st air attack on the 22 Aug:

1. One thousand two hundred and forty nine to 1312 low flying planes attacked the TIRPITZ, destroyer NEUMARK and NORDMARK. No clear calculations were made up to now concerning the number of participating planes. Spitfire, Marlet and Barakuda types were present. The main direction of approaching flight was northeast, later also southeast. Height of attack about 400 meters.

23 Aug. 1944

2. The TIRPITZ was not damaged. Twenty men suffered flue gas poisoning from heavy artillery. Two ship-board planes were sunk by gunfire in the naval air base Bukta. The destroyers reported no damage. Two men were wounded and one was killed on the armed merchant cruiser NEUMARK. One 3.7 cm barrel premature. The tanker JEVERLAND received petty damages by gunfire and suffered three heavily wounded and four slightly wounded.

The tanker NORDMARK received no damage in spite of close impact of bombs. Two men were slightly wounded.

3. Weapons of all calibres were employed in barrage and target firing on the TIRPITZ. Smoke screen was in the beginning insufficient but later good.

4. Several planes were observed shot down. Bomb misses were observed partly in the immediate surrounding of the TIRPITZ.

5. Ammunition consumption of the TIRPITZ: 62 - 38 cm shells, 363 - 15 cm shells, 20% of the 10.5 cm ammunition, 5% of 3.7 cm and 17% of 2 cm.

6. We advise restrained publication, as the failure of the attack was probably not observed by the enemy."

b. "Brief report of the 2nd air attack on the 22 Aug.  
(Preliminary report by radio message.)

1. 1916 to 1927 About twenty carrier planes attacked in two waves, the TIRPITZ, destroyer NEUMARK and NORDMARK. The approach was principally made from the south to the southeast. The height of attack was 200 to 1000 meters.

2. All vessels of the task force were undamaged. Thirty-four men were slightly wounded owing to 2 cm barrel premature on the destroyer. The TIRPITZ had a 2.15 cm barrel premature on starboard side.

3. Weapons of all calibres were employed in barrage and target firing by the TIRPITZ. The smoke screen was in the beginning insufficient, but later well laid.

4. The shooting down of two planes was observed. Bomb misses were partly observed in the immediate surrounding of the TIRPITZ.

23 Aug. 1944

5. Ammunition consumption of the TIRPITZ: 13 - 38 cm shells, 124 - 15 cm shells, 750 - 10.5 cm shells, 1538 shots 3.7 cm and 15,800 shots 2 cm.

6. We advise restrained publication as the failure of the attack was probably not observed by the enemy."

The 1st Task Force reports in the postscript that indisputably twelve planes were observed shot down by the TIRPITZ of which eight were brought down in the first attack and four in the second.

It was further reported by the 65th Patrol Flotilla that Patrol Boat VP "6504" was attacked with bombs and gunfire by nine carrier planes at 1900 on the 22nd. and suffered damage and casualties. Four planes were shot down.

The Commander of patrol boat VP "6504" received from the Commander in Chief, Navy the radio message "Well done", a copy of which was sent also to the 65th Patrol Boat Flotilla.

III. From the report concerning position in the west: The operation Staff, Armed Forces High Command agreed with the plans of the 3rd Air Force to leave eight immobile local anti-aircraft batteries in the area of Bordeaux for the defense of the fortresses La Rochelle, La Pallice as well as for Gironde North and South and to withdraw three mobile emergency batteries.

The Naval Staff demanded from Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command that Bordeaux should not be abandoned before the 28 Aug. as the last submarine will be completed by the yards there on the 25 Aug.

Group West was informed with radio message 1/Skl. Ia 2554/44 Gkdos. Chfs.

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

The exchange of German/British wounded is planned in Göteborg on the 8 Sep. The steamer ROBERT LEY will be employed from the German side to transfer about 3500 wounded as far as the examination of mine dangers will be favorable for this large ship.

23 Aug. 1944

V. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

The speech of the Bulgarian Foreign Minister presents in itself not yet a rupture with Germany as it was expected. The tendency of situation has nevertheless but one meaning. Based on the report of an agent, Group South reports that the plans of the government to abandon occupied Serbian territory meets opposition in Bulgarian army circles. Army believes a certain shortening of the front necessary but intends to maintain the defense of the railway line to Belgrad.

According to an Associated Press information quoted by French military circles in Hendaye the third allied landing was started in France in the area of Bordeaux on the evening of the 22 Aug.

Conference Restricted to a Very Limited Circle:

VI. Position of the Army:

Western Front:

The enemy tried also on the 22 Aug. to crush in the forces southerly of the Seine by a double sided envelopment. While the withdrawal movement behind the Touques sector was in the main successful at the western flank of the 5th Tank Army and the enemy only carried out close pursuit near Pont l'Eveque and Lisieux he launched an attack from the southern front of the bridgehead between Risle and Eure with 130 tanks, broke through our defenses and was fighting in the evening hours for the crossings of the Iton sector near Conches and Evreux. Counter measures were started.

Our first line also had to be withdrawn a few km to northwest between Eure and Seine. There, fighting is going on in the area of Chambray - Notre Dam de Lisle.

The continuation of the concentrated enemy attack against the bridgehead must be expected, concentrating on both sides of the Seine.

The enemy advanced with further forces between Vernon and Melun. A combat formation was formed to mop-up the situation in the Seine winding northwesterly of Mantes in an attack early on the 23 Aug.

Only tank reconnaissance of the enemy is feeling its way ahead against Greater Paris.

23 Aug. 1944

The enemy launched a thrust to the east against the 1st Army with two American corps. He broke through our defenses and advanced with reconnaissance to Melun. Fighting is going on for Montargis.

The enemy carried out raids beyond Sens into the area southerly of Romilly and 40 km westerly of Troyes. Counter measures were started.

The bringing up of further enemy fast formations in direction of Dijon must be expected with the purpose of an envelopment either easterly of the Seine in direction of Paris or for cutting off the movement of Army Group G.

Southern France:

The withdrawal movement of the LXXXV Army Corps to the barrage position Arles - Chaine des Alpines - Aiguieres - Orgon - Bonnieux Apt was carried out according to plan. The reconnaissance formation of the 11th Tank Division started protecting the eastern wing of the Army with bulk in direction to Nyons and with parts to Syllans.

Enemy attacks against Toulon resulted in one break through.

Italian Front:

At Army Liguria our own troops from the Siagne sector were withdrawn to La Bocca westerly of Cannes owing to enemy attacks.

The Combat Group 90th Tank Infantry Division advanced to Porte Fernato in spite of heavy enemy resistance and serious difficulties of movements caused by the demolition of the bridges.

No actions of any importance took place at the southern front.

Eastern Front:

The situation aggravated seriously on the Bessa Arabian front. From the area of Tiraspol the enemy pushed ahead to the area of Paris and Liepzig. Enemy tank spearheads arrived at Vastui westerly of the Pruth. Group General Kirchner was pressed back to Roman. Enemy attacks were intercepted in heavy fighting westerly of Tg. Frumos.

23 Aug. 1944

To avoid surrounding the 6th Army is withdrawn to the south between the Dnjestr and Pruth.

Northern Ukraine:

Heavy fighting is continuing southerly of the Vistula near Radomysl. In spite of heavy fighting the enemy was successful in occupying further territory.

Important hilly terrain was captured and a gap was closed in a soaring own attack northerly of Sandomir.

Army Group Centre:

From the bridgehead the enemy tried again to break through with four infantry divisions and numerous tanks. The attacks were in general repulsed and 52 tanks were disabled.

The enemy continued his break through attempts northeasterly of Warsaw which were repulsed. The enemy was successful in establishing a deep break through southwesterly of Bialystock supported by tanks and ground attacking planes. The German cavalry formations stationed there constructed a new barely sufficient defensive line ten km westerly of the former main defensive line. Reinforcements were on their way.

All was quiet along the remaining front of the Army Group. Re-grouping of our own forces was going on in the Baltic States for a continuation of the attack.

Army Group North:

The area of Tuckum was further mopped up from the enemy and the front was stabilized.

The enemy was quiet in the area of Bauske.

Ergli northerly of the Dina was recaptured in a vigorous attack and the Russians were also pressed back further easterly of here. Twenty-nine tanks were disabled.

The enemy continued his break through attempts to the west, southwesterly of Lake Peipus. He was not successful in occupying deciding terrain in spite of reinforcements and numerous repetitions.

23 Aug. 1944

Army Formation Narva:

The enemy continued his heavy pressure at Dorpat. All attacks were repulsed with the exception of one break through.

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

a. From the reread radio messages exchanged between the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Atlantic Coast and the Naval Shore Command, Brittany it is understood that the Port Officer of Concarneau, Commander Otto is suspected of deserting his colors and that further officers will be presented to the General Command of the XXV. Infantry Corps.

The Commander in Chief, Navy expressed his expectations that the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Atlantic Coast would redress this scar.

b. According to report from the Commander of Combat Formations the attempt of a battle swimmer group in connection with the 60th Naval Special Operations Company to blow up the gates of Oistreham with two commando linsen and two prepared mines was a failure as the mines sank 80 m off the target.

c. A relevant proposal from the Naval Staff to Group West instructed the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West to bear in mind the remaining tasks when making proposal for a delivery of forces: keeping clear the PT boat bases for the possibility as ports of calls for submarines. Strengthening of the harbor patrol to the sea. Do not expect mining tasks more.

The Commanding Admiral, Defenses West submitted relevant proposal which in the main takes care of vessels of the 18th and 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla as well as of submarine chasers.

The Naval Staff advised the following distribution:

a. To Naval Command East: minesweeper M "155", M "256" to the 1st Motor Minesweeper Flotilla, minesweeper M "265" to the 25th Minesweeper Flotilla, further the 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla as well as six minesweepers (fishing steamers).

b. To Naval Command North the 18th Patrol Boat Flotilla.

c. To Naval Command Norway the submarine chasers "1430", "1431", "1432" and "1433".

23 Aug. 1944

On proposal of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West this last allotment was cancelled who asked to leave these vessels for the protection of smaller vessels and star shell carriers. Relevant instructions 1/Skl. I op 26039/44 Gkdos. in War Diary Part C, Volume D.

Commander in Chief, Navy agreed.

Dated 10 Aug. the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West presented a summary concerning the combat readiness of vessels under his command according to the situation on the 31 Jul. with a graphic description of vessels out of action in the month of July 1944.

Copy according to 1/Skl. 31881/44 Geh. in War Diary Part B, Volume V. The summary shows that from a debit of 436 vessels 131 equal 30.5% were undergoing repairs respectively dockyard period on the key date.

d. The Armed Forces High Command agreed to a short loosening up of the readiness for operation "FLIEGENPILZ". The measures were already carried out by Group South.

e. Enemy penetrations near Tiraspol and Jassy were traced back to the complete failure of the Romanian divisions according to the situation survey by the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters dated 22 Aug. The break through near Tiraspol is of a dangerous depth and forces us to withdraw the front to the Danube - Pruth position whereby the bridgehead in the Danube - Pruth triangle should be held if possible. It must be expected within sight that the Lower - Danube will be controlled by the Russians and with it the river connections to the Black Sea. Army demands to the navy for support on the river when crossing the Danube can be expected and for the defense of the Danube sector. The Naval Staff, Operations Division informed Group South accordingly and by copy the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea.

The Fuehrer ordered at once the examination of a Danube cutting somewhat on the height of Constanta at a favorable place according to the same information. The performance is only possible if the construction of gates is not necessary. A canal width of 20 to 24 meters can be expected. Employment of tremendous amounts of labor forces will be necessary.

23 Aug. 1944

The Naval Staff, Operations Division transmitted information without delay to the Quartermaster General, for further revision with Bureau of Naval Armament. The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division informed Group South and Bureau of Naval Armament and demanded urgently the handing over of basal reports and reviews. The Bureau of Naval Armament was asked for a decision by the Ministerial Director Eckhardt.

To this Group South reports that the canal project Cernawoda - Constanta was planned by Romania since decades and work in advance of technical survey had already started. According to the opinion of the Group the differences in height on a shortened waterway of about 50 km calls for the insertion of locks. The Group believes that plans for the project were ready but were unknown to Group, the execution of which would be desirable even in spite of the instantaneous and future development of the situation. The Group advises to contact Romanian authorities through Romanian agencies in Berlin or through German agencies in Romania.

Exchange of radio messages according to Naval Staff, Operations Division 2538/44 and 2546/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in War Diary Part B, Volume V.

f. Group South reports the following plans for the Black Sea with regard to the development of situation in Bulgaria and Romania:

1. In the Black Sea were staying the 1st PT Boat Flotilla, the 30th Submarine Flotilla, the 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla, the 3rd Gun Carrier Flotilla as well as all war freighter submarine chasers of the 1st Submarine Chaser Flotilla, seven mine naval landing craft from the 1st Landing Flotilla, two tank naval ferry barges, one work shop naval landing craft, six naval landing craft for transportation tasks, nine armed fishing vessels from the 2nd Coastal Escort Boat Flotilla as motor minesweepers and submarine chasers and four motor minesweepers of foreign construction.

2. All other vessels will transfer to Seedorf starting on the evening of the 22 Aug. at once respectively after establishing readiness to sail.

3. For the ordered employment of offensive means as a flank protection and to combat enemy naval forces ordered by

23 Aug. 1944

Group South the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea is operating motor minesweepers and ATS during night as outlying piquets relevant with the occasional course of front northerly of the Sulina estuary. The commander of the 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla will be in charge of the complete formation. There were six minesweeper berths on the Danube ten miles up stream and four artillery carrier berths at Sulina:

- aa. to strengthen the anti-aircraft artillery.
- bb. to carry out operations at once directed against enemy naval forces in a landing attempt,
- cc. to supply Sulina with an artillery reserve against increased operations of partisans.

4. Eighteen naval landing craft were at once ready for action on the Seedonau of which ten were at disposal in Ismail at 1200 on the 23 Aug. Three more naval landing craft were on their way from Constanta. Four more with the XANTEN and ship "19" will leave Constanta on the 23 Aug. Three naval landing craft, still out of action will be ready on the 25 Aug. Five naval landing craft will be added to these in the next days as well as all arriving smaller vessels in Seedonau from the Black Sea. Also the freighter tonnage space now employed with transportation tasks on Seedonau: Eight barges, one 300 tons sailing vessel, two barges (Pahlschiffe -?-) four tugs, three barges for the transportation of shipyard equipment etc. from Galatz, and the KIMBUR for the evacuation of the naval commissary depot. A special staff is appointed at Tulcea to take care of the ferrying tasks. Administrator is Commander Drechsler. Embarkation officers were under consideration in Ismail, Galatz and if the need should arise in Kilia and Reni. The Commanders 1st Landing Flotilla, 7th Landing Flotilla and 1st Coastal Escort Flotilla will act as unit leaders to the transportation formation. The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea arrived at Army Group Southern Ukraine for a conference at 1400 on the 23 Aug.

5. In the Danube delta were in addition also employed: Romanian monitors and gunboats; Romanian PT boats were not ready to operate.

Acceleration and following transfer of naval forces to the Danube were demanded and promised. Operations of Italian submarines

23 Aug. 1944

on the 24 Aug. planned as well as operations of Romanian destroyers (at present two in combat readiness).

Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy, the High Command, Army, General Staff of the Army, the Operations Staff, High Command, Air and the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters were relevantly informed with the remark that the stock of the 30th Submarine Flotilla amounted to five boats, of which two were in combat readiness; the 1st Minesweeper Flotilla amounted to six vessels of which two were in combat readiness; the 3rd Motor Minesweeper Flotilla of 14 vessels of which eight were in combat readiness; the 1st Submarine Chaser Flotilla (war freighters) of five vessels of which two were in combat readiness.

VIII. To escape from the possibility of captivity the Chief, Naval Staff is of the opinion that the garrison of Cecembre should be evacuated to the Channel Islands as soon as all ammunition has been exhausted and a possibility to continue the fight is not more given.

The Commander in Chief, Navy does not want to interfere with plans of the local front commanders.

---

Special Items.

I. Concerns Situation West Area:

a. Enemy spearheads were standing westerly of the Seine in front of Elbeuf according to report from Group West. A loosening-up of duty stations in the area Rouen - Le Havre to the Somme mouth and an evacuation of the personnel not needed more for combat operations will be carried out in agreement with army duty stations easterly of the Somme. The Commanding Admiral, Defenses West withdraws the staffs from the same area to the rear as far as they were not needed more for the remaining tasks.

b. Relevant with the development of the war situation the Naval Staff advises as to the gun allotment that the guns ordered for the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Southern French Coast should be distributed to strengthen the coastal defenses of the Adriatic and Aegean with instruction to use these guns in the main in

23 Aug. 1944

Istrian and in the northern parts of the Aegean coastal area, and likewise the ordered 15 cm batteries (from new delivery of April respectively August 1945) for the Commanding Admiral, Atlantic Coast should be delivered to the Naval Command North instead of the planned 13.5 cm captured Italian guns. A 13.8 cm French Battery will be left at the disposal of the German Naval Command Italy in the area of Genoa.

Furthermore the allotment of 15 - 10.5 cm batteries from the new constructions August 1944 to May 1945 intended for the Commanding Admiral Eastern Baltic should be left at the disposal of the Naval Command East for distribution elsewhere in the Baltic area along the German Baltic Coast and in the area of Denmark.

The Naval Staff, Operations Division agrees with these plans.

c. The Commander in Chief, Navy sent the following radio message to the Commander of the 14th Minesweeper Flotilla and by copy to the 2nd Patrol Division of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West and to Naval Group West on the occasion of the successful engagement off Cap Antifer in the early morning hours of the 21 Aug:

"I express my appreciation to you and your brave sailors for the successful fight. signed: Dönitz, Admiral of the Fleet."

## II. Concerns Eastern Baltic:

a. Summary of the mining situation in the Finnish Bay points out that the mobility of large ships is greatly handicapped through the presence of mines. Through the use of enemy aerial mines there is no security more against mines even in searched areas of medium water depth. The sailing behind a sweeper escort checks the mobility in air attacks which must be expected in this area. The Naval Staff draws the attention of the Naval Command East to the fact that employment of large ships in the Finnish Bay is only justified in such cases in which their effect is of so deciding value that also a large risk can be accepted. The Naval Command East was asked to examine plans under consideration as for instance "Tanne Ost" according to this point of view and to report attitude. The Naval Command should further confirm that the Fleet and 2nd Task Force is acquainted with the mine situation censure.

23 Aug. 1944

b. Under the 14 Aug. the Military Attache Stockholm reported that rumors were not correct according to which Sweden had concentrated 40,000 men opposite the Aaland Islands as well as important tonnage for a possible action on Aaland. Corresponds with report according to 1/Skl. I Nord 31669/44 Geh. in War Diary Part C, Volume III. Naval Command East was informed.

III. A manifesto of the Romanian king was published by the radio station Bukarest at 2230 with following contents:

"The Romanian Government accepted the armistice offered by Russia and the Allied Nations. A new government was formed which received instructions to cease at once war-acts with Russia and to end the state of war with the Allied Nations. Romania, received with confidence the armies of the Allied Nations! The Allied Nations guaranteed the independency of Romania and the non-intervention in interior affairs of Romania. They further acknowledged the injustice of the Vienna umpire's decision. Romanians will cross the frontier at the side of the Allied Nations and will free Northern Transylvania. Dictatorship is over! Everybody who resists the free resolutions of the Romanian Government is an enemy of Romania and must be annihilated."

According to a British broadcast a new Government of the National Union was formed under General Sanatescu. The leader of the peasants Maniu is believed to be a member of the new cabinet.

To inquiry the Naval Liaison Staff Bukarest reports by telephone that Romanian troops received order not to attack German units stationed in Romania.

This treason of the Romanian ally is the obvious result of the collapse of the northern Romanian front. Our total war situation received through this a new heavy load. The step of Romania will presumably influence also the attitude of Bulgaria. It is obvious what the loss of the oil supplies from Romania means. About 27% of the total German consumption was procured from this country according to the latest report on the situation.

23 Aug. 1944

Situation on the 23 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

By the 19th Group 62 planes in action were detected. Three British ships were detected in the rendezvous area.

Radio monitoring detected three convoys in the landing area of the Seine Bay.

Active convoy traffic was observed from Alderney on northerly respectively southerly course in the morning hours twelve miles northwesterly of Cherbourg. Le Havre sighted several mine-detonations close to an enemy minesweeper formation in 257° and in thirteen miles distance off.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

The 7th Patrol Boat Flotilla had an engagement with superior enemy naval forces in the sea area of Brest at 0211. Further reports were not yet received.

Destroyer Z"24" transferred to Royan.

Land Situation:

Paris:

Heavy fighting was reported in the university town and at the north and east station on the 22 Aug.

Brest:

Light enemy artillery and mortar harassing fire was reported from the easterly fore-lying country of the fortress on the 23 Aug. Penetrations on the peninsula Plougastel were mopped up. Russian soldiers were withdrawn from the front and disarmed on account of being unreliable.

Lorient:

Enemy concentrations in the fore-lying country were fought with infantry weapons.

23 Aug. 1944

Cecembre:

According to the last report dated 23 Aug. there were at disposal one 19.47 cm gun with 27 shells, one 15 cm gun with 29 star shells, one 4 cm gun with 300 shells, two 2 cm and infantry weapons. Searchlights were out of action. Supplies were sufficient for a crew of about 360 men for 25 days and water for 12 days. Medical assistance and dressing material were on their way from the Naval Shore Command Channel Islands. Improvement of ammunition and weapons situation will be examined. After the American Commanding Officer of St. Malo threatened to annihilate the battery on the 23 Aug. the battery reported at 1400 "We will withstand". The survey-boat FINK on its return voyage from Cecembre to Helier with nine wounded is overdue since the 22 Aug.

Sea Area Channel:

The blocking of the harbor of Rouen was completed with the exception of gaps which have to be kept open for army use. The remaining mines will be laid by a 12,000 BRT large whale ship. Demolition of the harbor of Rouen was ordered. The Seine course above Tancarville will be mined.

Guns of batteries of 3 and 2/1255 from the area westerly of Trouville were mounted on wheels and employed in land fighting.

Motor minesweepers R "182", "213" and "217" were blown up by our own hands on orders from the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West in the shipyard Charton near Paris on the evening of the 16 Aug.

No further reports were received.

---

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

The Hansa new construction convoy was transferred from Helder to Borkum on the night of the 22 Aug.

One mine was swept northwesterly of Terschelling. Mine exploding vessel "154" was slightly damaged off the Weser by a mine detonation.

23 Aug. 1944

Enemy PT boats were detected in the sea area westerly of Hook on the night of the 22 Aug. More radar fitted vessels were located off the Schelde and Maas estuary. Enemy planes attacked with bombs and gunfire a convoy in Zeeland waters at about 1550 on the 23 Aug. without effect.

Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

From the 18th Group thirty-one planes in action were detected.

Submarine U "711" reported at 0730 a heavy cruiser or battleship and eight destroyers of the CHURCHILL type in AC 2729. The formation was attacked.

A convoy was located on southeast course at 0725 in AB 1937. Particulars were not established. Strong air protection and carrier group is probably near convoy. The naval forces which were attacked by submarine U "711" were at the vanguard of the convoy.

2. Own Situation:

The 5th Air Force made three reconnaissance flights each with three BV 138. Detections were made but nothing observed. From these operations three planes were overdue. Therefore only night reconnaissance was planned in relevant weather situation.

About 100 Russian planes in several waves attacked Vardoe from 1116 to 1130. The Electric plant and soldiers home were destroyed. About 50 houses started burning. One cutter sank. Patrol boat VP "6702" was damaged. According to first reports the Air Force shot down about 20 planes. Vardoe was attacked in three waves and the village was partly set afire. Seventy to 80 enemy planes attacked without special effect the air base Svartnes at 1726.

Convoy traffic between Bodoe and Tromsø ordered owing to the enemy situation on the 22 Aug. was again reopened at 0800.

Based on detections, submarine alarm was sounded at 0945 north-westerly of Loppa.

23 Aug. 1944

Six detonations with high columns of water in succession were observed off Egersund at 1740 close to three escort vessels without perceptible reason.

Sorties of ten planes were reported from the area of Flore - Mandal on the night of the 22 Aug.

Armed Forces High Command ordered the withdrawal of eleven army coastal batteries from the Norwegian area for operations at the land front.

The Commander of the Altafjord presented an additional action report concerning the air raid on the 22 Aug. Many casualties were caused on two ferry barges in the early morning hours through the dropping of bombs and plane gunfire. Both barges were beached. Also shipboard planes of the TIRPITZ were sunk at the buoys. Anti-aircraft artillery battery Tangen suffered heavy casualties through plane gunfire. The naval anti-aircraft artillery reported 14 planes shot down, a net-layer and a ferry barge each shot down a further plane. The naval anti-aircraft artillery reported further four or five planes shot down in the second attack. Copy according to teletype 1000.

Eight ships were escorted to the north and 17 ships to the south.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

Forty one naval vessels were detected by radio monitoring in the Finnish Bay on the 22 Aug. One gunboat was sighted at the western side of Kieperort on the 22 Aug. and seven vessels on northerly course were sighted on the early morning hours of the 23 Aug. in the Narva Bay.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Two mines were swept off Aarhus. The ferry steamer LOLI was slightly damaged through striking a mine in AO 7152 right border of grid square.

23 Aug. 1944

The coastal mine type "A" operation is continued off the western coast of Jutland.

West and Central Baltic:

Fourteen enemy planes were on west course flying low westerly of Kieperort at 0824. The steamer ESCHENBURG loaded with 600 tons of ammunition was attacked near Steinort by 15 enemy planes at 1027. One attacking plane was shot down by ship anti-aircraft artillery. Numerous aerial torpedoes missed. Ten ground attacking planes with fighter protection approached the ship again at noon. Further report missing.

The reported under water detection northwesterly of Memel made on the 22 Aug. proved to be a false detection.

Thirty-three vessels and six minesweeping planes were engaged with minesweeping duties. Convoys sailed according to plan. Two thousand nine hundred and ninety four tons of supplies were transferred to Riga and 224 tons to Reval on the 22 Aug. for Army Group North.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

No special reports were received from our own naval forces. Thirteen transporters and two hospital ships were escorted to the west.

For reconnaissance of enemy strength in the rear of the fighting front, the 13th Landing Flotilla carried out five commando raids between Ragaciems and Engurezur in the Bay of Riga on the 22 Aug. An attack was started against the located enemy forces in a joint operation with the German Task Force Haack. After opening fire by the 13th Landing Flotilla the enemy withdrew.

---

IV. Submarine Warfare:

One submarine sailed for Norway and two for the Channel from La Pallice and St. Nazaire.

After the announcement of prisoners the loss of submarine U "671" and U "741" presumably in the Seine area must be expected.

23 Aug. 1944

The situation in the Seine area is at present not clear. The latest experiences proved a strengthened defense. Compared with the previous month, submarine losses have increased. Therefore submarine U "385" received the Plymouth Bay as operational area. The next two boats will be operating in the Bristol Channel.

Convoy attacks have been rendered more difficult in Northern Waters through carrier planes and through the operations of Catalinas. Submarine U "711" launched a twin fan torpedo at a large vessel at 0739 in AC 2729 and observed a detonation. One destroyer was sunk by a Zaunkönig.

According to smoke clouds, the convoy was again sighted at 1900 in AC 5113. Besides, convoy telephone communications were located by direction finder. Commanding Admiral Submarines Norway planned to break off operations in 72° north.

In the Mediterranean the Commanding Admiral Aegean will take over command of submarines Mediterranean.

Submarine U "18" was heavily, submarine U "19" and "24" slightly damaged in the air raid at Constanta on the 20 Aug. in which submarine U "9" was sunk.

No special reports were received from the Atlantic.

---

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

Four hundred and thirty enemy planes entered Belgium/Northern France on the 23 Aug. and carried out attacks in the area of Lille, Amiens as well as in zone of defenses in depth in the area of Dieppe and other targets.

Four hundred and forty enemy planes attacked gun positions and maintenance of rail communications in south western France especially concentrating on the southern Rhone valley.

Without special effect about 50 enemy planes attacked air base Venlo and a searchlight installation on the night of the 23 Aug.

23 Aug. 1944

Four hundred and sixty-six of our own planes carried out mortar and gunfire attacks in four operations in the area of Mantes and Vernon during day. We suffered two losses but shot down twelve planes.

With observed effect 62 of our own planes attacked Eureux on the night of the 23 Aug. Five planes were lost after the attack.

Reich Territory:

Strong bomber formations with fighter protection entered the area westerly of Steinamanger from the south about noon. Air base Markersdorf beside industrial targets in the area south-erly of Vienna and suburbs of Vienna were attacked. Ninety-five of our fighters were in action and shot down eight planes for certain according to reports up to now. Eight more of the attackers were shot down by anti-aircraft artillery.

Cologne was attacked by fifty Mosquito planes on the night of the 23 Aug. Single villages of the Rhine - Westfalian industrial area were attacked by ten other Mosquito planes.

Mediterranean Theater:

Seven hundred and fifty enemy fighter bombers, fighters and reconnaissance planes were reported from the Italian front area attacking maintenance of rail communications. The attacks were concentrated on the thoroughfare Rimini - Mailand. One hundred and thirty more twin engined planes attacked maintenance of rail communications in the area of Pescara and in the east-erly Po-plain.

There was only little enemy air reconnaissance in the Greek area on the night of the 22 Aug.

From 56 enemy planes which supplied partisans in the Balkan area eighteen came from Russia.

Our own air force carried out reconnaissance flights on the 23 Aug. and took photographs of the harbor of Bari and Leghorn.

Eastern Area:

One thousand and seventy seven of our own and 3585 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front on the 22 Aug.,

23 Aug. 1944

in which we suffered twelve losses and sixty-two enemy planes were shot down.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea:

1. Area Naval Group West:

a. Enemy Invasion in Southern France:

One enemy battleship and one heavy cruiser, outside of the range of our own coastal batteries shelled the land front on the afternoon of the 22 Aug.

Radio communications were again established with the Naval Shore Command, French Riviera and Port Command Marseille. With effect naval coastal artillery and naval anti-aircraft artillery supported the fighting on the land front and in the town against terrorists. Vessels of the 6th Patrol Flotilla as far as not in operation on the Rhone were blown up. Twelve hundred men were engaged in land fighting of which 180 were detailed for the defense of the naval base.

The Commanding Admiral, Southern French Coast with his staff has taken up headquarters in Valence since noon on the 22 Aug.

To the situation in Toulon the commander of the defense area reports at 0157:

"a. 1048 on the 23 Aug. 1809: After the shelling of sea targets the 4th to 6th/682 batteries were operating on land targets. Communications with 1/627 ceased. Last report at 1625. The enemy established a further break through about two km north-erly of Sagard in southwesterly direction with a force of two companies and a few tanks. Demand information concerning general situation.

b. 0537 on the 23 Aug. 0206: Four heavy attacks were repulsed by anti-aircraft artillery formation 819 (naval anti-aircraft) on the 22 Aug. and destroyed ten tanks and one vehicle column. We ask to mention case in official army communique.

c. 1106 on the 23 Aug. 0157: Armored forces broke through near La Valetta to the eastern part of the town. Rebellion,

23 Aug. 1944

fighting and artillery firing in the town. Several land and coastal batteries were out of action. Single guns were ready to fire. About 800 wounded were counted up to now. We will continue to withstand. - Ruhfuss, Wiedemann.

d. 1548 on 23 Aug. 0407: Will try to transfer Operations Staff to Mardrior on the night of the 22nd."

The commander of fortification area Marseille, Major General Schäfer reported at 1945 on the 22 Aug.

"The enemy captured Aubagne and advances hesitatingly on the road to Marseille. Surprise attack in the area Abbeli, penetrations in the land front. Only little enemy contact was made in the north. The town of Marseille is in the hands of the terrorists. A new government was proclaimed. The bringing up of reserves, ammunition and supplies from the sea front to the land front is rendered more difficult by terrorists who control the road. Regular troops mixed with terrorists. Seventy percent of the harbor is damaged."

Commander Marseille reports at 1030 on the 23 Aug. that the enemy oozed through the maze of houses of the northern suburbs between our bases and reached the town centre with a motorized regiment. A further advance to the harbor will be fought by comprehension of anti-aircraft artillery and army coastal artillery. All available forces from the coastal front of Marseille were withdrawn for a concentrated advance against the southern part of the town.

The Port Command Marseille reported at 0915 that the demolition of the harbor was completed at 1500 on the 22 Aug. A total inspection proved the unparalleled and complete ships blocking and mining. The harbor guard company was continuously fighting against terrorists in the town. The 6th Patrol Boat Flotilla was operating as infantry protecting the coastal front, through which an infantry battalion was made available. Our casualties were heavy. Shortage in heavy anti-tank guns prevails, ammunition is barely sufficient. The consumption of ammunition is high with troops unexperienced in battle.

Strong concentrations of terrorists in the Cannebierre were smashed by naval artillery and harbor company. All approaching roads to the harbor were in our hands. One ship anti-aircraft

23 Aug. 1944

artillery company and naval anti-fire company were employed in the outer circle of the defense area. All secret material was destroyed. Radio naval communication office and the 6th Escort Flotilla were ready.

b. Gibraltar Area:

Twelve freighters and five AGATHE boats passed the Gibraltar Straits heading east at 0830.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

According to air reconnaissance one destroyer steering 170° was 150 miles east southeasterly of Malta at 1130.

Ship concentrations were sighted ten miles southerly of Toulon on the night of the 22 Aug. Four ships were further sighted 15 miles southeasterly of Cannes and single ships in the sea area southerly of St. Tropez respectively southeasterly of Nice. The usual patrolling groups were also detected by radar equipment partly inside of our own minefields south southeasterly of Tino.

Own Situation:

Cannes was heavily shelled during day from the sea on the 22 Aug. Naval battery Nice was transferred to Villa Franca.

Enemy planes attacked with rockets and bombs a naval landing craft convoy sailing from Spezia to Genoa off Sestri Levante. One battle ferry arrived in Margherita damaged. Damage was not reported from the Gulf of Spezia caused in the day attacks on the coastal batteries.

Salvaging of motor minesweeper of foreign construction RA "251" near Antibes by minesweepers was not possible on the night of the 21 Aug. owing to weather conditions and enemy actions in the Gulf of Juan. As the army ordered the evacuation of the peninsular Antibes for the evening of the 22 Aug., motor minesweeper of foreign construction RA "251" was blown up. Radar station Antibes was evacuated.

23 Aug. 1944

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

Second phase interpretation of the photographic reconnaissance of Bari at 1525 proved the presence of two escort boats. Twenty four smaller naval vessels, one LSJ of presumably 4,000 BRT, one LCT of 3,000 BRT, eight smaller landing vessels, 110 auxiliary landing vessels, 45 more ships, one tanker, 16 freighters and more.

One freighter of 5,000 BRT, two freighters each of 1,000 BRT and three smaller naval ships were lying in Leghorn at about 2000. Two destroyers were on the northerly course in the afternoon southerly of Bari and three PT boats, steering east, were northerly of Bari.

Signal post Uljan reported in the afternoon of the 22 Aug. that enemy landing boats were passing from the north to Sali-Dugi and one large minesweeper was off the coast at Dugi.

Six twin engined enemy planes attacked without effect the harbor and town of Makarska at forenoon on the 22 Aug. In the afternoon one tug and one barge were sunk and a further tug damaged in a bomber fighter attack in the Po di Levante estuary.

A harassing attack with the dropping of bombs was made on Rimini on the night of the 22 Aug.

Minesweeper MS "41" and "75" torpedoed an enemy torpedo boat with a T 3 shot in the roads of Ancona at a distance of 900 m on the night of the 22 Aug. Further targets as well as the sinking of the torpedo boat were not observed owing to heavy searchlight and defense activity. Three explosions and smoke mushrooms were observed. The harbor was first blacked out after the attack.

Torpedo boat T "20" and two Siebel ferries carried out mining operation "Karakul" near Fiume in the same night according to plan.

Sixty coastal mines type "A" were laid off Cortellazza.

b. Aegean:

In the mopping-up operation of the Naval Shore

23 Aug. 1944

Command Peloponnes the harbor Jerax on the western coast was shelled. Six partisan sailing vessels were sunk. With this thirteen partisan vessels were destroyed on shore, eighteen were sunk and four captured.

Coastal defense vessels reported two certain and one probable plane shot down in an attack on Zante.

c. Black Sea:

One or two destroyers were detected in the central Black Sea and submarine "A" about fifty miles easterly of Constanta according to radio monitoring.

Two submarine chasers had an engagement with four enemy PT boats and one enemy submarine presumably in the larger sea area of Constanta on the night of the 22 Aug. Two torpedoes were out-manuevered. One enemy PT boat was sunk by bombardment. The others turned off on easterly course under a smoke screen.

Sulina was attacked by 18 bombers protected by fighters without effect at 1258.

d. Danube Situation:

Dropping of mines was not reported. One empty barge was sunk at km 617 on the 20 Aug. through striking a mine. In total three minesweeper successes were established at km 1353 and 1460.

---

VII. Situation East Asia.

Special reports were not received.

---

24 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

The Commander in Chief of the Group Commands and Naval Commands, the Commanding Admiral Submarines, the Commanding Admiral, Fleet and the Commanding Admiral of the German Naval Command Italy will meet at the command post Koralle on the 24th and 25th Aug. The discussion will start with a confidential information from the Commander in Chief, Navy and others concerning the proceedings on the 20th July 1944. The report from the Chief of Naval Staff is filed in War Diary Part B, Volume V. Commander in Chief, Group South was represented by the Chief of Staff.

Report Army Situation:

West Area:

With strong tank forces the enemy continued his attacks against the southern front of the 5th Tank Army between Risle and Eure in the area of Eureux on the 23 Aug. Our own forces were successful in a counter attack and after changeable heavy fighting intercepted the attacking spearheads of the enemy near Neubourg. Parts of the enemy forces advanced with their spearheads to the road Elbeuf-Louviers.

Further forces of the 5th Tank Army will be vacant for transfer to the southern wing through withdrawal to the line Honfleur-Bernsay - Le Neubourg - Acquigny.

Our own counter attack gained ground to the west on the northern bank of the Seine but then broke down in heavy enemy artillery fire. Regrouping was started. La Roche - Guyon were captured and the Seine loop southwesterly of the village was mopped up.

Fights of local importance took place at the western front of the 5th Tank Army.

At the 1st Army the enemy attacked near Fontainebleau with strong forces and crossed the Seine northwesterly of the town. A counter attack with assault guns was started.

The enemy did not push on to the east between Sens and Troyes. But a continuation of his attacks is expected. Our forces were fighting their way back from Montargis to Auxerre.

24 Aug. 1944

The terrorist movement in Paris seized the whole town. Local flaring resistance was up to now rigorously suppressed.

Artillery fire and scouting activity was reported in front of, the Brittany fortresses.

Southern France:

No communications with Toulon and Marseille. The enemy does not follow our withdrawal movement owing to the heavy casualties suffered on the previous day. Outflanking pursuit northerly of Durance to Nyons was prevented through barrages and operations of the 11th Tank Division.

Serious fighting in the area of Montelimar.

Alpine Area:

Heavy fights with terrorists were going on in HT. Savoie since the 17 Aug. Ennecy is in the hands of the enemy. Air reconnaissance observed that the tricolored flag was flying together with the Red Cross Flag on the hospitals. Strong activity of terrorists in the area of Grenoble. The radio station of that division does not answer more. Over Grenoble our reconnaissance planes received fire.

Saone - Rhone Valley:

Terrorists activity along the Rhone roads southerly of Lyon, traffic northerly of the town without friction. It was planned to clear up the area of the Monts de Mocannes as well as the area Morez-Dole-Gray-Besancon-Pontarlier with the 30th SS Infantry Division.

Central Massive:

Garrison Pulle and Brive were apparently annihilated. Garrison Limoges fought its way through and fights its way back to the east.

Italian Front:

After heavy local fighting the combat group of the 90th Tank Infantry Division captured the Maddalena pass. A following up of the artillery is not possible yet owing to the heavy destruction

24 Aug. 1944

of the roads. The High Mountaineer Training Battalion reached St. Martina advancing from the Tendar pass via Saumpfede. Strong enemy forces were concentrated here.

Only local combat activity along the southern front. The enemy is following with scouts and shock detachments our withdrawal movement between Florence and the Adriatic coast.

Eastern Front:

Army Group Southern Ukraine:

The enemy advanced from the area of Tiraspol to the south up to the Lacul-Conduc Bay and thereby surrounded the III. Romanian Corps. Further to the west he is advancing in direction to Galatz and to the lower Pruth. Also from the area of Jassy he advanced far to the south and arrived with tank spearheads near Barlad.

The northern wing of the 6th German Army received orders to break through to the southwest.

The German forces near Roman were engaged in heavy defense fighting and were withdrawn to the western bank of the Moldau.

Army Group Northern Ukraine:

The Russian thrust southerly of the Vistula threw our troops further back to the southwest. Debica was lost.

All was quiet in the large Vistula bridgehead.

Army Group Center:

The battle between the Bug and Narew has again blazed up to full strength after a short transient strain caused by our own withdrawal movement. Deep penetrations up to the evening caused here critical development of situation. The enemy was successful in establishing deep penetrations in our defense front with concentrated forces also northeasterly of Warsaw.

One hill was lost in East Prussian territory by the 3rd Tank Army northerly of Schirwindt.

24 Aug. 1944

Army Group North:

Schagarren in the Baltic States had to be evacuated. The enemy attacked with 50 tanks southerly of the village in the deep flank of our formations. He was intercepted and 29 tanks were put out of action.

Again our own attack was started to break through in direction to Mitau in the area of Autz.

Gradually the enemy combat activity ceased in the area northerly of the Dvina. Our own attack near Ergli was successful. Again special heavy fights were going on in the area southerly of Lake Peipus. While the XXXVIII. and the II. Corps were in the main successful in repulsing all attacks the enemy attacked with about four divisions in direction to Dorpat and forced the Esthonian troops back up to seven km southerly of the town. With this a gap has been torn separating the neighbor on the right side by 20 km westerly of Dorpat.

No actions of any importance took place at the Narva river.

---

Special Items:

I. In the fore-ground is placed the situation caused by the desertion of Romania.

Also the late liberal leader Bratianu is a member of the new formed cabinet in Bukarest according to foreign reports. Members of four parties formed the cabinet and that by national-liberals, members of the peasant party, communists and social-democrats.

0122, Group South informed the Naval Staff of the following directives to Commanding Admiral Black Sea:

"1. According to Romanian radio to all appearance coup d'etat with a peace proposal to Russia. In the background is apparently an Anglo-American-Russian gurantee for a coagulation of Romania.

2. The true situation of power in Romania as well as the effect cannot yet be forseen.

24 Aug. 1944

3. In any case greatest attention and highest alarm readiness is advisable.

4. According to report from Army Group F, the Russian break through to Galatz was successful.

5. With all means and as far as possible it must be accomplished to prevent the enemy from advancing further south-erly of Galatz as well as making outflanking landings and invading the area of Constanta.

6. Vehicles and materiels were under no conditions allowed to fall into enemy hands. Referring to shipyards, storehouses etc.

7. Report how the situation is judged there by the church, respectively the attitude of the Romanian Armed Forces and in particular that of the navy to the events."

0215 Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command Quartermaster Division issued the following direction:

"The Fuehrer issued orders to Army Group Southern Ukraine owing to the development of situation in Romania. It will be the obtrusive task of the German forces to protect the oil production and transportation via pipelines and rail to Giurgiu with a further protection for a transport on Danube as well as the mineral oil cartage by rail via Kronstadt. Prepare the taking over of management by German forces."

0250 The Naval Liaison Staff Romania reports:

"New Romanian Government was formed under the leadership of Manue holding mutual confidence. The cabinet is directed to the left. The Marshal resigned. Peace negotiations were started with Russia and Anglo-America. The enemy guaranteed the existence of Romania and in addition Northern Transylvania. The manifest of the King further stated to abstain from hostile actions against Germans. Facts contradict this latest promise through the attempted arresting of a civil servant holding officers rank.

0255 The following radio message was received from the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea to the Naval Staff, Operations Division:

"First degree of alarm was ordered based on the developments of situation in Romania. Constanta and other naval bases were at

24 Aug. 1944

present still quiet. The harbor of Constanta is blocked by Romanians. A battalion is on its way to occupy the harbor. Admiral Macellariu informed us that the relationship of attachment under the command of the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea ceased on orders from Bukarest. The Commanding General of the 9th Romanian Infantry Division (Dobrukscha and Coast) issued orders to abstain from hostile actions against Germans. On the whole the situation is confused. Request directions for manner of acting."

0300 Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command transmits:

"To suppress the attempted insurrection in Romania the Fuehrer ordered for the present:

1. All forces in Romania belonging to the German Armed Forces were placed under the command of the Commander in Chief, Army Group Southern Ukraine.

2. The German General attached to the Romanian Armed Forces High Command received order to suppress the revolt in Bukarest. To accomplish this the 5th anti-aircraft artillery division should occupy Bukarest.

3. Admiral Brinkmann, the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea received orders to occupy Constanta.

4. The Commander in Chief, Southeast supplies the forces for the area Nisch - Belgrad at disposal from the 4th Regiment Brandenburg, from the 468th Armoured Reconnaissance Squadron, from the 2nd Stugesch Brigade 201."

In addition the Naval Staff transmits as most immediate Blitz the following to Group South and Commanding Admiral, Black Sea:

"Order from the Fuehrer: The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea has to occupy and defend Constanta with all conceivable means. If the need should arise also the transfer of tonnage to the Danube is inferior to this task."

Concerning arrangement of command in Romania the Fuehrer issued at

0300 the following order:

24 Aug. 1944

"The Commander in Chief Army Group Southern Ukraine received the authority to employ all combat forces and combat means of the armed forces and Waffen SS as well as available forces of the German organisations and formations outside of the armed forces, of the party and civil administration and of other Reich and ethnic Germans to maintain peace, safety and order in Romania and to repulse the Soviet Russian large scale attack."

According to information from the side of the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, the Commanding General of the German Air Force in Romania reported by telephone at

0415 in agreement with the German ambassador to the Fuehrer's Headquarters:

"This is not the revolt of a court-camarilla, but a well prepared coup d'etat from above in complete agreement with army and total nation (?). The people and troops were informed by radio. Step received remotest consent. No general can be found to form a counter-government against the king and new government as all of them were up to the last faithful to their king. Extensive measures of precaution were adopted against all German authorities and troops in Bukarest. A transmitting of orders was rendered impossible. No expectations of military and political successes on account of strength proportion at present."

0430 Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters transmits to the Commander in Chief, Navy, Chief of Naval Staff, and Chief of the Naval Staff, Operations Division and Naval Intelligence Division:

"1. The reports from the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, concerning proceeding in Romania were confirmed.

2. German office of administration Bukarest is at present cut-off. The 5th Air Force Field Division received orders to free the German office of administration.

3. The Fuehrer issued orders to the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea:

"Occupy the harbor of Constanta and surroundings at once.

4. General Friesner was appointed Chief of Armed Forces, High Command South - East.

24 Aug. 1944

Task: Concentration of forces of all three branches of the armed forces with the task of liquidating Romania.

5. The Fuehrer ordered the Reich Foreign Minister to issue a proclamation to the Romanian people in our favor. Inter-calate the Romanian Iron Front."

In addition the Naval Staff, Operations Division informed Group South of No. 4 and 5 of the above mentioned radio message.

0730 The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea received the following directives from Group South:

"1. Prevent the Russians by all means of occupying Constanta and of using the harbor.

2. Adopt measures against Romanians also if trying to prevent fulfillment of task."

1225 The Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters reported by telephone that the Commanding General of the German Air Force in Romania reported at 0330:

"Succeeded in forcing our way through and took over command in Ploesti together with SS Brigade Commander Hoffmeyer."

General Friesner was appointed Chief of the Armed Forces. Range existing area of Army Group Southern Ukraine inclusively Romania.

1300 The Military Attache reported the following facts issued by the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command A.G. concerning the formulation of the comentary on the situation in Romania:

"Developments still proceeding and not yet recognisable at a glance. It is obvious that a Romanian clique in cooperation with the king had intercourse with the enemy as his proclamation proved and formed a new government. In the meantime a national counter-government has been formed. Further counter-measures of military nature were started."

1720 Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters transmits situation report concerning Romania in which is said:

"Group Gerstenberg (5th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Division and provided forces) is in front of Bukarest. Radio station Bukarest

24 Aug. 1944

is in our hands. Penetration of the town was rendered more difficult by the mining of all gateway roads and the presence of heavy weapons in the hands of the Romanians. Three German air raids with good results were made on the town till noon. The situation censure from General Hansen transmitted by telephone is not shared. Hungary is marching against Romania near Klausenburg. Relationship between Germany and Hungary is apparently easing."

Besides:

"The Fuehrer draws the attention to the importance of fact to man the Romanian naval vessels especially those of the Danube monitors.

The Naval Staff, Operations Division transmitted the last indication as most urgent radio message to Group South and Commanding Admiral Black Sea as well as to the special plenipotentiary Danube with the appendix: "Secure operation with all means."

2315 Group South received orders to cancel all planned deliveries to the Romanian navy as PT boats, motor minesweepers, naval landing craft etc.

Other participating authorities will be informed by Bureau of Naval Armament.

II. The following directions were issued by Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command at 1520:

"Also a coup d'etat must be expected in Hungary on the night of the 24 Aug. to turn away from the alliance with the Reich according to information received here.

The German plenipotentiary Hungary will at once adopt measures to surpress every move of a rebellion against the German garrison. It is necessary to carry out these measures in close cooperation with the Reich plenipotentiary and the higher SS and police commanders to:

1. concentrate the German forces ready for combat at once in the area of Budapest especially the motorised parts of the 8th SS Cavalry Division.

24 Aug. 1944

2. place the German authorities of Budapest in combat readiness.
3. occupy the most important traffic junctions of the country.
4. protect the air bases.

The General Staff of the Army will adopt relevant measures for the Hungarian area of operation."

Transmittance was made by the Naval Staff, Operations Division to Group South, to the Special Plenipotentiary, Danube and to the Commander, Minesweeping Service Danube with most urgent Blitz radio message, 1/Skl. I m 2568/44 Gkdos. Chfs. Copy in War Diary Part C, Volume XIV a.

III. First of all there is the information from the Foreign Office dated 22 Aug. to the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Foreign Countries Branch, concerning developments in Bulgaria. Hence nothing more can be expected for the German cause from cabinet Bagrianoff. Decisive for the jerking decline of mood in government and people were the developments in France and the fear of landings in Dalmatia which were expected immediately resulting from the Churchill - Tito conference. German reactions to the last speech of the Bulgarian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister were valued as scale of German strength. Reports terminating from Ankara about an Allied ultimatum and so-called consent of the Bulgarian government for an agreement on pre-war base were answering a certain purpose.

A Bulgarian commission and civil servants of the Soviet Embassy Sofia inspected German bases at the Black Sea and convinced themselves of evacuation according to a report from a reliable agent of the Central Security Head Office dated 21 Aug. The Bulgarian government promised to ask the competent German authorities to withdraw German troops from Bulgaria. The Commander in Chief, Southeast transmitted at 1630 to the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command the following:

"General Schneckenburger reports from Sofia, that the representative of the ambassador went to see the Bulgarian Foreign Minister who transmitted the official request from the Bulgarian government to withdraw the German Military mission. At the same

24 Aug. 1944

time he admitted that official Bulgarian personalities were in Turkey to carry out negotiations which would only be completed, according to his statement, if Romania should collapse. The German charge d'affaires refused to accept the demand of a withdrawal of the German military mission."

IV. The Naval Staff instructed Naval Command East and by copy Fleet and 2nd Task Force that the loosening up of verbally proposed readiness by Commander in Chief, Naval Command, East for the PRINZ EUGEN and LUETZOW were accepted in the form that always one ship had a twelve hours readiness and the other a six hours alert.

V. No hesitations existed at the Naval Staff of extending the permission of retransportation of fuel to Spain empowered to Sofindus and the commanding officer of the area also to export goods stored in Bordeaux for East Asia as well as to naval property not needed for combat use respectively to materials and equipment in custody of the navy.

VI. The Naval Attaché Stockholm reported on the 22 Aug.:

"The Chief of Operations Branch of the Swedish Naval Command reports that on orders from the Chief of the Navy he is passing the following information: Swedish naval forces engaged in reconnaissance easterly of Gotland received orders to stay inside of the sea area which is marked to the east by a line running in the middle between Gotland and the continent. Therefore an advance of Swedish naval forces into the Baltic coastal fore-lying area is not to be expected and he hopes that the present moments of irritation would be settled once and for all."

Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters, the Naval Command, East and the Foreign Office will be informed accordingly by the Naval Staff, Operations Division.

VII. The Naval Command, East reports to the reference from the Naval Staff, Operations Division concerning evacuation of the Baltic Countries (compare War Diary 21 Aug. special No. I, b.):

"Only two efficient ports were in the area in question: Riga and Reval. Opportune evacuation should be carried out equally by both harbors which should be rendered as strong and

24 Aug. 1944

held as long as possible as bridgeheads till the last transport is safe.

This might be possible, but is not probable according to the experiences made up to now, if the army does not prepare carefully the evacuation of the total area with corresponding movements to both bridgeheads and harmonizes the evacuation with deciding events (capacity of harbors) respectively according to a well prepared plan with a sufficient amount of time in reserve.

But it is difficult to predict the development of situation on the land front in advance and an unsafe factor for plans of the navy. In any case it is advisable to harmonize withdrawal and evacuation to Riga and Reval in which first of all Reval should be in question for Army Formation Narva.

The defending of Hochland in connection with Tuetters is only possible if operation "Tanne Ost" is carried out before the withdrawal movement has started and if Hochland receives supplies respectively reinforcements so that an effective defense possibility is established according to our conception. In any case the execution is doubted. Tuetters without Hochland in our possession is no real obstacle to the Russian naval forces for enlarging operational area.

The more the front is transferred to the rear and the more the enemy advances the more the value of Hochland and Tuetters declines as a blocking base in the inner Finnish Bay. Especially with his air force the enemy has the means to dominate the islands and to create any needed freedom for operational movements."

VIII. Concerning the delivery of forces under the command of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West to other areas it is rectified on the request of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West that the 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla with four submarine chasers and 18 armed fishing vessels will stay with the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West. Only 2 PA-boats and 3 fishing steamers of this flotilla will be transferred to Naval Command, East. The Naval Staff agreed further to the change in command of all boats on the 1.Sep. Relevant proposal from the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West according to 1/Skl I op. 26268/44 Gkdos. in War Diary Part C, Volume d.

IX. The Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division reports after telephone conversation with Operations Staff, Boehme the following situation:

24 Aug. 1944

"1. Biber-flotilla 261 with 25 sets and under the command of Commander Bartels is on its way from Tournay to Fecamp.

Plans: Discharging sets in harbor on the night of the 28 Aug. Operations against landing places in the Seine Bay on the night of the 29 Aug. Return to Le Havre. Le Havre will only be available for a few days more according to consultation with Commanding Admiral Channel Coast.

2. Operations of other small battle units were probable not possible anymore in the area Fecamp - Le Havre - Seine winding as the army is constructing defense line on the Somme and the coast Fecamp - Le Havre is so endangered that a getting through is unlikely.

3. Marder - flotilla 364 was formed in the area of Amiens. As there were no operational possibility more for Marder in the Seine Bay and to lose no time the flotilla received orders to transfer at once to Tournay and to load there with ground organization on motor vehicles for Genoa. If delayed in Italy discharge and proceed with motor vehicles.

4. Proposal of further operations for Molche, Hechte and remaining Biber will follow."

X. Copy Chief of Surface Vessel Constructional Planning Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division 26231/44 Gkdos. concerning conference dated 21 Aug. at the Commander in Chief, Navy concerning the development of rockets in the navy is filed in War Diary Part B, Volume V.

XI. Report from Group South concerning the standard of coinage in Greece is filed under Naval Staff, Operations Division 26072/44 Gkdos. in War Diary Part C, Volume IX. Further attendance is in the hands of the Quartermaster General, Naval Staff respectively Bureau of Naval Armament. It is really up to the Commander in Chief, Southeast, to solve this burning problem with the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command.

XII. The Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff reports about inversions of enemy convoy escort service as well as about the changes of traffic of war and merchant shipping. Copy according to 1/Skl. 32037/44 Geh. in War Diary, Part D, Volume 8 a.

24 Aug. 1944

Situation on the 24 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Seventy-six planes in action were detected by the 19th Group. The main operational area between Brest and Gironde. One American vessel was detected at 1638 in BF 1520. Radio monitoring intercepted three convoys in the landing area as to time of arrival at buoy N 1.

The LXIV Army Corps reports to the enemy landing report at St. Jean de Luz that only apparently commando troops were concerned with the exception of bandits, and that only single officers and smaller parties bailed out.

On the evening of the 23 Aug. Cap de la Heve observed at a distance of 250 km (?) in 226° and close to the beach a large number of smaller vessels and in 250° to 260° concentration of transporters among them six large LST. A southwesterly steering convoy was located in the Channel straits on the night of the 23 Aug. Ships traffic was observed by Alderney on the 23rd and 24 Aug. northerly and northwesterly at Cherbourg.

According to a report from Attaché circles in Switzerland dated 9 Aug. 50,000 men of working troops were employed to clear and reconstruct the harbor of Cherbourg and special safety measures were adopted against German air raids. In due time it was expected that discharging on a large scale could again be carried out in about six to seven weeks.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

Materiel transports were carried out by a coastal sailing vessel and a tug for the evacuation of Concarneau to Lorient on the night of the 21 Aug.

Naval forces of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West transferred from Lorient to St. Nazaire on the 23 Aug. to be placed out of commission. Eight minesweepers of 1935 construction, five submarine chasers and four vessels of the 40th Minesweeper Flotilla

24 Aug. 1944

will be placed out of commission. According to report from the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West, five minesweepers of 1935 construction or 1940 will remain in St. Nazaire, four minesweepers (fishing steamers) and two patrol boats will remain in La Pallice and two minesweepers of 1940 construction in Royan. According to necessity the 4th Escort Flotilla will distribute existing barges to all three harbors. In addition the Chief of the Security Division as well as one Flotilla Commander each will stay in St. Nazaire, La Pallice and Royan all with reduced Staffs. All other vessels will be placed out of commission and the crews will be attached to the movements of the Army.

The motor coaster WITTEKIND was slightly damaged southeasterly of La Pallice on the 23 Aug. through hitting a mine.

Battery Leverdon fired at detected enemy targets at 2110 on the 21 Aug. and battery "Holtzendorf" at two sighted PT boats at 0712 on the 24 Aug.

Torpedo boat T "24" transferred from Bordeaux to Royan.

In addition it was reported from the 22 Aug. that battery Hourtin fired fifteen salvos at an enemy light cruiser and destroyer without observing effect. The targets burned off under the protection of a smoke screen.

Land Situation:

Paris:

The situation was unchanged early on the 24 Aug. at different places, road fighting as well as numerous erections of barricades was reported from the inner and outer town. The transfer of torpedoes was not yet possible owing to the shortages in transporting space and traffic difficulties.

St. Malo:

Cecembre was heavily shelled from 0800 on the 24 Aug. which was followed in the afternoon by dive-bombing and attacks from low flying planes and again replaced by heavy artillery fire. Radio communication was not interrupted.

24 Aug. 1944

The supply operation from Jersey to Cecembre was carried out without difficulty by fast harbor defense vessels on the night of the 23 Aug. The mood of the battery is positively hopeful. The survey boat FINK was lost on the 21 Aug. without enemy influence probable in bad weather. Fishing smack FK "57" was sunk off the southern coast of Cecembre after enemy shelling. The crew arrived in Jersey with escort.

The batteries of the complete fortress area were under enemy harassing fire on the 23 Aug. One - 10.5 cm gun of the naval anti-aircraft artillery formation 5/811 was destroyed. Our own batteries shelled successfully enemy battle headquarters, batteries and mortar positions as well as infantry and tanks at the northern and northeastern front and southeasterly of Plougastel. It was planned to transfer the remaining garrison of Quessant to the rear.

Lorient:

Heavier enemy artillery was shelling our defense lines on the 23 Aug. Recognised enemy batteries, groups of terrorist and concentration of trucks were shelled by our artillery. The village of Etel was occupied by the enemy.

In the area of St. Nazaire the enemy carried out patrol activity.

Naval forces were evacuated from the area of Bayonne-Biarritz and St. Jean de Luz. Naval base Bayonne includes the 4th Patrol Boat Flotilla with a total of 1653 persons and further the second Anti-Aircraft Artillery School.

From La Pallice and La Rochelle riotous mob and shooting was reported.

In Bordeaux the little ammunition bunker of the Mining and Barrage Command exploded presumably on account of an accident. Fighting is going on with terrorists. Attacks were suppressed successfully also by artillery operations of the ships in the harbor. Pauillac, Roque de Thau and Croix D'hins were destroyed. Three hundred and thirty men of the 2nd Mine Exploding Vessel Flotilla were attached to the coastal defense. Voluntary Italians were completely shoved off, legionaries from the east partly, the latter were disarmed. The remainders from Jonzac were transferred. Two hundred and thirty men from Noirmoutier were transferred to the continent.

24 Aug. 1944

Sea Area Channel:

Enemy destroyers and PT boats, approaching our Channel Island convoy on the night of the 22 Aug., were shelled by battery "Strassburg" and 5/1265 on Jersey. Under the protection of a smoke screen the enemy turned off. The convoy arrived according to schedule in St. Helier. Vessels of the 38th Minesweeper Flotilla repulsed successfully two PT boat attacks northerly of Le Havre on the night of the 21 Aug. Casualties and slight damage were caused by fighter-bombers attacking boats of the 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla on the night of the 23 Aug.

Enemy ship targets which partly turned off under the protection of a smoke screen were shelled by batteries Sangatte, Grosser Kurfuerst, St. Adress and army coastal battery 4/1254 on the 23 Aug.

On orders from the 711th Infantry Division the 15 cm and 7.5 cm anti-aircraft artillery battery Vasouy near Honfleur were not blown up but only rendered unserviceable. The light anti-aircraft artillery was taken along when evacuating. Measures appear to be insufficient.

Four patrol boat positions were occupied in the Channel Area. Torpedo operations were planned for the PT boat flotillas in the Seine Bay and westerly of Beachy Head on the night of the 24 Aug. and further the transfer of PT boat S "132" and "91" from Le Havre to Boulogne.

The 261st Small Battle Flotilla is on its way from Tournay to Fecamp according to report from the Command of the Small Battle Formations. Operations were planned for the Seine Bay on the night of the 29 Aug. with following return to Le Havre.

The 364th Small Battle Flotilla transfers to Amiens to establish readiness for combat. Further operations from Le Havre were not feasible owing to local reconnaissance. With these operations in the Seine Bay remain out of the question. Operations in the southern area were planned.

---

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

Entering and returning bomber formations were shelled in the

24 Aug. 1944

morning in all sectors at the Heligoland Bight by naval anti-aircraft artillery with the exception of Borkum. No damage was caused to naval installations by the dropping of bombs in the sections of Wesermuende and Cuxhaven. Single enemy planes were shelled by naval anti-aircraft artillery in the areas off the Dutch coast in the morning and at noon. One tug from an escort in the waters surrounding Zeeland was heavily damaged at 1115 in a fighter-bomber attack. One lock was slightly damaged. Three fishing vessels were sunk and one motor launch was damaged. Two vessels were damaged in another raid on boats of the Rhine flotilla by bombs and gun fire southwesterly of West - Schouwen.

Forty to fifty planes raided with bombs also the fishing harbor of Ymuiden. Artillery ferry barge AF "41" and Patrol boat VP "1401" were sunk in this attack. One harbor defense vessel was set afire and a further one was damaged. Presumably the attack was aimed at the PT boat bunker. The port command and the boats guard house of the port command were damaged.

Patrol boat position was occupied according to plan. Mine-sweeping operations and convoy traffic was carried out without meeting any special incidents.

Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty-eight planes in action belonging to the 18th group were detected above the Northern North Sea.

A British vessel was detected inaccurately at 0919 westerly of the Sognefjord. Bearings were several of times taken from Banaq and Svanvik of British carriers. According to the latest bearings one carrier was located by Svanik in 54° at 1254 and by Banak in 77° at 1229; the second carrier was located by Svanvik in 53° at 1304. The carriers were detected by the Air Force at 0900 in AC 5960 and at 1200 in AC 8330 on southerly course by bearings.

Radio monitoring observed a heavy increase in Russian radio communications in the area of the Karasea between the 22 to 24 Aug.

2. Own Situation:

About 90 to 100 enemy planes of the Spitfire, Martlet and Barracuda type attacked the TIRPITZ from a height of 200 to

24 Aug. 1944

2000 meters from 1600 to 1637. The TIRPITZ was hit by the dud of a 220 kg heavy armour-piercing high explosive bomb in section 15/16, which pierced the armored deck. The ship was also hit by a high explosive bomb on turret F through which the ceiling was slightly dented and the four-barrelled gun on the turret totally disabled. With the exception of the range finder turret B is ready for action. The casualties on the TIRPITZ amounted to seven dead, one badly wounded and four slightly wounded and in addition one shipyard worker dead. The defense of the TIRPITZ was carried out by guns of all calibers and with smoke screen. The preliminary line of warning of thirteen minutes was sufficient to establish the total condition of waterlightness. The shooting down of several planes was observed. Particulars were not yet received. The serious consumption of ammunition makes it necessary to bring up urgently supplies of anti-aircraft artillery ammunition as exhaustion of all ammunition must be dreaded if a further attack is made.

In addition to the attack on the TIRPITZ the positions in the Altafjord, not protected by smoke screen were attacked by gunfire and with bombs. Three guns were put out of action in battery Talvik; ammunition was hit by bombs and serious casualties were caused through gunfire. Patrol boat VP "6514" was hit at the Kaafjord minefield. Several batteries were also attacked in the Altafjord. Naval anti-aircraft artillery reports the shooting down of 15 to 20 planes.

Again six planes attacked at 1948 the Altafjord. No damage or casualties were reported from this attack.

A westerly steering convoy was attacked by an enemy submarine at 0550 easterly of Gamvik. The steamer DESSAU (5,938 BRT) was hit by a torpedo. It is tried to tow the ship to port.

Owing to the danger, convoy traffic was cancelled in the afternoon between Tromsoe and Porsangerfjord.

Six mines were swept in the area of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Arctic Coast on the 23 Aug. northerly of Lepsoey.

Fifteen ships were escorted to the north and 29 ships to the south.

24 Aug. 1944

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

No special facts were assumed in the Finnish Bay on the 23rd and 24 Aug. Also enemy air activity was weak in the area of Tueters and Reval. Twenty enemy planes on northwest course were above the Narva Bay in the afternoon. One buoy was observed near the wreck of submarine U "250". Diver work was not yet observed.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

A minefield section consisting of 399 coastal mines type "A" were laid into minefield K 2 southerly of Bovbjerg on the 23 Aug. Otherwise no incidents of any importance.

Westerly and Central Baltic:

An enemy bomber formation of about 50 planes attacked at 1115 the canal and locks in the area of Kiel. Two carpet bombings with high explosive and incendiary bombs were carried out between the Hotenauer and Levensauer high bridges along both sides of the canal. A slope fire was caused near the Levensauer high-bridge. In Kiel were affected the naval supply office WIK and naval bunkering station Nordhafen, naval communication office Tannenberg and other installations and lodgings.

A further bomber formation of about 35 planes dropped bombs in the oil area Heide and on the air base Husum at 1134. One Liberator plane was shot down by naval anti-aircraft artillery northwesterly of Kiel.

Twenty five vessels and ten minesweeping planes were employed with minesweeping duties. Two mines were swept in the Pommeranian Bay, three in the Mecklenburger Bay and one in the Kiel Bay.

Torpedo boat T "1" and T "10" were damaged in collision off Libau. Patrol boat VP "303" was attacked in AO 5999 without effect by nine enemy planes with torpedoes, bombs and gunfire when under way to Libau. A convoy westerly of Windau was attacked by four twin-engined planes and two fighters also with torpedoes, bombs and gunfire without effect.

24 Aug. 1944

Mines were suspected northerly of Memel after single enemy planes carried out incursions.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

Owing to weather conditions the operations of Finnish minesweeper flotilla's to clear a way of approach to the position of submarine U "250" had to be postponed.

The 1st Minesweeper Flotilla was employed with locating the Russian minefield off Kiuskaeri on the night of the 23 Aug. The artillery ferry group Bruening protected the flank between Halli and Kiuskaeri. Owing to weather conditions operation was cancelled.

Torpedo boat T "23" and "28" sailed from Helsinki for Kjefsaloe. Convoys and troop transporters sailed according to plan. For particulars see "Daily Position."

One hundred and ninth four tons of supplies were transferred to Riga on the 23 Aug. for Army Group North. The daily average up to the 23 Aug. amounted to 3,922 tons.

Four naval artillery ferry barges, two ZPK and two patrol boats protected and supported the army with firing on Embach on Lake Peipus on the night of the 21 Aug. The other soldiers were employed in ground fighting in the foremost positions. Thirteen patrol boats were protecting Lake Wirz. It is planned to employ two naval artillery barges for protecting bridgehead Praaga, one naval artillery barge for protecting bridge and flank at Kavastu, one naval artillery barge for protecting the flank at Kastre and supporting the land fighting of the army and two ZPK in Haslava to protect the flank of the endangered town of Dorpat.

The Naval Command East transmits censure of the Admiral Defenses Eastern Baltic concerning loss of the three torpedo boats of the 6th Torpedo Boat Flotilla.

It is suspected and assumed that the real speed over ground was under valued after decreasing speed from 27 to 12 miles so that the vessels when altering course were already 0.4 miles further to the east and struck Seeigel IXb. Torpedo boat T "23" turned by good luck around the northern end of the minefield to the west and torpedo boat T "22" turned to the west running parallel to

24 Aug. 1944

the minefield to the east during rescue actions. The assumption of the commander of torpedo boat T "23" is rejected that PT boats were the attackers. After the accident, torpedo boat T "23" should have proceeded in direction to the Narva patrol forming anti-aircraft artillery defense against expected Russian air attacks directed against vessels of the Narva patrol and should have carried out rescue actions. Copy corresponds with attitude, see teletype 1300.

---

IV. Submarine Warfare:

No special reports were received from submarine bases on the Atlantic coast. Two submarines sailed from Bordeaux with destination Norway.

In Northern Waters the convoy was not intercepted more by submarines up to 72° north. The boats were forced to submerge by a strengthened air and destroyer defense. A searching group of four destroyers was attacked by submarine U "363" at 0300. Two destroyers were sunk by "ZAUNKOENIGE". A third "ZAUNKOENIGE" launched against the third destroyer was a ground-runner. A fourth destroyer employed with rescue work missed presumably through exploding depth charges. After the termination of operation against convoy, Group "Trutz" withdrew submerged and is returning via convoy route.

In the Black Sea, submarine U "20" and U "23" received orders to return.

No special reports were received from the Finnish Bay and from the Mediterranean theater.

---

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

Medium air activity prevailed during daytime in the Belgium French Area concentrating on the area at the land front. Concerning the air raid on Ymuiden carried out by 50 enemy bombers was reported.

24 Aug. 1944

About 260 enemy planes attacked in Southern France gun positions, bridges and supply camps. Seventy fighter-bombers attacked gun positions and bridges in the estuary of the Rhone. Strong formations roamed also between the Rhone valley, Lijon and frontier area of Upper Italy without attacking.

Fifteen enemy planes carried out gunfire attacks in Belgium/Northern France in the area of Mondidier on the night of the 24 Aug.

Eighty-two of our own planes were employed during daytime chasing fighter-bombers and fighting artillery in the area of the front.

All operations had to be cancelled owing to bad weather.

Reich Territory:

Single hostile air entries were reported from different areas of the Reich during forenoon.

Fifteen hundred four-engined enemy bombers with strong fighter protection flew into the middle German area during noon hours and launched large scale attacks on hydro-generation plants, industrial installations and air bases. For particulars see "Daily Position".

Essential raids were not made on the night of the 24 Aug.

Mediterranean Theater:

Enemy reconnaissance was active in the Balkan and Greek area on the 23 Aug. About 560 enemy planes were operating in the rear area of the Italian front. Other formations attacked maintenance of rail communication in the Po-plain.

The usual enemy air operations were observed in the Greek/Italian area on the night of the 23 Aug.

Two planes were intercepted in the area Fiume - Marburg/Drau presumable deposing agents.

Reconnaissance tasks were carried out by our own planes on the 24 Aug. Tarent and Brindisi were explored by photograph. One

24 Aug. 1944

hundred and sixty four ships were detected with radar by our night reconnaissance in the area between Corsica and Southern France among them two convoys of 70 and 50 ships.

Eastern Area:

Nine hundred and five of our own and 3,750 enemy air operations were reported on the eastern front on the 23 Aug. in which we suffered eleven losses and 85 enemy planes were shot down. Forty bombers coming from Russia attacked Braila with bombs on the 23 Aug. Seven bombers coming from Russia raided Sulina.

Concerning air attack on TIRPITZ was reported.

Fifteen planes were observed in the Skagerrak respectively Southern Norway in couriers traffic respectively supplying bandits.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

1. Area Naval Group West:

a. Enemy Invasion in Southern France:

The base of the naval communication officer rejected request to cease hostilities and capitulation, according to a report from the naval communication officer Toulon from 1945 on the 23 Aug. The Port Commander, Toulon reported at 1720 that a concentrated attack from all sides had started against the harbor. Enormous enemy superiority in weapons and men. No communication exists with Naval Shore Command and with the Commanding Admiral of defense area. The harbor installations of Toulon and the torpedo bunker were thoroughly blown up in due time. The harbor will be useless for a long time. Fort Malquet will be held by one 7.5 cm gun, several 3.5 and 2 cm guns to the last shell and last drop of water in faithful confidence of Germany's future.

Fighting reached its climax in Marseille according to situation report from 2030 on the 23 Aug. One French tank division broke

24 Aug. 1944

into the town. Air borne troops were landed close northwest of Marseille and were advancing to and along the coast. Our own infantry forces were concentrated in six large bases, weakened after heavy fighting. Fighting is carried out against regular troops and organized terrorists. The troops fight gallantly in spite of missing and necessary anti-tank means and ammunition and were supported by coastal artillery which is tied up partly in close combat. The harbor was thoroughly destroyed, demands of an armistice were turned aside.

An enemy naval formation consisting of a battleship and six destroyers shelled the fore-lying islands off Marseille from a distance of 50 km. according to the report from the Commanding Admiral Marseille from 1030 on the 24 Aug. Battery Bregantine received several hits in open ground causing no casualties.

Battery "Napoleon" fired well aimed salvos at enemy formation of nine destroyers and torpedo boats early on the 24th.

The Port Commander, Marseille reports at 2110 on the 24 Aug. that the enemy penetrated the town everywhere. Naval batteries shelled road junctions, only radio communications existed more via AA III. The navy suffered up to now 20 casualties. Americans were in the northern part of the town. The Swiss steamer ALBULA and GENEROSO did not sail. Remaining goods in store for Switzerland were confiscated.

The German Consul General was taken prisoner.

The occupation of Marseille was accomplished by French tank troops according to an enemy radio report at 0831. It is said that normal life was again taken up in the town. Fighting is continued in the dock areas of the town of Toulon with fanatical Germans.

b. Gibraltar Area:

Presumable GUS 49, in strength of 27 freighters and seven tankers with one destroyer and eleven corvettes was off Punta Carnero at noon on the 23 Aug. heading west. One US auxiliary cruiser and one corvette were passing the Gibraltar Straits in westerly direction at 0915 on the 24 Aug.

24 Aug. 1944

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

One medium and two smaller freighters as well as one medium and two smaller naval vessels were at anchor in Leghorn Roads at 1940 on the 23 Aug.

Ships concentrations of an unrecognized number were observed 22 miles southeasterly of Toulon on the night of the 23 Aug. which presumably served to loosen up the invasion fleet. Presumably destroyers and PT boats were detected southeasterly of Nice and between Cap Corso and St. Tropez.

According to photographic reconnaissance, one destroyer, one escort vessel, seven smaller naval vessels, 20 PT boats and eight freighters were in Maddalena.

Own Situation:

One motor minesweeper, one motor minesweeper of foreign construction as well as the net-barrage were slightly damaged in a fighter-bomber attack on the evening of the 23 Aug.

One assault boat was badly damaged in a fighter-bomber attack easterly of Imperia when transported across land.

No essential damage was caused in air attacks directed against the harbors of Monaco, Beaulieu, Villa France and Nice. The anti-aircraft artillery defense of Villa France was strengthened by motorized ships anti-aircraft artillery. The mining of the harbor of Nice was planned on the night of the 24 Aug.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

Enemy Situation:

The observation report of a stronger naval formation off Pola from 1500 on the 23 Aug. was not confirmed.

No new essential facts were established by photographic air reconnaissance of Tarent and Brindisi. Two ships were in the

24 Aug. 1944

harbor of Ancona at 0650. Two medium sized naval vessels were on southerly course in front of the harbor. Ships in the harbors of Bari, Nice and Comiza revealed no new tactical information.

According to unconfirmed army reports several smaller naval vessels were on the high of our own main defense line off the eastern Italian coast and turned off after being fired upon. Obviously minesweepers were concerned. Army coastal battery Primosten forced three enemy PT boats through shelling to turn off to the west at about 2030 on the 24 Aug. Without results partisans attacked the harbor of Sovra on Mljet on the night of the 22 Aug.

Own Situation:

G "102" shelled and dislodged presumable an enemy PT boat off the eastern coast of Istria on the evening of the 23 Aug.

The island area Galiola in the Quanero canal was searched throughly by two harbor defense boats and one PT boat of foreign construction on the night of the 23 Aug.

Torpedo boat of foreign construction TA "20" and two Siebel ferries sailed from Fiume on the evening of the 24 Aug. to complete a mining operation. Sixty coastal mines type "A" were further layed east northeasterly of Venice by two Siebel ferries.

A convoy of two motor coasters and two torpedo boats sailed from Corcula for Dubrovnik on the evening of the 24th.

The 3rd PT-boat Flotilla accomplished reconnaissance thrusts through the Peljesac straits from Dubrovnik with four vessels.

b. Aegean:

First degree of alarm was ordered for the area of Athens as the communists proclaimed general strike for the 24 Aug. with the threat of using arms against Greeks in German factories.

First degree of alarm was ordered for the complete southeastern area by Army Group E starting at 0110 on account of the Romanian treason.

24 Aug. 1944

The town of Skiatos was destroyed in retaliation for the kidnapping of the Port Command Glossa. Five sailing vessels were destroyed.

According to intercepted radio communications exchanged between the Commanding Admiral, Aegean and Naval Liaison Officer Army Group F, the situation censure of the Commanding Admiral Aegean at 0800 is reproduced. According to this the failure of Romania and the uncertain behavior of Bulgaria will cause in due time the ceasing of all supply communications with the home country. Possibly a further landing on a large scale might take place in the Adriatic area with the intention of establishing contact with the Russians and in launching a combined attack at the frontiers of the Reich. Commanding Admiral Aegean does not expect for the present larger combat actions in his area with the exception of increased partisan activity and stronger commando raids as it is the desire of the enemy to isolate Greece while decisions were decided at other places. According to the conception of the Commanding Admiral, Aegean the moment has arrived to examine if a further supplying of the islands in the Aegean should be supported owing to the development of situation.

To this the Naval Liaison Officer of Army Group F replied that the supplying of the islands will go on as in normal times till the Commander in Chief Army Group F and E returned from making their report at the Fuehrer's Headquarters on about the 25 Aug.

Under Allied pressure the Zervas bands have renounced their loyal attitude against the German Armed Forces. Army Group E intends to transfer for resistance about 1700 men with equipment by waterway from Pelopones to Prevesa. Commanding Admiral Aegean instructed Naval Staff by copy of plans concerning the carrying out of these measures by concentrating tonnage in the harbors of Patras and Missolonghi. The operation which is labeled as urgent received from naval circles the codename "Tunfisch" and will be directed by the Naval Shore Command Western Greece.

c. Black Sea:

The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea reports that the situation was quiet in Constanta till noon on the 24th. The blocking of the harbor was cancelled by Romanians at 0700. Traffic of persons as well as the departure and arrival of ships were unhampered. Our batteries and office buildings in Constanta were prepared for a full state of defense. Occupation of the town is not possible owing to shortages in troops.

24 Aug. 1944

Naval Liaison Staff Bukarest switched off the radio station. No reports were received from Bukarest itself. Our troops met mining and heavy Romanian weapons on the gate-way roads leading out of Bukarest.

The oil area of Ploesti was occupied by our own troops.

Report was not received concerning Danube Situation.

---

VII. Position East Asia:

No special reports were received.

---

25 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

According to an official statement issued by the Russian Foreign Commissary, the Soviet Government does not believe it superfluous in connection with the events in Romania to confirm their declaration made in April of the previous year whereupon the U.d.S.S.R. does not claim Romanian territory. The Red Army of course could not cancel war actions inside of Romanian territory as long as German troops were within.

A number of diplomatic representations of the Vichy Government abroad suspended activity in coherence with development of situation in France.

In connection with the session of the Commander in Chief, Navy at command post Koralle, the army liaison officer made the following report concerning: Situation of the Army on the 24 Aug.

Western Front:

Also on the 24 Aug. the enemy continued his attacks against the southern wing of the 5th Tank Army. A new defense front was erected westerly of the Aisle in the line Fiquefleur - Beuzeville - Brionne which the enemy is attacking with tanks near St. Georges.

Our own tank forces had heavy fights with strong enemy tank forces between Aisle and Seine. Through a thrust at the attacking enemy we were successful in closing the front in the line Brionne - Amfreville - St. Pierre Le Elboevf in which heavy defense fighting is going on.

Advancing via Versailles and Etampes the enemy forced his way through to the town centre and reached the Palais Luxembourg with two tank columns. Heavy fighting is going on with enemy troops and terrorists all over the town. Numerous fires were reported. Our own forces westerly of Paris will be withdrawn behind the Seine during the night. The latter will be defended to the last man. Arriving reinforcements received order to fight their way through to the centre of the town from the east during night. In addition the arterial roads in the northern and eastern part of the town will be blocked.

The enemy is forming a bridgehead in the Seine loop westerly of Melun; heavy fighting is going on.

25 Aug. 1944

The enemy is quiet in the area of Sens.

Artillery and reconnaissance activity at the fronts of the Brittany fortresses. No enemy activity at the Loire.

Near Toulon the enemy broke through the inner defense belt with strong tank and air force support and forced his way into the town. Also in Marseille the enemy was able to force his way into the town in cooperation with air-borne troops. Hard fighting is continued.

Strong enemy forces advancing across the mountains easterly of the Rhone which were difficult to survey, occupied the heights of Montelimar and were blocking there the main road. Our own troops were in action to open the narrow pass near Montelimar.

Further enemy forces were advancing from Grenoble to the north. American motorized forces arrived at the Swiss frontier at Lake of Geneva.

Italian Front:

Army Liguria:

According to present final reports it seems as if a German regimental group was forced away to the east southerly of Grenoble or was annihilated owing to shortage in anti-tank weapons. Reconnaissance were under way from Genevre to the west establishing location of this group. A stronger combat group was in action at Montmelian to block the Isere - valley.

The combat group of the 90th Tank Infantry Division advanced via Maddalena to the west and arrived with spearhead in the former French fortifications.

The 148th Infantry Division withdrew with their complete equipment behind the Le Loup sector and will be withdrawn behind the Car sector on the night of the 24th. Close pursuit was carried out by the enemy but we were able to repulse him.

Southern Front:

Only reconnaissance and patrol activity in the area of both armies with stronger enemy artillery harassing fire as on the previous days.

25 Aug. 1944

The transfer of the 5th Montaineer Division was furthermore delayed through continuous attacks by the enemy air force during day and night.

Eastern Front:

Southern Ukraine:

The bulk of the Romanian formations were abandoning their positions and marching to the south partly in regular order and partly strongly disbanded.

The III. Romanian Corps is crossing the Danube near Chila. Pursuing Russian tank formations captured this place and also Ismail. Nothing is known about the whereabouts of the 9th German Infantry Corps.

The four German corps between Tiraspol and Pruth were fighting their way back to the southeast. The enemy is trying to intercept this movement at the Pruth by blocking the crossings near Falziu Tg, Leova and northeasterly of Husi.

Corps Group Mieth is fighting westerly of Husi. The enemy pushed through to Banland.

Advancing from Roman the Russians captured the territory near Bacau and crossed there the golden Bistritz. German troops were fighting their way back to the south west from the area of Roman to the Carpathian Mountains.

Hostilities were started by the Romanians against the 3rd Montaineer Division southerly of Radautz.

Northern Ukraine:

Heavy fighting is going on between the Carpathian Mountains and the Vistula in the area northeasterly of Tarnow. Deep penetrations were mopped-up and partly the enemy was forced further back than the old line of defence by the operations of the 24th Tank Division and one assault gun brigade. Fighting is still going on. Here the enemy seems to be planning a larger operational break-through in direction Neusandez - Krakau.

The day passed quietly in the large Vistula bridgehead. After

25 Aug. 1944

breaking tough enemy resistance our own attack gained ground easterly of Opatow. There strong enemy counter-attacks were launched.

Army Group Centre:

Between Bug and Narew the enemy is extending his attacks to the south into the area of Brok on the Bug. He succeeded in establishing several deep penetrations at the XXIII. Army Corps in direction to Ostrow and at the cavalry corps. So far we were successful in intercepting the attacking enemy spearheads through operations of the available forces.

The enemy only carried out reconnaissance thrusts southerly of the Memel. Stronger enemy attacks were repulsed in the area of Schagarren.

Our own tank attack in the area of Autz captured first of all Autz against heavy enemy resistance and the area northerly of Bene.

Army Group North:

Against rising enemy resistance our own attack westerly of Mitau was stopped at the Berze section. In the reached line the divisions were closing up.

Northerly of the Dvina our own attack was not successful in direction to the southeastern corner of the lake southeasterly of Ergli.

One enemy battalion was annihilated in heavy fighting westerly of Oppendorf and further enemy parts were surrounded in a counter attack. Numerous enemy attacks were repulsed further to the north.

Army Formation Narva:

With new formations and numerous tanks the enemy launched heavy attacks against the thinly scattered and to the larger extent by Estonian troops manned southern front. He was successful in breaking through westerly of Dorpat and reached the northern bank of the Embach near Kaerevere. Counter attacks were under way. A further break-through was established by the enemy southerly of Dorpat.

The attack of Tank Formation General Count Strachwitz, launched

25 Aug. 1944

from the area of Lake Wirz into the rear and flank of the enemy, succeeded after heavy fighting in capturing Tamsa but had to be postponed northerly of this.

The day passed at the Narva front without special actions.

---

Special Items.

I. Concerns Balkan Situation:

1. According to report from Group South the Bulgarian Foreign Minister transmitted the wish of the Bulgarian Government to the German embassy on the 24 Aug. demanding withdrawal of German troops from Bulgaria. A time limit was not mentioned.

2. From Romania the Central Security Police Head Office transmits most secret report from the communication area there concerning the set up of the new cabinet, which seems to be in power in Bukarest. The Armed Forces were supporting the new government in Transylvania. The situation is coming to a head at different places between German and Romanian Armed Forces based on the ultimatum, demanding German troops to leave the country. Communications with German authorities in Bukarest were not possible as well as a break-through in direction to Kronstadt - Bukarest, or Kronstadt - Hungary - Moldau as the frontiers were occupied by Romanian military and armed civilians.

0043. Group South transmits situation report from midnight:

"1. Serious alarm is noticeable in discussions between General Tanuscu and Admiral Macellarin concerning breach of armistice agreement of demarcation line by Russians. J and M hope that the situation in Bukarest will soon clear up in that way that a new working together with Germany is possible.

2. Bukarest was today attacked by German bombers according to different reports. Heavy damage and fire in government buildings were caused. Among them is the kings palace.

3. Here the army issued orders to prepare evacuation but this order was only carried out in single cases to a limited extent.

25 Aug. 1944

It is not known here if evacuation was carried out in favor of the Gerstenberg action or if only a smaller remaining formation was concerned.

4. The situation is quiet in Constanta. Trivial frictions in personal conferences with leading circles were settled without difficulties."

Corresponding report from the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea to Group South was intercepted by the Naval Staff. Copy according to 1/Skl 26322/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Volume XIV a.

According to a later report from the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea to Group South, which was intercepted at 0445, the Russians crossed the Kilia river contrary to the known armistic terms and were still advancing on the afternoon of the 24th northerly of Sulina. Thereupon the Romanians ordered the evacuation of Sulina including the southern bank and with it the dismantling of the batteries including the anti-aircraft artillery defense. The German 7.5 cm captured battery is totally isolated and cannot be held without infantry protection. The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea ordered the evacuation of the troops and the demolition of the 7.5 cm guns taking along radio equipment and hand fire arms as well as 2 cm guns and ammunition as the deficiency of the batteries will not enlarge the danger of the Dobrutscha owing to the fore-lying marshes.

The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea reported on the evening of the 24th that the ordered occupation of Constanta was not possible owing to shortages in forces, the Fuehrer ordered that the occupation of Romanian naval forces including the Danube monitors should be accomplished with all means.

The Naval Staff informed the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea and Group South to adopt relevant measures and to report.

25 Aug. 1944

The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea and Group South received further instructions to defend Constanta to the last with available naval and land forces against Russians and Romanians. The fight against the Russian Danube crossing is a further urgent task of the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea.

The directives of the l/Skl. 2573/44 Gkdos. Chfs. respectively l/Skl. I a. 26327/44 Gkdos. were to be found in War Diary, Part C, Volume XIV a.

With time of origin 0400 the following radio message from Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Army to the Chief of the German Military Mission Bulgaria and to the Operations Staff's of the three branches of the Armed Forces High Command arrived:

"1. Proceedings in Bukarest proved, that the bulk of the German units and offices there were not in the position to handle the situation.

Next to the accomplishment of the order that German military and civilian units and offices were protected against surprises of any kind through concentrated accommodations, suitable constructions and stern security measures of lodgings, it is especially important to carry out animated reconnaissance activities between the population with reliable agents. The Chief of the German Military Mission, Bulgaria will be responsible, that the necessary measures will be adopted at once to accomplish this without considering personal disadvantages which might be caused by this.

The Chief of Military Mission received the authority to employ all combat forces and combat means of all branches of the Armed Forces and Waffen SS as well as available forces of the German organizations and formations outside

25 Aug. 1944

of the Armed Forces, of the German Party and civilian offices and of other Reich and German ethnic groups to support peace, safety and order in Bulgaria if the need should arise and protect the German Armed Forces against possible measures directed against them.

2. All alarm units must receive clear orders which measures they should adopt should the case arise, that Bulgaria breaks the alliance with the Reich (for instance concentration in larger garrisons, protection of traffic junctions, supply camps or air bases).

Special measures were planned to prevent the use of tanks and assault guns by the Bulgarians against German troops which were delivered by Germany. Lieutenant von Knesebeck from the Inspector General's Department for Tank Troops will report in the next days to the Chief of the German Military Mission discussing particulars. Above this the securing of tank and assault guns of the Bulgarians should be prepared for the case of an unforeseen early sudden change in the attitude of the Bulgarians so that at least a part of the valuable equipment is returned to our own hands.

The Chief of the German Military Mission in Bulgaria will report as soon as possible the adopted measures."

Naval Staff, Operations Division transmitted the summary to Group South as follows:

"1. Proceedings in Bukarest proved that German authorities were not able to cope with the situation. Therefore, it is necessary at once to concentrate accommodations of German military and civilian offices in Bulgaria and to carry out a stern protection against surprises of any kind. Reconnaissance activity through

25 Aug. 1944

agents and population. The Chief of the German Military Mission, Bulgaria will be responsible from now on for the execution of measures without considering personal disadvantages. Therefore he received authority to employ all combat forces and combat means of all branches of the Armed Forces, as well as available forces of German organizations and formations outside of the Armed Forces, German party and civilian offices and other Reich and ethnic groups to support, if necessary peace safety and order in Bulgaria.

2. All alarm units must receive clear orders (for instance concentration in garrisons, protection of traffic junctions, supply depots). Special measures will be adopted by Inspector General's Department of Tank Troops to secure tanks and assault guns delivered by Germany."

1145 Chief of Operations Branch, Group South transmits radio message from the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea at 1000, that the Russians crossed the Danube near Tulcea and arrived with spearheads in Babadag.

1220 Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters transmitted by telephone situation report from General of the Air Force Gerstenberg to the Armed Forces, High Command:

"Situation in Bukarest serious. Our own forces were at the northern brim of Bukarest. Attack and occupation of Bukarest is not possible without the supply of heavy weapons. During day and night our air force attacked with good results the ministerial presidency and the palace of the king. The oil area of Ploesti is surrounded by Romanians, hostilities have not yet started. Transportation of production has ceased."

The intercepted radio messages from the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea stated that the enemy spearhead arrived southerly of Babadag and is advancing to the south without meeting any resistance of the Romanians. In radio message at 1046 the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea asked for instructions concerning attitude of naval and army forces.

1543 Commanding Admiral, Black Sea received the following order from the Commander in Chief, Group South:

25 Aug. 1944

"1. Exceeding of vehicles or troops into Bulgarian territory is out of the question owing to the unfavorable reaction on political attitude of Bulgaria.

2. As far as operational possibilities were not more possible for vessels in defending the area of Constanta it should be tried to make the most of the fighting strength of the ships by preventing the Russians from crossing the Danube and by entering Sea - Danube and if possible forcing way through to the Upper Danube."

Four Russian gun boats were sighted near Kilia sailing against the stream according to an intercepted teletype from Army Group of 1048.

The Army Group asked the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea respectively Group South for counter-measures.

1555 Commanding Admiral Black Sea reported to Group South that Romanians started hostilities at 1700 and that the area of Constanta could not be held as no area control was available. Naval Shore Command, Romania is directing the land forces from battery "Tirpitz", the Commanding Admiral is directing the naval forces from a motor minesweeper. All disabled soldiers will be moved in direction to Bulgaria.

1615 The report follows that Army artillery stores were handed over to the Romanians and that the field commander with General von Tschammer und Ostend were taken prisoner by the Romanians.

According to an intercepted radio message from the Naval Shore Command Romania from battery "Tirpitz", Constanta was evacuated. German soldiers have pitched camp in "Tirpitz" and southerly of this. Air force and army have completely withdrawn.

Report is transmitted to Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, Operations Staff of the General Staff High Command, Air and Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command.

1632 The following broadcasting by the radio station Bukarest was intercepted:

"The German Air Force raided at the same time the capital of Romania and other towns of the country violently and destroyed

25 Aug. 1944

non-military objects in which the palace of the king was the main target. Numerous casualties were suffered by the civilian population. With these aggressive operations which took place at the same time in different parts of the country, Germany entered a state of war with Romania.

Therefore the government issued orders to the Romanian Army to start at once operations against all German forces inside of Romanian territory delivering the country from the German occupation.

The government is assured that the army will fight with all gallantry adequate to our glorious history and that the Romanian civilian population will support the army.

Official communique from the Government."

1815 Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Command Group Foreign Countries transmitted the following report from radio station Bukarest:

"The German air force raided Bukarest and other Romanian towns. Therefore Romania considered itself at war with Germany and issued orders, that Romanian troops should attack German troops."

From 1635 the Naval Staff instructed the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters, Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy, the General Staff of the Army at the Armed Forces High Command and the Operations Staff, Naval Liaison, High Command Air Force, as follows:

"1. The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea telegraphed 0034/25: Contrary to the here known armistic terms, the Russians crossed the Kilia river to the south and arrived on the afternoon of the 24 Aug. twelve km northerly of Sulina, still advancing. The Romanians ordered the evacuation of Sulina inclusively southern bank and dismanteling of batteries inclusively anti-aircraft artillery defenses. Our own 7.5 cm battery cannot be held in isolated position without infantry protection. As evacuation of battery will not enlarge danger to Dobrudscha on account of the fore-lying swamps, withdrawal of crew was ordered for 0300 on the 25 Aug. taking along radio equipment, 2 cm gun hand firing arms and ammunition after destruction of 7.5 cm guns.

25 Aug. 1944

2. Commanding Admiral, Black Sea telegraphed 1000/25: Russians crossed Danube near Tulcea and arrived with advance guard near Babadag. (90 km northerly of Constanta) Direction of thrust south."

From 2030 the Fleet, Group West, Naval Command East, North, Norway, Group South, German Naval Command Italy, Commanding Admiral Adriatic and Commanding Admiral Aegean were informed that a state of war existed between Romania and Germany by the Romanian declaration of war on the 25 Aug.

Concerning Romanian officers, candidates for a commission, non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel which were serving with German troop formations or in offices of the Armed Forces, the Armed Forces Operations Staff ordered at once a questioning of such persons in question if they were willing to continue the battle further for the European case on the side of Germany. In case of refusal, officers should at once be taken into honourable detention, candidates for a commission, non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel should be interned.

The Naval Staff provided all operational staffs of the front and officers of the navy in question with relevant instructions.

## II. Concerns Baltic Situation:

a. The Finnish Liaison Officer with the 9th Escort Flotilla received report from an allegedly defensive agent that the Finnish, Swedish, Russian negotiations brought forth acceptable terms. Armistice could be expected at the beginning of next week. This information, transmitted by Naval Command East was passed on by the Naval Staff to the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters and to the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy.

b. The Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy transmitted the demand of the 20th Mountain Army Command concerning orientation of operation "Tanne" and further information of this Army Command regarding operation "Birke", as the demanded providing of Finnish tonnage by Naval Command East can only be carried out to a limited amount and this by seizure through rolls and a continuous re-examination as well as by placing at disposal prize commands in agreement with the Commanding General, Air Force in Finland at the main reloading harbors of Hangoe, Pori and Oulu. In a military meaning prize-commands will not be in the position to occupy ships at anchor in the roads.

25 Aug. 1944

The 20th Mountain Army Command believes it necessary that prize commands of the navy should be transferred to all Finnish ports holding important tonnage as soon as operation "Tanne" is planned and that a departure of ships could be prevented through force of arms by combat strong battleship.

Demanded information concerning operation "Tanne" was given by the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy. Attitude of the Naval Staff was requested concerning the question of operation "Birke".

III. The Fuehrer ordered the construction of a German Western Position through the means of a public conscription. The construction should be carried out in that fashion that first of all a general tank obstacle was built, preparations adopted for a destruction of the fore-lying area in direction to the enemy and a general position system established, distributed in depth, which should continuously be strengthened by close-by new constructions at focal points. Copy of the order according to l/Skl. 2574/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in special file "Invasion 25 Aug".

IV. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy instructed the Naval Staff by copy about directives to the military Commander in Chiefs' of the occupied area's concerning evacuation of big towns in the areas outside of German territory. Composition of teletype according to l/Skl. 32108/44 Geh. in War Diary Part B, Volume V. Quartermaster General received copy with the remark that the front was not informed by the Naval Staff, Operations Division.

V. The Commander in Chief, Navy stated in an order to the 24th Minesweeper Flotilla that the Fuehrer bestowed the name "Karl Friedrich Brill" to the 24th Minesweeper Flotilla in recognition of gallantry of employed SA men in operations at sea by the navy and in appreciation of the indefatigable engagements of the minesweeper flotilla's, and minesweepers.

VI. The Chief of the General Staff, Air Force requests that transfer of ships from Holland to the Reich should not be carried out in numerous small groups but in feasible large concentrated bunches so that the promised fighter protection is not removed too often from the protection of the Reich.

25 Aug. 1944

The Naval Staff instructed the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North to contact at once responsible fighter commands and to report results.

VII. To the situation survey of the Special Plenipotentiary Danube (see War Diary 12 Aug., Conference on Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy No. V.) the Naval Staff, Operations Division, takes the following attitude:

"1. Continuous traffic carried out by day and night will result in a mine-hit of nearly every mine constructed with VW (Tr.n. delay action mechanism.) and planted in the traffic routes even if daily and possible early sweeps were carried out of the endangered routes.

2. The possibility that mines primed on a certain day were swept in equal to 5% for the case that this spot of the traffic route is passed by one minesweeper and about 100 other vessels during 24 hours. Against that the possibility of hitting a mine is 95%. In a channel of about 50 m width only one fifth is covered by the broadness of vessel, but is totally covered by minesweeping gear, which was taken into consideration.

3. Counting mechanism and simultaneous delay action mechanism were up to now not located but were possible. This does not influence above mentioned consideration. It means more complications.

4. Mine escort is not necessary but a harmonizing concentration of traffic if possible at a short distance behind the sweeping vessel to avoid losses by VW mines would answer the purpose. If vessels mentioned under No. 2 would pass the mines inside of one hour after the minesweeping vessel passes, the danger of mines would decline from 95% to 4%, while the sweeping possibilities would rise from 5% to 96%."

VIII. The development of situation which resulted partly in a loss of the coastal area occupied by us, allowed, that plans for the construction of coastal mines type "A" compared with the present out turn might be limited. According to present plans it was intended to use at present about 117,500 pieces; expecting further demands of the front commands 125,000 pieces were ordered and increase was later planned to 150,000 pieces.

25 Aug. 1944

The Naval Staff informed the Chief of Bureau of Naval Armament and Underwater Obstacles Branch that the demand was now lowered to a total of 100,000 pieces in which deductions should be provided for the area of France and for the area of the Baltic Countries.

In total 7,531 coastal mines type "A" were layed from an original number of 24,266 planned for France. The relevant numbers for the Baltic Countries were 34,175 respectively 3,769, for the western Jutlandic coast 21,005 respectively 6,812, for the Bight of Heligoland 6,380 respectively 1,831 and for the coast of Holland 9,640 respectively 6,915.

IX. Summary of radio decoding and radio monitoring of intercepted enemy reports from the 14th to 20 Aug. were enclosed in Radio Intercept Report No. 34/44.

---

Situation on the 25 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Fifty three planes in action of the 19th Group were detected in the western part of the Channel and in the northern part of the Gulf of Biscay. One British vessel was detected in AL 6641. According to observations from Belle Ile, three cruisers or destroyers were 17 miles to the south of the island in the morning, two vessels on western course 20 miles southwesterly of the island in the afternoon and three cruisers or destroyers on southwest course 14 miles west southwest of the island in the evening.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

In addition it was reported that the 7th Patrol Boat Flotilla was cornered by two groups of enemy cruisers and destroyers in the Audierne Bay on the night of the 23 Aug. when transferring from Brest to the south. The flotilla was annihilated. Patrol boat VP "702", "730" and "719" were sunk, VP "729", "721" and "711" were damaged respectively beached afire.

25 Aug. 1944

According to radio monitoring 240 men and six officers swam ashore and were taken prisoner near Plozevet. The survivors of the crews were collected in Audierne. Casualties were heavy.

Destroyer Z "24" and torpedo boat T "24" were hit by bombs on the Gironde on the evening of the 24th. Torpedo boat T "24" sank at once, destroyer Z "24" capsized at 0100 after tying up in front of the sea station Le Verdon. It was reported that two planes were shot down in this attack; further reports were not received.

In this action the last destroyers and torpedo boats operating on the Atlantic coast were put out of action.

Mining and blocking of the harbor Bordeaux started after the departure of the last submarine.

Land Situation:

Paris:

The wire and radio communication with the naval bases was cut off on the evening of the 24 Aug. As the army received orders to withdraw to the right bank of the Seine it is believed that the garrison of the naval bases was attached to the total defense on the left bank of the Seine. The Naval Port Command with staff transferred to Pilsz. Torpedo transport HEYMANN who arrived in Namur with the first dispatched transporting space from home was called back by Group West as the retransportation of torpedoes is hopeless in the present enemy situation. With this about 3,300 torpedoes and a number of torpedo tubes and other materiel will be lost.

Brest:

Air attack of about 120 enemy planes was directed against harbor and shipyard installations concentrating on the naval base at noon on the 24th. Several barges sank. Mine exploding vessel "1" received a bomb hit. Several amounts of ammunition were destroyed. Enemy artillery fire was continuously covering our batteries on the 24 Aug. Heavy materiel losses were especially reported from the north and northwest of the fortress, especially in heavy anti-aircraft artillery. Nearly all our batteries were in action against single targets, troop concentrations, armoured cars and recognized battery positions. One enemy battery was put out of action.

25 Aug. 1944

Lorient:

Enemy strong assault detachments which penetrated for the time being the northwestern front on the 24 Aug. were thrown back by a light naval artillery unit..

Artillery arsenal Rochefort transferred to Royan and La Pallice. The installations at Rochefort were destroyed on the 25 Aug. Naval Signal Station Ile d'Yeu was blown up. The island will be evacuated on the 28 Aug.

Sea Area Channel:

Army coastal batteries shelled detected targets in the area Le Havre, Fecamp without observing results on the night of the 24 Aug. Fecamp observed at 0542 in BF 3662 an exploding ship and detonations prevailing as in minesweepings. Distress signals were observed after that. Successes of our own minefield were probable.

Vessels of the 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla, one vessel of the 7th Patrol Boat Flotilla, one submarine chaser and two motor minesweepers towing two other motor minesweepers had an engagement with enemy destroyers and were at the same time attacked by gun boats near Fecamp on the night of the 23 Aug. One or two hits were scored on a destroyer. The gun boats were forced away. The formation was again attacked later by three destroyers and several groups of PT boats. Patrol boat VP "716" was damaged by five direct hits. The steering gear was out of action on motor minesweeper R "229" through a hit. One of the hit destroyers established a list. Formation was attacked in front of the entrance to Dieppe by fighter-bombers, in which motor minesweeper R "219" sank through a bomb hit. No damage worth mentioning was caused on the other boats.

Twenty fighter-bomber attacks were repulsed by the 4th and 8th Minesweeper Flotilla under way from Dieppe to Boulogne.

Boats of the 38th Minesweeper Flotilla, 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla, Motor minesweeper R "117" and Naval landing craft "840" transferred from Dieppe to Boulogne. Four fighter-bomber attacks were repulsed on that voyage. Patrol boat VP "243" received engine damage and had to be towed to port.

25 Aug. 1944

Artillery barge AF "103" sank between Dieppe and Fecamp after striking a mine.

The 8th Gun Carrier Flotilla had an engagement with enemy PT boats off Antifer at 0140 and was attacked by fighter-bombers at 0155. Boats of the 38th Minesweeper Flotilla had an engagement with enemy PT boats in Bt 3662 at 0129. Minesweeper M "3847" was sunk by a torpedo in this engagement. Probably an enemy PT boat was sunk.

PT boats put to sea from Le Havre and Dieppe according to plan on the night of the 24 Aug., but returned again without success.

Ammunition transports were carried out from Le Treport to Dieppe and from Fecamp to Le Havre.

Torpedo operations were planned with five PT boats from Dieppe and five PT boats from Le Havre as well as seven PT boats from Boulogne on the night of the 25 Aug. PT boats S "132" will be transferred from Dieppe to Boulogne. In addition Cecembre will receive supplies by two fishing smacks for the third time.

---

## II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

### North Sea:

Five bombs were dropped on the PT boat bunker in the air raid which was made on Ymuiden on the afternoon of the 24 Aug. Of these two pierced the ceiling and exploded in the bunker. The total torpedo equipment, torpedo regulating place and PT boat supply was destroyed. The bunker foundations were destroyed. Reconstruction is doubtful. Two PT boats stayed undamaged in bunker. In total sank; patrol boat VP "1401", AF "41", one harbor defense vessel, one heating vessel and one tank barge.

Destructions were also heavy in the town.

Patrol boat positions off the Schelde mouth were attacked by enemy PT boats on the night of the 24 Aug. One PT boat was sunk, several were shot afire respectively damaged. Patrol boat VP "2009" was sunk by a torpedo hit.

25 Aug. 1944

Minefield K 10 with 379 coastal mines type "A" were laid off Nordwijk.

Ems - Elbe convoy was attacked by thirty Beaufighter planes off Hubertgat at 2100.

Minesweeper M "347" sank after being hit by a torpedo. Obscure targets were detected off the Schelde at about 2300.

Three section-transporters and three Hansa steamers were escorted from the Ems to the Jade.

Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

From the 18th group 25 planes in action were detected above the Northern North Sea.

According to sighting reconnaissance one freighter was in the southern harbor and about nine freighters in front of the harbor of Murmansk on the 24 Aug. Ten freighters were observed easterly of Cap Pinangeri and 15 medium sized ships off the Vatenga Bay, the types of which could not be recognized owing to heavy mist.

2. Own Situation:

In addition it was reported that the submarine chase northwest of Loppa on the 23 Aug. resulted most probable in the destruction of an enemy submarine. Concerning the air attack on Vardoe on the 23 Aug. three planes were reported shot down. The best part of the town-centre burned out.

Concerning the attack in the Alta area on the 24 Aug. the Naval Command Norway reports that about 20 planes were shot down by land batteries and vessels in the attack on the Kaafjord carried out by six planes, one was shot down.

The stoppage in escort duties Tromsø - Billefjord were again taken up at noon on the 25th.

Considering the rather difficult supply situation caused by continuous air attacks the Naval Command, Norway believes it necessary that the ammunition stores should be replenished to 30 combat days.

25 Aug. 1944

According to present practical knowledge this would mean replenishment of three million of 2 cm shells, 80,000 of 4 cm, 40,000 of 10.5 cm, 15,000 of 15 cm, 6,000 of 38 cm, 200,000 smoke candles and 3,500 tons of smoke acide. Distribution of one third each to Alta, Tromsoe, and Bjervik.

Twenty two ships were escorted to the north and 31 ships to the south.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

An own submarine reported at midnight two vessels on northeastern course northeasterly of Aseri which did not answer the recognition signal. A further submarine reported the sighting of six torpedo boats which might be mistaken with FUGAS (Russian minesweeper or patrol boat. Tr.n.) After all no new perceptions were reported.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Without special incidents patrol, minesweeping and escort duties were carried out according to plan.

Western and Central Baltic:

Twenty eight vessels and 10 minesweeping planes were employed with minesweeping duties. One mine was swept north-easterly of Warnemuende. Two Swedish planes entered the Bay of Swinemuende at low altitude and turned off again to the north.

Strong enemy bomber formations with fighter protection flew across Sleswig - Holstein through the Bay of Kiel and entered the area of Stralsund - Stettin. Single bombs were dropped in the surroundings of Kiel. Numerous attacks were directed in the coastal area against air bases. A heavy attack was directed against Karls-Hagen where large fires and damage to buildings of plants were started.

25 Aug. 1944

Bombs were dropped on industrial installations, aircraft plants and air bases at Rostock, Warnemuende and Wismar on return flight. The naval anti-aircraft artillery reports one plane shot down near Kiel and anti-aircraft artillery cruiser UNDINE reported four planes shot down off Peenemuende. According to observations three planes crashed in the area Karlshagen - Wollin.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

Minesweeper vessels of the Narva patrol were released by minesweepers M "15", "17", "18", "22" and anti-aircraft artillery vessel "26". Four of our own submarines were in the operational area.

The First Minesweeper Flotilla carried out the minesweeping task near Kiuskaeri and were continuously illuminated by searchlights from Narvi. It is planned to put the searchlights out of action with two Finnish gun boats at night-fall.

One mine was swept northeasterly of Dagoe.

Convoys, troop and special transports sailed according to schedule. Three thousand five hundred and eighty tons of supplies were transferred to Riga and 2,807 tons to Reval on the 24 Aug. for Army Group North.

The Port Command evacuated the harbor of Dorpat at about noon. As last unit the demolition party of the Port Command withdrew from the southern bank of the Embach after destruction of all vehicles and important military installations in the harbor.

---

IV. Submarine Warfare:

With submarine U "534" and U "857" the last submarines sailed from Bordeaux. Two submarines placed out of commission were blown up.

Naval Staff, Submarine Division, informed the Naval Staff, Operations Division of plans concerning submarines in the Western French harbors. These will be prepared for action according to

25 Aug. 1944

plan and will sail from western bases for operations respectively for transfer to Norway. Submarines will return to Norway after consuming their combat force.

Still seven vessels will go to La Pallice to complete smaller restorations and replenish fuel for transfer to Norway. It might be possible that three of these boats were lost. It is not expected that further submarines will arrive in the western bases.

To sail for Le Havre and Boulogne as calling ports will only occur in emergency cases.

On the 24 Aug. were in Brest, Lorient and St. Nazaire, two each; in La Pallice six and in Bordeaux three boats which will to the greater part be ready for action at the end of this month and the other's latest 13 Sep.

Submarine U "218" carried out according to plan, mine operation in the Channel southerly of Star Point. The boat is on its return voyage to Norway.

Submarine U "858" supplied submarine U "539" on its return voyage in the Atlantic.

Operations against the convoy in arctic waters resulted most probably in the sinking of one destroyer and one frigate with Zaunkoenig at 0130 on the 24 Aug. in AC 5489 by submarine U "997". A searching group was attacked by submarine U "668" at 0200 on the 24 Aug. in AC 5574 with two Zaunkoenig. Two detonations were heard, but no sinking sounds.

Total success of operation against convoy: one cruiser of the "DIDO" class sunk, one auxiliary aircraft carrier and four destroyers sunk, one hit scored each on a destroyer and frigate, the sinkings of which were probable and two further hits might be possible on the searching group. The main task of the operation was the nucleus of the convoy which was not reached through lack of our own air reconnaissance and owing to strong air protection from carriers. After heavy destroyer losses in previous convoys the enemy understood to counteract the use of Zaunkoenige by stronger air protection and maintaining cautious attitude in the closer surroundings of submarines. This proves that convoy reconnaissance should only be carried out by planes really much stronger in combat should a successful submarine operation be guaranteed. Our own air reconnaissance suffered many losses.

25 Aug. 1944

The number of submarines operating against the convoy were limited as the operation in the Kara Sea was taking place at the same time as well as mining operations of six submarines.

In the Finnish Bay, submarine U "242" sank a drifting survey ship with a barge tied up alongside in AO 3398.

In the Black Sea submarine U "20" and U "23" received orders not to enter Constanta but to continue operations with departing submarine U "19". Submarine U "19" will operate easterly of Constanta, Submarine U "20" easterly of Sulina and submarine U "23" south-westerly of Sevastopol. Attacks were permitted against Russian as well as against Romanian forces leaving Constanta. The Command of Black Sea Submarines was taken over by Group South.

---

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

The entering of 250 enemy planes with fighter protection was reported from Belgium/Northern France attacking fortification installations in the area of St. Omer - Duenkirchen and St. Pol. About 350 four-engined planes entered Western France and attacked Neufchateau, Charleville and Namur.

About 400 enemy planes were in action concentrating on both banks of the Seine.

About 400 enemy planes entered from the south during day the area of Marseille, Lyon, Valence and Rhone Valley and attacked gun positions and ammunition dumps as well as anti-aircraft artillery positions and road targets.

One hundred enemy planes were reported entering Belgium / Northern France on the night of the 25 Aug. attacking air bases.

Two hundred and seventy seven of our own planes were in action during the day chasing fighter-bombers and fighting artillery spotting planes in the area of Elbeuf. Nine FW 190 attacked on night of the 25 Aug. Louviers northerly of Evreux without observing

25 Aug. 1944

special results and 93 own planes attacked Brionne with observed effect. The ferry places near Rouen were patrolled by eight JU 88.

Reich Territory:

Single planes were reported on the 25 Aug. from the total area of the Reich.

Twelve fighters carried out gun fire attacks from a low altitude on population working in the fields in the area of Strassburg.

From the south, several hundred of bombers with fighter protection entered the area southerly of the Lake Platten via Croatia. Industrial plants and air base Bruenn were attacked. Forty-four of our own fighters were in action. Tactical reports were not yet received.

About the attack at the Baltic coast was reported. Further particulars about this were in the "Daily Situation Report".

Arriving from the west and southwest about 40 to 50 Mosquito planes attacked Berlin on the night of the 25 Aug. Further bombs were dropped in Potsdam and in the surroundings of Greater-Berlin. Forty enemy bombers entering via Belgium raided the area of Duisburg - Euskirchen.

Mediterranean Theater:

Six hundred and sixty twin engined enemy planes were reported from the Italian front area concentrating on the upper Italian area and on the easterly Po-Plain. Seventy enemy bombers in three waves attacked Bologna on the night of the 24 Aug. Other enemy operations were without special importance.

Our own reconnaissance carried out reconnaissance flights in the area southerly of southeasterly of Marseille on the night of the 25 Aug.

Eastern Area:

Eight hundred and twenty five own and 2,724 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front on the 24 Aug. in which we suffered five losses and shot down 58 enemy planes.

25 Aug. 1944

About reconnaissance on the Murman coast was already reported.

Eight courier planes were detected between England and Sweden over the Southern Norwegian area on the night of the 25 Aug.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

1. Area Naval Group West:

a. Enemy Invasion in Southern France:

One gun of the island battery Marseille was put out of action in an enemy air raid. Infantry attacks against battery were repulsed.

Heavy traffic of about 35 vessels was observed at sea off Marseille to the Rhone estuary out of range of coastal batteries.

Naval communication officer Marseille reported at 1149:

"Bases continued fight furiously. Communications among each other were destroyed. The still resisting bases were attacked furiously. Hail the Fuehrer, Hail Greater Germany!"

Owing to enemy interference the naval wireless station Marseille switched off. In Toulon the naval communication officer, the Port Command and the Naval Shore Command were at battle headquarters of the Officer commanding coastal artillery sector. Further reports were not received.

b. Gibraltar Area:

Special reports were not received.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Without special effect one cruiser and four destroyers shelled during forenoon hours from the sea the Var-Estuary and in the afternoon radar equipment and naval signal station Ferrat and

25 Aug. 1944

coast to VillaFrance. Two heavy cruisers, one light cruiser and three destroyers were six miles southerly of Nice at 1647 also one boat group was detected in the afternoon 25 miles south southeasterly of Nice on southerly course. Five ships were detected at 2325 thirty four miles southerly of Mentone and ten ships fifty miles southerly of Mentone.

Three destroyers patrolled the coast between San Remo and La Spezia outside of our minefields from 1050 to 1600 obviously looking for the positions of our batteries. The vessels turned off after being shelled by battery San Remo.

Reinforced supply traffic with disposed patrols was detected partly by radar equipment between the southern French coast and northwest coast of Corsica on the night of the 24 Aug.

Own Situation:

Escort and patrol duties were carried out according to plan on the 25 Aug. Motor minesweeper of foreign construction RA "253" was rammed by a naval landing craft near Cap Noli and towed to Savona. Enemy planes attacked with bombs a naval landing craft convoy off Cap Noli without effect, one harbor defense vessel was sunk off Peglia (westerly of Genoa) by a torpedo from land-side.

The harbor of Nice was mined according to plan. Three torpedo boats of foreign construction made an unsuccessful reconnaissance thrust to the hight of Cap Mele as well as three KF boats to the main defensive line.

Only one motor coaster was sunk in the two air raids made at Ravenna.

Eight two-man and four one-man assault boats were operating against the Southern French invasion bridgehead on the night of the 25 Aug.

All boats returned from operations on the night of the 24 Aug. One hit was scored on a larger vessel southerly of Cannes and one hit was scored on a destroyer or patrol boat east southwesterly (Tr.n. obviously mistake in direction.) of Cap Antibes. Sinking was not observed on account of strong defense.

25 Aug. 1944

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

The German Naval Command Italy transmitted at 2215 by telephone report from German Air Force about enemy landings in the area of Ravenna which were, bomb attacks on Ravenna, parachute jumps and the sighting of many ship targets. No further confirmation could be received during the day.

The Army Coastal Battery Primosten forced three enemy PT boats through shelling to turn off southwesterly of Cap Ploca at 2030 on the 24 Aug.

b. Aegean:

Especially successful was the larger operation against partisan-shipping between Euboea and continent in which the navy, formations of the army and SS Police were participating.

Sixty three enemy vessels were sunk and 41 were captured. In further operations of the navy against partisan shipping in the Pelopones area 32 vessels were sunk and six captured. Several partisan posts were annihilated by shelling from sea.

Convoy traffic is heavily restrained in the Aegean since the 23 Aug. owing to unusual stormy weather.

c. Black Sea:

Concerning the situation in the area of the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea was reported under "Special Items".

Ten naval landing craft were employed in ferry traffic across the Danube between Ismail and Tulcea on the 23 Aug. and ten more on the route Galatz - Braila.

d. Danube Situation:

No dropping of mines or losses were reported on the 24th and 25 Aug. Five minesweeper successes were established.

---

25 Aug. 1944

VII Situation East Asia.

No special reports were received.

---

26 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance

The Japanese Government decided to summon an extraordinary assembly of the Reichstag for the 6 Sep. to inform the nation of its decision and lines on politics. Special importance is attached to this meeting in the face of the deciding war situation in which serious cooperation is demanded from the whole nation.

Between the British Government and the Free French Committee the civilian administration agreement was signed by Eden and Massigli. A homonymous agreement was signed by the Committee and America by General König and General Eisenhower.

With regard to the future organization of world peace the U.S.A. Government proposed the appointment of an executive counsel at the so called World Safety Conference consisting of eleven members of which four seats should always be occupied by the U.S.A., Great Britain, Russia and China and seven not continuously but alternatingly by other nations. Resolutions should be made in agreement by the four permanent members and would need the consent of at least two not permanent voices for the case that military sanctions should be applied.

---

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief Navy.

I. Chief of Naval Staff reports that it was ordered in tonight's Fuehrer decree that naval forces of the Black Sea should try to reach the Danube and fight there against Russian crossings.

The Commander in Chief Navy clarifies interpretation of position in telephone conversation with Commander in Chief, Naval Group South.

26 Aug. 1944

Commander in Chief, Group South announced transmittance of our own situation report. Group ordered at noon on the 25 Aug. the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea to defend the area of Constanta by naval and land forces also against the Romanian will. It was further ordered that a crossing of vehicles or troops from Romania to Bulgaria is out of question owing to political complications. Vessels which were not able to operate in the defense of Constanta should enter Sea Danube and prevent the Russians from crossing the Danube and if possible force their way through to the Inner Danube. The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea who received both orders reported on these that Constanta could not be held and that parts of the land marines were concentrated in the area of battery "Tirpitz" under the command of the Naval Shore Command Romania while naval forces will be led in person by the Commanding Admiral from a motor minesweeper. Romanians started hostilities at 1700. The duration of resistance of battery "Tirpitz" was valued by the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea as being small owing to strong superiority of enemy forces and tanks.

The command of submarines in the Black Sea was taken over by the Group directly.

By radio message from the Commander of the 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla it is understood that the Commanding Admiral had not yet arrived in Magalia at 1900 on the 25 Aug. to proceed on board a motor minesweeper. Therefore the Group appointed the Commander of the 3rd Motor Minesweeper Flotilla with the command at sea till the arrival of the Commanding Admiral and transmitted to him the instructions of the Naval Staff dated 25 Aug. that Constanta should be defended to the last by available naval and land forces against Russians and Romanians and that it is a further urgent task of the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea to fight against the Russian Danube crossing. Naval Shore Command Varna reported by telephone at 0320 on the 26 Aug. that the Commander of the 3rd Motor Minesweeper Flotilla arrived in Varna with four motor minesweepers and four naval landing craft. It proved that the Commander of the 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla did not receive the instructions of the Group and owing to weather conditions - northeast force six prevailed - entered the harbor according to directives of Naval Shore Command Romania. In the meantime the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea ordered from an unknown position two motor minesweepers for his transfer to Varna.

26 Aug. 1944

The Naval Shore Commander, Romania reported also in the early morning hours of the 26 Aug. that he had abandoned his position near battery "Tirpitz" with his forces at 0030 owing to increased danger of being surrounded by strong Romanian forces and with regard to the Russian approach to Constanta to reach the Bulgarian frontier near Negrovoda.

On account of this established situation contrary to orders of the Group the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea again received orders that it is the task of the naval forces according to the meaning of instructions by the Naval Staff to prevent the Russians from advancing by all means and therefore the Naval Shore Command Romania should not take evasive actions in the face of a superior enemy. The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea was requested to report position and to guarantee transmittance of order to the Naval Shore Command.

According to information from Special Command, Varna the Bulgarian Government passed information through the commander of Flotilla Varna that German troops, crossing the frontier would be disarmed, but the arms would be placed at disposal of the German Armed Forces. It was requested to transfer the personnel to the nearest railway station to accelerate re-transportation. The same applied to arriving naval vessels which however have at disposal the 24 hours international space of time to sail again.

Supplementary to this the Group ordered:

a. Leadership Black Sea by Group, till the Commanding Admiral has the possibility to take over command and reports position. Command at sea Commander of the 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla.

b. No more vessels should enter Varna. Ships which arrived already should sail again taking into consideration the still prevailing bad weather situation and fuel supply and proceed to the Danube. Enemy forces met on the way should be annihilated and Russian crossing over the Danube should be prevented. Break-through to the Upper Danube and support withdrawing army according to new directives of the Naval Staff.

c. It will be tried to communicate directly with the Naval Shore Command, Romania concerning above mentioned tasks.

The Group instructed further the Special Command, Varna to place liaison officers along the Bulgarian frontier to detain approaching troops of the Naval Shore Command and to transmit the relevant orders to the troops.

26 Aug. 1944

The new instruction of the Naval Staff which were sent in the early morning hours of the 26 Aug. to the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea and by copy to Group South read:

"It is the obtrusive task of the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea to prevent the Russian advance across the Danube and to support the withdrawal of our own troops across the Danube. Maintain communications with Army Group for this purpose."

The Chief of Naval Staff communicated by telephone with the Commander in Chief Naval Group South on the night of the 25 Aug. about the question of transferring the location of Group and transmitted in this the order of the Armed Forces High Command which corresponds with the attitude of the Commander in Chief, Navy that Commander in Chief of Naval Group South should not leave Sofia at present while the relevant and issued orders concerning the detached staff should last. The Commander in Chief, Group South was afraid of being cut off in Bulgaria.

The Commander in Chief, Navy is of the comprehension that the command of the Group should stay in Sofia at least as long as the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea is still on his way to Bulgaria. The Commander in Chief, Navy will talk with General Jodl to the effect that also Army and Air force will not be withdrawn so that the Navy alone stayed behind.

Commander in Chief, Navy believed it necessary to have the relevant development in Finland well in mind and to refer again to the Naval Command on this point.

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

a. Concerning alert situation of the PRINZ EUGEN and LUTZOW the Navy reports that alternately one of the two ships has a six hours alert and one a twelve hours alert.

b. According to a report from the Foreign Office in China it is mentioned there in different sources that a few ships of the transferred Italian Naval ships to the Soviet Union were sighted on their way to Wladiwostok near Shanghai some time ago. Statements concerning strength of formation were contradictory. One report mentioned nine vessels of which three were cruisers.

c. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command ordered that the total area of Romania will become operational area of the army. The General attached to the Romanian Armed Forces High Command

26 Aug. 1944

(Chief of the German Military Mission in Romania) will be placed in every connection under the High Command Army Group Southern Ukraine. Copy of directives according to 1/Skl 32214/44 Geh. in War Diary, Part C, Volume XIV a.

IV. Chief of Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division:

a. Directives were received from Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command according to which all East Prussians should be withdrawn from staffs for the defense of their homeland and should be placed at disposal on request of the Chief, General Staff of the Army.

b. Organization Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command requests the carrying out and presentation of report till the 5 Sep. which offices and staffs were released owing to instructions from the Armed Forces High Command dated 31 Jul. and which personnel, trucks and weapons were available and further in which manner now the available personnel and materiels were occupied.

The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division plans to reject this to the Navy unnecessary appearing registration work.

c. According to information from the Military Commander in Chief, France the authentic summary of field post stations fell into enemy hands. Through this the enemy is able to arrive at certain conclusions.

V. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

A new report was received from the Reich Security Head Office indicating that allegedly new enemy landing intentions were under consideration along the Dalmation coast. Our own knowledge in this line is only incomplete. The Italian conferences of Churchill might indicate an essential fact to these intentions.

For the first time the report of an agent was received according to which the Allies will demand in the near future from Franco the rupture of German/Spanish relations.

From London it became known that the British and American Government started negotiations concerning armistice terms which they would inflict on Bulgaria should this country not surrender

26 Aug. 1944

unconditionally. The Russian Government is kept well informed about the course of negotiations with the Bulgarian peace delegate. Diplomatic circles in Ankara believe that Bulgaria will surrender in the next days. One Bulgarian special Ambassador returned from Sofia to Istanbul on the 22 Aug. Since three days this ambassador was accredited as official representative of the Bulgarian Government.

Further governments ceased relations to the Vichy Government.

Admiral Fraser arrived on the 22 Aug. in Ceylon to take over his new post as Commander in Chief of the British Fleet in the Far East.

Obviously this change in command indicates that the focal point of the British Naval warfare has shifted now to the Far-East.

Conference Restricted to a Very Limited Circle:

VI. Army Situation:

Western Front:

Report was made about the Fuehrer's orders concerning construction of a German western defense line. (Copy according to 1/Skl. 2574/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in War Diary Special File Invasion 26 Aug.)

Also on the 25 Aug. the enemy tried to smash the bridgehead of the 5th Tank Army by continuous operations of fighter bombers and artillery of all calibres through tank attacks concentrated between Risle and Seine. In the main he was repulsed everywhere heavily and could not harass the withdrawal movement of the western front to the Risle section in the early morning mist.

The fighting was especially hard at the eastern wing of the bridgehead where Elboeuf was recaptured.

The enemy bridgehead of Mantes was furthermore pressed in but the forces were not sufficient to establish a deciding success.

In Paris the enemy was successful of breaking through the barrage line with two to three tank and infantry divisions and forced his way through to the town centre. More than 50 tanks were disabled in furious fighting and the enemy suffered heavy casualties. But our own troops were no match for the smothering superior forces.

CONFIDENTIAL

26 Aug. 1944

Paris southerly of the Seine was lost with the exception of a few defense holes. At present the enemy is also entering the northern part of Paris from westerly direction. Our own counter attacks were not successful.

The enemy enlarged his bridgeheads at the Seine between Corbeil and Montereau at four places and pushed stronger reconnaissance across the Seine. From the area of Troyes the enemy scouted in direction to Dijon.

On the night of the 25th, southeasterly of Paris, we planned to withdraw to the line Yerres section up to Gregy-Limoges-Lissy-Bordes-Montigny-Mouy.

Stronger enemy artillery activity off Brest. Enemy attacks were repulsed on the peninsula Amorique.

Decreasing enemy activity at the Loire front in the section of Orleans.

Heavy fighting is continuing for single bases at Toulon and Marseille.

No new reports were received concerning the progress of the withdrawal movement in Southern France.

On a broad front the enemy is attacking Mentelimear and road to Loriol. The road is rendered unpassable by artillery fire.

Apparently American formations with tanks reached the area of Lyon, strong concentrations of terrorists there.

Through a shortening of the front between Paris and the Channel the enemy is releasing strong forces. He could bring these up into the area southeasterly of Paris and might advance from here to the east with about 20 large formations in a daring thrust in direction of the Reich frontiers. An advance via Dijon in direction of the Swiss frontier might not seem worthwhile.

The focal point of concentrations of forces belonging to the French oppositional movement lies in the area Dijon - Clermont - Ferran - Lyon - Swiss Frontier.

26 Aug. 1944

Italian Front:

Army Liguria:

Fighting desperately one German group was able to advance through the Ysere-valley to Chamousse but was again forced to withdraw owing to envelopment on both sides by strong irregular troops.

Southern Front:

With increased assault troop activities the enemy launched yesterday several attacks against the 10th Army supported by tanks which all were repulsed.

From the total tonnage in Bari, Brindisi and Tarent with about 420,000 BRT freighter and transportation space, 20,000 BRT tanker space, 20 landing ships, 425 naval landing craft and midget vessels, the Commander in Chief, Southwest judges the position at sea so, that no imminent operations on a larger scale were indicated. Landings on a small scale were possible at any time.

Eastern Front:

Army Group Southern Ukraine:

Southerly of Sea-Danube it is said that the enemy is advancing from Tulcea to Babadag.

The 6th German Army is fighting its way further back to the lower Pruth. Contact was made with Corps-Group Mieth westerly of the Pruth in the area of Husi. The bridge-place Leova was captured by the enemy through an attack of armoured forces from the east and west. Parts of a tank infantry division were in action protecting the bridgehead Falciu Tg. Westerly of the Seret the German forces were thrown back in direction of the Carpathian Mountains in heavy fighting causing many casualties. The enemy captured Bacau and Onesti.

No clear reports were received concerning the fighting in Bukarest. There the Romanian resistance seems to be incensed. After all no further combat actions were reported up to now between German and Romanian troops since the declaration of war on Germany.

26 Aug. 1944

Army Group Northern Ukraine:

The enemy is continuing his attacks with three strong armies between the Carpathian Mountains and Vistula. He established several break throughs which were partly again mopped-up.

A counter attack was started in the Vistula head to occupy again a commanding height near Stopnica.

Army Group Centre:

Since the early morning hours heavy defense fightings were going on between the left wing of the 9th Army and the 2nd Army at the front between the Vistula and Narew.

After considerable penetrations the break through attempt was intercepted which was concentrating northeasterly of Warsaw and was carried out by strong tank forces, ground attacking planes and artillery support.

With the exception of the forming of smaller bridgeheads the attack against the XX. Army Corps was unsuccessful along the total front of the Bug. Counter attacks against these were started.

The enemy did not carry out his attacks with the same strength as on the previous day between Bug and Narew. Heavy local fighting is continuing.

The enemy prevented us in the Baltic States from occupying larger territory in the area of Autz. Our own wedge attack in direction to Boblen was strongly flanked.

Army Group North:

Through bringing up of further forces to the right wing westerly of Mitau the front was stabilized and existing gaps were closed.

The enemy attacked northerly of the Dvina in the area of Erglo and established a deep penetration. Further penetrations will make it necessary to rebuild a new front in a line about two km northerly of the old main line of resistance. Heavy fighting is still going on causing us many casualties. Fifteen tanks were disabled up to now.

26 Aug. 1944

Seven attacks of battalion strength, supported by 25 tanks, were intercepted by only little territory losses southeasterly of Lake Wirtz.

Army Formation Narva:

At the southern front the enemy is attacking further with strong forces. At first he was able to enlarge his bridgehead near Kärevere but was then thrown back in a counter attack to this village.

After the renewed failure of Esthonian formations, the enemy, attacking in direction to Dorpat captured the town and forced his way across the Embach in the evening. Here the danger of an operational break through to Reval is perceptible and with that the cutting off of the III. SS Tank Corps between Lake Peipus and Narva Bay.

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

a. The Fleet asked for consent to transfer the SCHEER and EMDEN to Oslo. The Commander in Chief, Navy ordered to await attitude of Naval Command East.

b. With regard to the threat to the Jutlandic area the Naval Command East is planning a special action to strengthen the defense. The Commander in Chief, Navy demanded first of all a statement concerning other tasks which would be impaired before agreeing. The directive to the Naval Command will have to be limited accordingly if the need should arise.

c. In connection with the carrying out of operation "Tanne" the operations of our own naval forces in the eastern Finnish Bay were rechecked. The 9th Escort Division declared the mining situation to be more serious as believed up to now. Attitude of the Naval Command East was requested. The Commander in Chief, Navy in person believes the danger from the air to be far greater than the danger through mines. To a certain degree the latter will have to be accepted if operation "Tanne Ost" should be carried out effectively.

Quartermaster General, Naval Staff reported that the requested troops must be guaranteed to carry out this operation. The Naval Command East requests to form two further light naval artillery units as a reserve besides the 531st naval artillery unit and combat

26 Aug. 1944

formation Baltic Countries. This measure could only be adopted by drawing upon the surplus of fleet and other recruits. The Commander in Chief Navy demands first of all examination in how far other plans would be effected. The Armed Forces High Command is well informed and if the need should arise, attention should be drawn again to the fact that operation "Tanne" is out of question without sufficient means.

---

Special Items

I. Concerns Balkan Situation:

Group South reports under time of origin 1320.

"1. The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea arrived this morning in Varna after being held up by weather and Romanians at Mangalia to embark.

2. Up to now eleven motor minesweepers in Varna; four PT boats arrived damaged by sea, the latter were only limited able to sail; twelve armed fishing vessels adrift in the roads.

3. Formations at sea were separated by bad weather north northeast 6 to 7 prevailing since yesterday. Still an unknown number of vessels were in distress at sea along the Bulgarian coast.

4. The continuing weather situation permits only war freighters, motor minesweepers and if the need should arise, single PT boats with an average speed of five knots to proceed to the north. The use of armament is very restricted respectively impossible. The existing fuel lasts by reduced speed only to the end of Sea Danube without taking into consideration expected incidents.

5. After improvement of weather it is planned to carry out operations with submarines and PT boats against Russian patrols at Romania and to break through with war freighters and motor minesweepers to Sea Danube to support the Army. Expectations in success were small. Especially on account of expected operations of the enemy air force.

26 Aug. 1944

6. The commanding officer of the naval aviation Black Sea proposed to the Reich Air Ministry to sell the crashboats to Bulgaria which were transferred from Constanta to Varna. The question if a transfer to Bulgaria is advisable of naval vessels now out of commission could under certain conditions be politically employable. Situation cannot be judged from here. All types of vessels would be under consideration. Otherwise scutteling in open sea.

7. On account of non-existing communication it is not known here why the Naval Shore Command, Romania withdrew in spite of clear instructions of defending Constanta. Owing to the quick development of situation and the blocking by strong Romanian forces the Chief of Staff, Commanding Admiral, Black Sea with staff and subordinate staff was unable to attach himself to the Naval Shore Command for the defense of the country. An attempt to advance to the Romanian Danube harbors was frustrated by Romanian troops. Therefore the attempt is made to reach the Southern Bulgarian frontier Danube harbors."

Based on this position Group South sent at the same time the following directions to Commanding Admiral, Black Sea:

"1. The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea will at once be in charge again of all naval forces in the Black Sea. Based on political reasons it must be expected that the command will be handed over at short notice to the Group which therefore should be kept well informed.

2. Nothing will be changed in the ordered submarine positions by the Group. It is and will be the task of the naval forces to fight against the Russian naval forces and to support the army according to issued instructions. Measures should be adopted to this.

3. Vessels which were not fit for operation should be sunk in open sea. Crews should be brought on their way via Sofia. Addition for Naval Staff: Time of demurrage 24 hours, Demurrage expires at Varna between 2000 on the 26 Aug. and morning of the 27th. which depends on the time of entering of the single vessel."

The Naval Staff informed the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters, the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy, the General Staff of the Armed Forces High Command, Army, the Naval Liaison Officer and the Operations Officer, Naval Liaison, High Command

26 Aug. 1944

Air Force according to reports from Group South concerning the situation there and remarks to this that up to now nothing is known in how far the transfer of naval forces to the Danube was carried out according to orders from the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea, dated 22 Aug. Copy of teletype 1/Skl. I m 26455/44 Gkdos. in War Diary Part C, Volume XIV a.

The Naval Staff passed instructions to Group South, to the Inspector of Mine Sweeping Service Danube and by copy to the Special Plenipotentiary Danube to accelerate and protect with all means fuel transportation to Germany. Relevant orders issued by the Special Plenipotentiary Danube to the Inspectorate of the Minesweeper Service Danube were confirmed.

To the situation in Bulgaria the Naval Staff informed the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters, the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy, the General Staff of the Armed Forces High Command, the Naval Liaison Officer and the Operations Officer, Naval Liaison High Command, Air Force about plans of the Bulgarian Government concerning the disarming of German troops respectively internment of German war-ships as reported. To this the Naval Staff draws attention of Group South to the fact that the 24 hour law is not legal according to article 14 of the sea neutrality act if war ships extend their demurrage owing to damage conditions of the sea. And if ships enter on these motives they might be more than three ships at the same time. They have to sail as soon as reason of delay perished. The selling of naval vessels to Bulgaria is out of the question.

By copy Group South informed the Naval Staff at 2225 of the following directives to the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea:

"1. According to issued directives the ordered operation Sulina has also got to be accomplished by the few naval forces.

2. Under strongest protest and by drawing attention to the given promise of Admiral Toscheff that the latest sailing hour would aspire at 0600 on the 27 Aug. the opening of the bridges should be demanded by referring to the international law. All vessels not participating in the departure should be sunk with all available means or at least should be rendered unserviceable.

3. Any kind of economical negotiations with the Bulgarians were out of question."

26 Aug. 1944

According to a further report from Group South the situation in Bulgaria is quickly coming to a head. Moschanoff is negotiating in Ankara and not Muschanoff as reported up to now. This late Sobranje-president is considered a safe candidate for regency. The present Bulgarian government declared of course in the radio they intended again to take up complete neutrality. Out there is no doubt that the Allies will demand rupture of relations to Germany and will succeed after that in forcing them to enter the war on the sides of the enemy. The German Military Mission opposed to the Bulgarian demand that German troops, crossing the Bulgarian frontier will be disarmed and will leave Bulgaria again with only necessary luggage.

A further report was received by Group South stating that the Chief of the Military Mission Bulgaria over Army Group F, Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command believed it necessary and correct to transfer at once the Naval Group Commands. In the teletype 1725 the Commander in Chief, Naval Group South demands again orders for this transfer, as a quick political development, unfavorable to us must be expected for certain and the Naval Group would be without command through this.

Again the Commander in Chief, Navy instructed Admiral Fricke by telephone to stay in Bulgaria according to directions from the Fuehrer dated 25 Aug.

II. The developments in Romania proved that the authorities there were taken by surprise through development of situation and therefore not able to deal with the situation. On orders from the Commander in Chief, Navy the Naval Staff draws the attention of the Naval Command East, Admiral Eastern Baltic and the 9th Escort Division to the fact that this should be a warning that full attention and stern protection against surprises of any kind were necessary, not only in occupied countries, but also in friendly and allied nations. Directives concerning relevant operational measures will be issued at another place. Subordinate Staffs and troops should be informed in a proper way.

III. The Naval Staff informed the 2nd Air Force and Air Force Command Southeast that the Commanding Admiral Aegean took over command of submarines in the eastern Mediterranean on the 23 Aug. after disorganization of Commander Submarines, Mediterranean.

IV. German Naval Command Italy reported:

26 Aug. 1944

"1. Sudden ground mine operations of the enemy must be expected in the Po according to Danube experiences. The Po shipping is of deciding importance to the southern front.

2. Therefore officers with special knowledge in mining and barrage affairs were demanded as "Chief of Minesweeper Service Po", staff officers necessary as the building up of organization strongly depends on intercourse with higher authorities and other parts of the Armed Forces. The affair is very urgent. Therefore early detailing necessary. Suitable officers were not present for this purpose in this area.

3. For the present Lieutenant Commander Heye will be appointed Chief of the "Minesweeping Service Po". After arrival of the new officer commanding 13th Escort Flotilla, Heye will be released first after arrival of the requested Chief of the "Minesweeping Service PO".

The Quartermaster General will attend to further particulars. Naval Staff, Operations Division believes it necessary, that the establishment of Minesweeper Service Po should be carried out according to the proposal of the German Naval Command Italy.

V. The German Naval Command Italy and by copy, the Admiral Small Battle Units received the following directives:

"Especially valuable for the possibility of operations of Small Battle Units were observations from the Southern French invasion bridgehead, ship movements and concentrations in the sea area there as well as the course of the front at the adjoining coast. Establish cooperation with Naval Special Operations Unit Haun. Report observations to Naval Staff, Operations Division.

VI. Concerns Baltic Sea:

a. Five to 6,000 tons of ammunition were permanently loaded at Gydinia according to information from the shipping unit of the High Command, Navy. Storing in the surroundings of the berths especially in that of the PRINZ EUGEN represents a considerable danger. The Naval Staff, Operations Division, supplied the Naval Command East, the 2nd Task Force and by copy the Fleet and Coastal Defense Centre with instructions that safety precautions should be adopted till the transportation difficulties were taken care of as for instance changing the berths of the ship. The 2nd Task Force received orders to report at once situation and plans.

26 Aug. 1944

b. The Naval Staff, Operations Division informed the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters and by copy the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, the General Staff of the Army, High Command Army and Operations Staff, High Command Air Force about calculations on reinforcements to the 20th Army Command for operation "BIRKE" which were estimated by statement of Commanding General, Armed Forces Norway with a monthly addition of 11,200 tons and 1300 cubic meter tank space to Porsangerfiord and 13,100 tons and 500 cubic meter tank space to the area of Tromsoe. These figures only cover the combat supply.

Shipping space could be placed at disposal under the condition of a normal supply without bulk fodder.

Concerning the protection of transports it is still believed possible to carry out convoy traffic in spite of present enemy activity. Defense formations were fully equipped. Reinforcement is not possible.

Owing to the development of situation in the western area an increase of aggravation of enemy pressure must be expected, especially in the air. Therefore difficulties and declines must be expected. At the present our own air force is completely insufficient to carry out reconnaissance, protection and defense. Strengthening of air force is of deciding importance.

Copy according to teletype 1/Skl 2588/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary Part C, Volume III.

c. Concerning the execution of operation "BIRKE" the Naval Command East reported under the 12 Aug. that it is necessary to create mine free routes through the Finnish declared area to prevent passage through Swedish territorial waters. The Finnish minefields lying in the route were not believed to be very effective and could easily be pierced. The Naval Command East believes it advisable to remove as quickly as possible all Finnish Minefields up to the boundary of the Swedish declared area to establish freedom for movements.

The Naval Staff agreed with the attitude of the Naval Command and issued relevant instructions to create routes free of mines through the Finnish declared area.

At the same time the Naval Command East transmitted report about activities of the Naval Liaison Officer at the 20th Mountain Army

26 Aug. 1944

Corps from which the difficulties which will probably be caused by operation "BIRKE" were fully understood in regard to occupation and protection of the harbors in the southern part of the Bothnian Sea as well as confiscation of Finnish tonnage. The Naval Staff, Operations Staff, transmitted this report to the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy.

---

Situation on the 26 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Seventy five planes in action were detected by 19th Group. Two British ships were detected in the rendez-vous area.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

After hitting a mine one tug each sank in the roads of La Pallice on the night of the 24 Aug. and at noon on the 25th. Minesweeper M "4043" hit a mine off La Pallice on the afternoon of the 26 Aug. The boat entered the harbor unassisted. Two mines were swept in the same area.

According to a report from the Naval Attache Madrid, no further civilian or naval war vessels arrived in Spanish ports with exception of the air craft tenders "IMMELMANN and RICHTHOFEN and three crash boats. The air craft tenders were treated by the Spaniards as ships of the mercantile marine. The mentioned vessels were concentrated at Pasajes.

Land Situation:

Paris:

Our own forces were withdrawn across the Seine with the exception of a few round about defended bases which were still holding out.

Brest:

Enemy activity against the fortress was increasing. Continuous fighter-bomber attacks were carried out against the

26 Aug. 1944

ships in the roads at 1700 on the 25 Aug. Mine exploding vessels "180", "162", the steamer PELIKAN with mines for mining the roads and one harbor defense vessel were sunk. Several enemy attacks supported by artillery, tanks and air force were in the main repulsed. In this naval batteries participated with concentrated shelling; battery "SPEE and "PAMARET" were operating against targets in the combat area. Large ships shelled battery "spee" from the sea on the 25 Aug., the combatting of which was not possible owing to poor visibility.

Crews of the radar interception site Perros, of the radar site St. Anne and Primel as well as the men in charge of radar location Roscoff and Ile de Bas arrived in Brest.

Lorient:

Base Concarneau was evacuated. All weapons and equipment were taken along. The harbor was destroyed and blown up.

Bordeaux:

It was planned to transport the naval forces from the area of Bordeaux in strength of 6,200 men back to the rear in three regiments. The mining and blocking of the harbor was carried out according to plan. According to a report from the Port Command the blocking was so successful that the using of the harbor will not be possible for a long time without the construction of a canal going around-about-way.

Sea Area Channel:

The batteries Cap de La Heve, 2/1253 and 3/1253 shelled detected targets on the night of the 25 Aug.

Battery 5/1265 on Jersey shelled enemy destroyers on the afternoon of the 25 Aug. without observing results.

The army allowed the final blocking of the harbor Rouen. The closing of the gap is planned for the 26 Aug. by sinking a 12,000 BRT steamer and a 3,000 BRT tanker. The destruction of the harbor was started in those parts not needed more by the army. Twelve hundred vehicles of the army were ferried across by five improvised ferries. An emergency bridge which was built on motives of the Navy was destroyed by a bomb hit five minutes before completion.

26 Aug. 1944

In addition to the PT boat operation on the night of the 24 Aug. it was reported that the 6th PT Boat Flotilla had continuous contact with motor gun boats in the area of Antifer. PT boat S "91" was heavily damaged in this. The boat was blown up, the crew abandoned the same. A group of the 8th PT Boat Flotilla in torpedo action against convoys near Beachy Head met enemy destroyers prematurely. Several hits were scored on the enemy. Owing to missing support concerning convoy and enemy position the flotilla had to return home without having carried out its plans.

Transporting ammunition for the army on the night of the 25 Aug. the 8th Gun Carrier Flotilla had contact with enemy PT boat groups, destroyers and cruisers northwesterly of Fecamp. Two of our own PT boats were attached to the flotilla. Artillery Ferry AF "110 and "97" were set afire in this engagement and ran aground respectively sank. Artillery Ferry AF "105" sank after being hit by a torpedo. Nothing was heard from Artillery Ferry AF "111". Most probably the vessel ran aground. Artillery Ferry AF "101" was badly damaged and reached harbor unassisted, Artillery Ferry AF "109" and PT boat S "174" were towed to port. The effect of hits were observed on an enemy vessel and on several gun boats. Group West believes sea traffic with Le Havre as no more feasible. Traffic will be discontinued.

The 4th Minesweeper Flotilla warded off successfully five fighter bomber attacks off Boulogne on the same night. Just so unsuccessful were fighter bomber attacks against escort vessels of the 38th Minesweeper Flotilla and 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla between Dieppe and Boulogne.

Fighter bombers were operating together with search lights on the English coast and groups of PT boats - the four torpedoes of which went astray.

The third supply action of two harbor defense vessels to Cecembre on the night of the 25 Aug. had to be postponed on account of air position and of deficiency of one vessel. It is planned to use the intermediate base on the Maitress islands in further supply operations.

The Command of the Small Battle Units reported the 261st Small Battle Unit Flotilla on its way to Fecamp. Exact position unknown.

26 Aug. 1944

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

The Ems-Elbe convoy was attacked by 30 Beaufighter planes at 2100 on the 25 Aug. Minesweeper M "347" was sunk by a rocket and bomb hit. According to report four planes were shot down in total. One Elm mine was swept off the Elbe.

A convoy of three Hansa-program steamers was planned to sail from Hook to the Elbe on the night of the 26 Aug. Six vessels of the 21st Minesweeper Flotilla and in addition groups of battle boats of the 7th Minesweeper Flotilla and 9th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla were planned to be employed in protection.

The planned coastal mine type "A" program of 25 minefields with a total of 7,291 coastal mines type "A" was reported as completed in the area of the 1st Escort Flotilla.

Concerning the concentration of Channel convoys into larger bunches demanded by the Operations Staff of the German Air Force, the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North reports that the number of convoying-objects depends on the possibility of placing at disposal sufficient escort vessels against enemy PT boat operations between Hook and Borkum. Owing to the necessity of touching Helder and Borkum during daylight hours the responsibility of larger concentrations of ships could not be expected in the roads in the face of heaviest enemy threat by air. The Commanding Admiral, Defenses North cannot support the transfer of more than four ships in one convoy at the present position of forces.

Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

In the area of the 18th Group 25 planes in action were detected.

2. Own Situation:

Twenty-two ships were escorted to the north and 31 ships to the south.

26 Aug. 1944

Commander Submarines, Norway presented brief report from submarine U"307" concerning operation "SCHNEEHUHN". The boat landed patrols in the Sassenfjord at Spitsbergen on the 6 Aug. and anchored after that in the Gips Bay. On the following day three destroyers and three vessels were sighted off Barentsburg. No attacks could be launched owing to the bad conditions of the batteries. After taking on board the patrols on the 11 Aug. the Icefjord was left and the patrols were put ashore near Cap Bjoerset on the 12 Aug. Two military alternative bases were destroyed near the Muyden-Bay on the 16 Aug. A well preserved power station of a mine, a radio station and a settlement with a military alternative base in total of about 40 buildings was destroyed by fire and explosives in Sveaegruva. A large armed cutter was destroyed after heavy defense and the patrols embarked again near Russekaila.

The occupied anti-aircraft artillery defense position Revneset was destroyed on the 19 Aug. in cooperation with attacking patrols on shore. After that return voyage was started.

The patrol established the presence of Norwegian anti-aircraft artillery troops in the Icefjord which were at the most 400 men in four anti-aircraft artillery positions. Airbase was unserviceable. Only one anti-aircraft artillery position was occupied in Barentsburg.

---

### III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

No special perceptions were reported.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

The coastal mine "A" formation transferred from Esbjerg and Thyboroen to Frederikshavn.

One cutter sank in a collision in the southern entrance of the Sound.

Western and Central Baltic:

Forty vessels and four minesweeping planes were employed with minesweeping duties. Six mines were swept south of Langeland.

26 Aug. 1944

The PT boat depot ship LUEDERITZ hit a mine in the Pommeranian Bay at 0947. Two tugs were sent from Swinemuende to assist. Armed fishing vessel KFK "506" hit a mine at 1920 in the Hauff of Stettin and sank.

A very heavy enemy air attack was made on Kiel by six to 800 planes from 2300 to 2335. The attack was concentrated on the inner town and eastern bank. Bridges and locks were not damaged, but the locks were not operating owing to deficiency of electricity. Mines were suspected in the Kiel harbor and bay. Ten to twelve planes were observed shot down. Report concerning damage in "Daily Situation" report. Numerous detonations of ammunition were caused in the artillery arsenal. The naval arsenal was especially heavily damaged. Damage and fires were reported from the Germania and Howaldt shipbuilding yard.

Three hundred more planes dropped mines in the Bay of Danzig and off Pillau and raided Koenigsberg with bombs.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

The 1st Minesweeper Flotilla swept five mines and one anti-sweeping device in the area of Kiuskaeri. Artillery ferry group Schecke was employed as artillery defense.

The Finnish minefield Foeykky VI. was layed according to plan on the night of the 24 Aug.

Troop and special transports sailed without meeting special incidents. For particulars see "Daily Situation".

Three thousand nine hundred and forty five tons of supplies were transferred to Riga and 240 tons to Reval on the 24 Aug. for Army Group North.

Radio and wire communications ceased with the 4th Gun Carrier Flotilla through the demolition of the harbor Dorpat and steamer BALTENLAND. We understand that the commander of flotilla was employed with crews in land fighting.

26 Aug. 1944

IV. Submarine Warfare.

After the departure of the last boats from Bordeaux on the 25 Aug. submarine U "178", U "188" and the Japanese transport submarine UIT "21" were blown up according to report from the 12th Submarine Flotilla. All military installations, bases, secret material and decoding means were destroyed. The remainder of the flotilla was attached to the Army. Manning Company transferred to La Rochelle.

About 70 bombs were dropped on the main naval direction finding station Brest at 1110.

With the exception of two, all barracks were destroyed; lines and antenna installations were completely out of action. The bunker was not damaged, weapons were in good condition, casualties were small.

Commander in Chief Navy and Commanding Admiral Submarines issued the following orders to all western flotillas and to the Commander Submarines West:

"1. The military situation demands that all submarines in the bases should be prepared as quickly as possible for combat operations respectively transfer to Norway. Up to now these tasks were handled with efficiency by flotillas and shipyards and is expected in the future.

2. Submarine warfare will be carried on in the old spirit with new weapons. Therefore I have ordered the transfer of as many submarine men inclusively commander Submarines West via land or sea routes to the home country so that they might again be employed in carrying on the submarine war.

3. It will be the task of the remaining flotilla members to defend the bases to the last man and last cartridge staking the resolute hearts of front submarine men under the command of the oldest officer commanding flotillas and in cooperation with other soldiers of all branches of the armed forces withholding from the enemy by this action the harbors as long as possible. I am sure that also this task will be fully obtained so necessary for the defense of the fatherland. It is self understood that I am among you with my whole heart in day and night."

The Staff of the Commander Submarines West was brought on his way to Germany. The Commanding Admiral Submarines takes over complete command of the western area.

26 Aug. 1944

According to British broadcast publishing names of prisoners, submarine U "385" was lost in the Bay of Plymouth and submarine U "608" when transferring from Lorient to La Pallice.

No special reports were received from the Atlantic.

In northern waters submarine U "711" launched a Zaunkoenig at a Russian submarine Type S in AC 4896 and a detonation was heard after 9 minutes 50 seconds. At first the target stopped but disappeared then with high speed. Damage is suspected as oil-spot was sighted.

It was reported from the Finnish Bay that Submarine U "745" sank a patrol boat in AO 3373. After that, depth charges were dropped by five midget vessels. Submarines U "348" and U "370" carried out combined artillery engagement with 8.8 cm guns against an enemy formation in strength of twelve to fifteen vessels in the Narva Bay. The formation was reported for the last time at 1655, heading south. Further reports were overdue.

In the mediterranean submarine U"565" sailed from Salamis.

---

## V. Aerial Warfare.

### West Area:

More than 1000 enemy planes entered Belgium/Northern France during the day and attacked railway installations and road targets in strong formations.

One hundred enemy planes were reported in Western France from the area of St. Dizier without attacking. In the course of the day 730 enemy planes entered the southern French area and attacked gun positions, fortifications and maintenance of rail communication in the Rhone Valley as well as between Marseille and Lyon.

The air bases Deelen and Venlo were attacked with little effect in the Belgium Dutch area on the night of the 26 Aug. One hundred to 150 four-engined enemy planes flew across Fecamp - Dieppe to Western France and raided this area.

26 Aug. 1944

Three hundred and fourteen of our own planes were employed during the day combatting fighter-bombers and artillery spotting planes in the operational area of northwestern France. Fourteen enemy planes were shot down. One hundred and eleven of our own planes attacked enemy supply roads and accommodation in the area southerly of Paris. Two planes were lost.

Reich Territory:

Single planes were reported from different parts of the Reich area at forenoon. One plane advanced from the west to Posen. Fifty fighters attacked Germansheim while 50 planes flew over Laibach and entered the area of Krainburg, without attacking.

Many hundred of bombers with fighter protection entered the area of Bielefeld - Muenster from the west during noon hours and attacked Salzbergen, Bottrop, Gladbeck, Buer, Duelzen and Emmerich. One hundred and fifty to 200 bombers more protected by fighters flew across the Schelde to raid Ludwigshafen and Mannheim as well as Trier. For damage in this day raid see "Daily Report". No reports were received concerning our own defense successes.

Three hundred to 400 bombers raided the area of Frankfurt a.Main, Darmstadt and Ruesselsheim. Twenty four certain and probably three more planes were shot down by 245 of our own fighters.

Fifty Mosquito planes attacked Berlin on the night of the 26 Aug., thirty to 40 Mosquito planes raided Hamburg and eight planes raided Haltern near Recklinghausen. Six hundred to 800 bombers raided Kiel at the same time which is marked as a heavy terror attack. About the damage caused was reported.

Two hundred and fifty more enemy bombers flew across Denmark - Southern Sweden and attacked Koenigsberg dropping numerous high-explosive and incendiary bombs and causing medium sized damages.

Mediterranean Theater:

No special operations on a larger scale as the usual ones were reported on the 25 Aug. Our own anti-aircraft artillery shot down six enemy planes in the area of Ferrara.

Among the usual enemy operations on the night of the 25 Aug. one attack is worth mentioning which was made on Ravenna by 70 bombers.

26 Aug. 1944

According to information from the Operations Officer, Naval Liaison, High Command Air Force, the Air Force Command Southeast received the following order concerning reconnaissance in its area:

- "1. Ships in the harbor of Alex should be checked every ten days.
2. Only spot checks should be made of convoy route Malta/Benghazi of about every second to third convoy passing through the Gibraltar Strait to supervise rhythm and strength.
3. As the supervising of Sicilian harbors is especially urgent photographic reconnaissance should concentrate on Messina, Catavia, Augusta, Syrakus and Palermo. It is necessary to obtain a total survey inside of a short period."

Eastern Area:

Eight hundred and six own operations not including report from the 4th Air Force and 4275 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front on the 25 Aug. Twelve of our own planes were lost and 87 enemy planes were shot down.

---

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

1. Area Naval Group West:

a. Enemy Invasion in Southern France:

One enemy cruiser and five destroyers shelled without effect the Var-mouth, radar location and naval signal station Cap Ferrat and Cap Nice. The harbor of Nice was mined according to plan.

Marseille:

Radio station Marseille 2 was manned again at 2000 on the 25 Aug. for transmitting. On account of enemy attacks Marseille I switched off at noon. In spite of heaviest attacks the outer fronts were holding. Heavy fighting was reported from within the town and harbor.

26 Aug. 1944

The 6th Escort Flotilla reported at 1721 on the 25 Jul. (Tr.n. should obviously mean 25 Aug.).

"Neighbour base in ground combat with tanks. Destroying radio installation."

Toulon:

Marseille heard at 1119 on the 25 Aug. that command post Toulon was still defending itself.

b. Area Gibraltar:

Only a few ships were reported in the harbor of Gibraltar on the evening of the 25 Aug. No further reports were received.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Two heavy and one light cruisers and three destroyers were detected with radar equipment southerly of Nice at 1647 in a visibility of six miles. Several groups of vessels in strength of five to 20 ships were southerly of Mentone, south southwesterly of Toulon and southerly of Marseille on the night of the 25 Aug. A patrolling boat group was also detected to the west on the preceding nights. No contact was made.

Own Situation:

All boats returned from the operations of assault boats against the southern French invasion bridgehead on the night of the 24 Aug. and 25 Aug. One hit was scored on a larger vessel five miles southerly of Cannes and on a destroyer or patrol boat three miles east southeasterly of Cap Antibes on the night of the 24 Aug., the sinkings of which were not observed owing to heavy defense. Italian assault boats reported scoring a hit on a cruiser on the night of the 25 Aug. Other boats were forced away.

Two torpedo boats were employed with reconnaissance outside of the minefields to the height of St. Remo on the night of the 25 Aug. On account of following shadows the file reversed course shortly after midnight. Three motor minesweepers and six battle ferries carried out coastal defense up to Nice without results.

26 Aug. 1944

An enemy plane attack without effect was made at naval landing craft and lighters between Porto Fino and Spezia at 0521.

The radio station London transmitted the code-word for the Italian partisans on the evening of the 26 Aug. in the Italian service.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

The coast six miles north northwesterly of Rimini was shelled from the sea at 0032. The report was not confirmed yet by land units.

One Siebel ferry planted further 30 coastal mines type "A" near Cortellazzo east northeasterly of Venice.

Enemy air raid was made on the evening of the 25 Aug. in the area of Ravenna, Corsini and Rimini. Destructions in town and harbor cannot be taken in at a glance.

According to an intercepted radio message from the 2nd Tank Army Command to Commanding Admiral Adriatic and Naval Shore Command Southern Dalmatia it is understood that the main reason for the infiltration of partisans to the islands between Solta and Mljet was caused by allowing sailing ship traffic there. Up to now deciding for this was the supplying of fish to the population and troops. At that time the position demanded at once requisition of all private vessels by confiscation or destruction. Based on certain principles every not military traffic across the sea should be prohibited. It is obtrusive to intercept with one stroke the total non-military tonnage at present in the area of Drvnik, Solta and Brac and in the coastal section lying behind. The General Command of the 5th SS Mountaineer Army Corps commissioned the 118th Infantry Division and in close cooperation the 892nd Grenadier Regiment, the Naval Shore Command Southern Dalmatia and coastal fighter formation "Brandenburg" with this operation. Operation received code-name "Seerose".

b. Aegean:

No special new reports were received.

c. Black Sea:

Concerning the position in the Black Sea was reported under "Special Items No. I."

26 Aug. 1944

The Commanding Admiral, Black Sea was prevented by Romanians to embark in a motor minesweeper on the 25 Aug. as planned and arrived in Varna by motor car on the morning of the 26th. Two boats hit mines in front of the harbor entrance. Owing to the quick development the Chief of Staff of the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea was not able to carry out the planned attachment into the land defense. The attempt to advance to Romanian Danube harbors was frustrated by Romanian troops. Therefore the formation tried to reach a Danube port on the Bulgarian frontier.

Danube Situation:

No dropping of mines nor losses through mines were reported.

One tug was fired on by Romanians at km 597, one German escort was confiscated at km 576 by Romanians. Several vessels had an artillery engagement with Romanians at km 527. Also ship "192" reported artillery engagement and artillery barrages at km 1030 in front of the cataract tract and fighting activity between km 1016 and 930. Moldova and Orschowa were evacuated by Germans. The 1st Coastal Speed Boat Flotilla sailed from Braila with German women and children on the 25 Aug.

The Danube is considered heavily endangered between km 496 and 1050, not so endangered between km 1050 and 1869 and free of danger in the adjoining part.

---

VII. Situation East Asia:

Special reports were not received.

---

27 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

No special new reports were received.

---

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1100.

I. In connection with position report, damage was described caused on installations of the Armed Forces in air raid at Kiel on the 26 Aug. Large fires were started in the Deutsche Werke. Four submarines were damaged. The arsenal of the Navy was destroyed to the larger extent. Principally fire damage was reported from a number of installations of the Armed Forces. Among them were the submarine office, House Forsteck victualling offices Dietrichsdorf and Gaarden, the officers barrack Camp Milwaukee, the building of the New Construction Trials Command, Submarine base Hagenuk and others.

II. In connection with the report - Western Situation, Operations Branch, West reports that Group West renounced of using Le Havre as a PT boat base after the 27 Aug. as possibilities for offensive operations of PT boats were very small, operations of Zaunkönige impossible as reinforcements were cancelled and and regulating posts withdrawn and as Dackel operations were possible again earliest in six days. Mining, blocking and destruction of Le Havre were started.

III. Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division.

a. According to information from Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy instructions will follow suspending war construction southerly of Corfu-Saloniki. No building materials should be transferred to the mentioned area with the exception of such materiels absolutely necessary for the Aegean reinforcements.

b. Plans for Volos were also cancelled by this. According to further information from Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy the Bulgarian Minister of War, General Russev, Commander in Chief Southeast with regard to the military strategical position of Romania respectively Dobrutscha and to suspend all inconveniences with Romanians and Russians as well as to place

27 Aug. 1944

the Bulgarians in the position to fulfil the neutrality against these two states, demanded urgently to issue orders to all German staffs, units and offices inside of Bulgaria to withdraw from territory of this country in the possible shortest time starting at first with these formations, stationed in eastern and northern Bulgaria, along the Danube and at the Black Sea.

IV. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff: The military Attache reports from Budapest about Hungarian troop concentration against Romania.

According to a report from the Reich Security Head Office the Finnish Ambassador Gripenberg arrived from Stockholm in Finland and brought along allegedly essential aggravated armistice terms from the Russians. According to the report from an agent, Sweden will plan an active roll in the execution of the armistice terms.

As asserted in Swedish circles the cancellation of Swedish shipping assurances to German harbors is also in some way connected with secret Allied information concerning imminent invasion of Norway. The Naval Attache passed this information on with all reserve.

Conference Restricted to a very Limited Circle.

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

a. Naval Command East transmits report from the 9th Security Division according to which the present Finnish Ambassador Procope declared that he indeed did not believe more in a German Victory, but there was no other way for Finland as to continue fighting.

b. Strong hesitations exist against using the steamer ROBERT LEY for the transportation of wounded from Swinemünde to Göteborg even also if a strong mine escort is available according to final examinations of the present danger of mine situation in the western Baltic and Great Belt by Naval Command East. Other suitable forces were not available as they were needed urgently in the Eastern Baltic. Therefore the Naval Staff informed the Operations Staff, (Foreign Countries) Armed Forces High Command as well as the Chief of Prisoners of War Affairs Torgau and Chief of the Medical Army Affairs of its conception and draw attention to the fact that the exchange, proposed at the beginning by England

27 Aug. 1944

via land-route including utilization of ferry Sassnitz-Trälleborg seemed to be the most favorable.

The Foreign Office was informed at the same time by the Naval Staff.

c. The Admiral commanding Eastern Baltic informed the Naval Command East that the Commander in Chief, Army Group North would probably bring about a decision at the Fuehrer Headquarters on the 27 Aug. concerning evacuation of Esthonia. Admiral Eastern Baltic is of the conception that the Navy must use its total influence to hold the Esthonian coast as the Army strongly inclined to abandon Esthonia by wheeling around to Riga and evacuating troops from Reval across the Moonsund.

The Commander in Chief, Navy expressed it as doubtful when reinforcing to hold Esthonia the danger is not enlarged of losing Courland. Besides, the Fuehrer completely controls the question of importance of the Esthonian coast concerning Baltic warfare in its consequences. The Commander in Chief, Navy does not believe it necessary to recite again the case to the Fuehrer.

The Admiral Eastern Baltic and the Naval Command East will be informed that the important facts of the naval warfare will be thoroughly kept in mind but might not be deciding in regard to the present land situation.

#### VI. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff:

Through reinforcement of the 531st Formation operating now with the army, 1100 men were available without calling on naval forces now in service. But the Naval Command East demands above this the forming of four further naval artillery units for operation "Tanne East and West". Personnel for this purpose could only be obtained from the training personnel of naval forces.

The question is raised if plans of "Tanne East and West" will after all seem feasible should the development of situation on land result in the loss of the Esthonian coast. The Commander in Chief Navy postponed the decision for eight days respectively the forming of new naval artillery units to observe till then development of military situation.

Development of military position in the west and danger to the Jutlandic area does not allow more the withdrawal of troops from

27 Aug. 1944

Denmark according to the opinion of the Naval Staff for operation "Tanne West", relevant indications will be made to the Armed Forces High Command.

Relevant note was sent to the Armed Forces High Command by the 1/Skl I op 2614/44 Gkdos. Chfs. In this it was additionally remarked that the operation only seemed to be guaranteed if based on certain principles the operational plan "Tanne" is strictly adopted. Deciding for the success of operation will be, that the first landing is carried out in great strength by well trained and prepared troops and is protected and supported with the greatest possible strength by naval forces. The Naval Staff raised strongest objections against an advance-transfer of weaker part-forces as proposed by the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command on 16 Aug.

Copy according to teletype in War Diary Part C Volume III.

VII. According to information from the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters the Reich Commissioner for Maritime Shipping asserted Reichsleiter Bormann (Tr.n. Member of the Supreme Party Directorate) that the Hansa new construction program was far backward owing to the claiming of all capacities by the Navy. The Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters proposed re-examination in how far the accomplishment of the Hansa program is of war important meaning to the Navy.

VIII. Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament: demands directions concerning necessary new planning in the Norwegian area.

The Chief of Naval Staff indicates it to be necessary to reinforce the bases of Norwegian area after the Atlantic coast was lost from our sphere of influence.

The Commander in Chief, Navy draws attention to the already issued order to examine accurately which plans were possible in this direction.

IX. Army Situation:

Western Front:

Also on the 26 Aug. the enemy tried to crush in the bridgehead of the 5th Tank Army. He forced the southern front back in heavy fighting. The bridgehead will be withdrawn to the northern bank on the night of the 25th with the exception of the chords in the Seine arc. Further on enemy artillery fire and airforce operations were crushing.

27 Aug. 1944

The enemy forced our own troops back into the defense in the bridgehead Mantes and captured ground.

Several isolated defense posts were still holding out in Paris. Enemy tank forces were advancing from Paris along the main roads in direction to Compiègne and Maux but were repulsed near Le Bourget and Le Raincy. Advancing across the Seine, the enemy reached the area of Nangis between Paris and Fontainebleau. The front is not stabilized and the situation is still unclear.

Troyes was lost after the most furious struggles, the enemy is advancing in direction to the Aube.

Stronger enemy activity in the area of Orleans than on previous days.

No new reports were received from Toulon and Marseille.

In spite of continuous fights with terrorists the 4th Air Force Field Corps reached in a quick march to the north the area of Valence mopping up the road Montelimar-Loriol.

Strike and terrorist revolt in Lyon, the inner quarters were surrounded.

The Commander in Chief Northwestern France reports remarkable increase of sabotage acts and raids.

Foreign Armies draws attention to the fact that a new report deserves special attention concerning the holding back of the Allied air-borne army for a large operational task.

Italian Front:

Ligurian Army:

Fighting is going on near St. Maurice with irregular troops and near St. Paul with Americans.

The enemy feels his way forward against German rear troops still on the Loup and was repulsed.

Southern Front:

Further strong enemy preparations of attack were recognized in the area of Florence. The British XIV. Army Corps is also preparing for attack northerly of Lake Trasimenesch.

27 Aug. 1944

On a broad front the enemy attacked with newly brought up British and American forces along the Adriatic coast. In the afternoon hours the enemy was able to establish deep penetrations through strong artillery support of the strongest calibre as well as in air raids by the heaviest type of bombers on the foremost lines and against the artillery, but then he was stopped.

Heavy air raids in the frontal area of the Adriatic coast as well as against traffic installations in the area southerly of Rimini seemed to indicate a continuation of the attacks to force a deciding break through.

Eastern Front:

Army Group Southern Ukraine:

The position of the 6th Army aggravated essentially also in the area of Focsani as also in the area of the surrounded divisions at both sides of Husi. The divisions were surrounded in narrowest area and were fighting furiously against an enemy, strong in tanks. The Romanians prevented any kind of supplying.

German forces were defending crossings westerly of Braila Seret. The enemy broke through the prepared positions easterly of Focsani and is advancing to the south.

Own forces were engaged in heavy defense fighting near Targol Ocna having the Carpathian Mountains in their rear. Northerly of them the Russians reached the Romanian-Hungarian frontier and advanced into the Hungarian territory to Uzul.

The Predeal pass was occupied by the Romanian troops southerly of Kronstadt.

German troops at Ploesti and near Bukarest were surrounded by Romanian troops.

Army Group Northern Ukraine:

The burden of the enemy attack diminished a little between the Carpathian Mountains and Vistula. Our own position was withdrawn to a shortened line.

Heavy fightings were underway northerly of the Vistula and near Stopnica. Between Rkow and Ostrow in the Lysa Gora, German troops launched an attack and were successful in capturing ground in

27 Aug. 1944

spite of deep anti-tank barrage and mined territory.

Army Group Centre:

The enemy launched an attack from the bridgehead westerly of Lublin and southerly of Warka; on account of deep penetrations the position is critical.

The battle between Warsaw and Narev is continuing in undiminished violence. The enemy was successful in tearing up the front at single spots but an operational breakthrough was prevented.

In the Baltic States our own attack occupied more ground northerly of the railway line Autz, Mitau.

Army Group North:

With interruption heavy fighting is continued northerly of the Dvina in the area easterly of Ergli. We were successful in throwing back penetrated enemy formations in a counter attack and closing the front gap in attack.

The front between Oppenhoff and Lake Wirz was withdrawn to the west.

Army Formation Narva:

The enemy was able to enlarge his area of penetration in the area of Dorpat. Counter attacks resulted in changeable fighting. After heavy street fighting, also the northern part of Dorpat and the air base of that place were lost. Here the position continued to be extremely tense.

---

Special Items:

I. Concerns Balkan Situation:

The Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command transmitted at 0200 the following directive of the Fuehrer:

1. "Through the sudden change in Romania also in Bulgaria the development will presumably accelerate of quitting the war. On account of events Hungary seems to look for a closer collaboration with the Reich. At present no change in situation is perceptible in Croatia. In first line Bulgaria will demand withdrawal of the

27 Aug. 1944

OKK-corps from Serbia and of the 7th Bulgarian Division from the area of Saloniki as well as evacuation of its state area by German troops. In addition it might be possible that the Bulgarians abandon the new Bulgarian area and the coast of Tracia owing to enemy pressure.

2. Also in a changed position it will be the task of the Commander in Chief Southeast to control the war-economic and important area of the Central Balkan and to keep open the most important communication lines of the southeastern area.

3. To carry out these tasks the necessary forces should be obtained by shifting the Commander in Chief Southeast from south and central Greece to the areas of the central Balkan, especially endangered. To establish this a loosening up of the occupation of the Ionian islands and of the Aegean islands as well as of the coastal section is allowed, first of all not including the larger harbors.

Withdrawal of all troops and installations southerly of the line Corfu-Joanina-Kalabaka-Olymp should be prepared, reception and blocking in this line should be safeguarded.

4. The evacuation of Reich and racial Germans from Greece as well as of non-necessary war units and offices must be completed ahead of this movement. Also the present Italian military internees of this area should be completely transferred as far as not absolutely necessary in war important work.

5. Only absolutely necessary supplies for combat purpose should be transferred into the area southerly of Saloniki, supplies in advance should be postponed at once.

6. The Navy and Air Force will adjust measures to this combat. Air bases not needed more southerly of the general line Corfu-Olymp should be ruined, all other kinds of constructions should cease especially those of the Navy.

7. Commander in Chief Southeast High Command Air and High Command Navy should report as soon as possible plans."

The radio message from Army Group Southern Ukraine to the Commanding Admiral Black Sea was intercepted at 0610. It read as follows:

"1. Orders from the Fuehrer demand that the Romanian area to the Danube line should be re-conquered again after receiving reinforcements defending the line Galatz-Facsani-Carpathian Mountains-eastern boundary. Dividing line between the 6th and 8th Army as up to now.

27 Aug. 1944

2. The 6th Army prevents the enemy from breaking through the line Galatz-Focsani by employing all available forces and protecting the right flank on the Danube.

3. As far as German troops in the rear area could not be employed in the front they should be concentrated in defensive groups. Concentrate on the areas of Buzau-Ploesti-Bukarest; Task: Keep the rear clear for German formations on the Sereth and guarantee the supplies from these areas.

4. Army Group will occupy with new forces Kronstadt and will clear later Predeal-Pass direction to Ploesti as well as the road Buzau-Kronstadt.

5. Should Romanian troops cross the line Braila-Focsani to the southwest they should be prevented from doing so by force of arms. Every attempt of Romanian troops to disarm as well as ....."

The remaining part of the radio message was not clear.

Group South reported 1355 that the Bulgarian political situation aggravated further. The Commanding Admiral of the Bulgarian naval forces Black Sea transmitted the request from the Naval Ministry to the Commanding German Admiral Black Sea as commander of the naval vessels lying in Varna, that not alone German soldiers crossing the frontier into Bulgaria will be disarmed but also units stationed there. In case of refusal, without mentioning any date, serious consequences were indicated. The demands were of course turned down from the German side, the Fleet Commander in Chief was advised to proceed political ways.

Group South transmitted at 2100 information from the representative of the Chief of the Bulgarian General Staff Popoff to the Chief of Staff of the German Military Mission according to which all corps commanders received clear orders from the Bulgarian General Staff stating that no changes will take place in relationship between Bulgarian Army and German troops and that a disarming of German troops stationed in Bulgaria was out of question. Information was confirmed by report from the Commanding Admiral Black Sea.

Orders from the Armed Forces High Command dated 24th concerning suspension of all war equipment to Romania was extended by directives from the Bureau of Naval Armament to Bulgaria.

II. Chief, Naval Staff: drew attention to the urgent demand for strengthening the Jutlandic area and the entrances to the Baltic and produced the following questions resulting from this:

27 Aug. 1944

1. Mounting of batteries along the eastern coast of Denmark (Jutland) as leeward of landing places. Especially Aalbaek-Bay and Aalborg coast and northern coast of Danish islands.

2. The mining of the coasts in the Kattegat with coastal mines type "A".

3. Precautions planting of ground mine areas so that the closing of gaps is only necessary in emergency case. Storing of sufficient mine materiel for this purpose.

4. A re-planting of the minefield Skagen-Vinga.

5. A transfer of Small Battle Units, Linsen, Marder and Seehunde to the inner Jutlandic Coast and Norwegian Southern Coast. Submarines with Schnorchel to Group Centre.

6. Prepare demolition of Esbjerg, Tyboroen, Skagen, Frederikshaven, Aalborg etc.

7. Demanding of more troops for Jutland especially against parachute respectively air landing troops (alarm units).

8. Influence propaganda respectively defensive service. Report of problem to the Commander in Chief, Navy was planned for 30 Aug. The further adaptation concerning quill-driving were up to the Naval Staff, Operations Division. The Submarine Division, Naval Staff, the Naval Intelligence Division, the Naval Staff Special Weapons Division, and the Quartermaster General were asked to participate in these questions. Copy of decree according to Chief Naval Staff 2618/44 Gkdos. Chefsache in War Diary Part C Volume III.

III. Concerning the subject broached by the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command about evacuation of civilian population from the area of the Frisian islands (see War Diary 25 Jul.) the Naval Staff states his attitude as follows:

"A precautions evacuation of the Frisian islands appears to be unsuitable owing to psychological reasons and the problem of housing the evacuated population in the Reich. It is also military not believed necessary. But a timely preparation of such an evacuation is necessary and indeed it is proposed to locate the civilian population of the Frisian islands in 3 groups:

a. Group I: Civilians, not employed in military section which could be missed in tasks of civilian administration and supplying of the population.

27 Aug. 1944

b. Group II: Civilians, which would mean a burden to the execution of combat tasks in an imminent attack against the island and which could not be employed in the military section nor in the administration or supplying.

c. Group III: Civilians which were absolutely necessary for the defense of the island and could be fully employed.

The evacuation of Group I could be carried out in normal times voluntary or with a certain pressure to leave the islands in succession. Evacuation of Group II should be prepared so that it still could be carried out in time of stained situation taking available transportation means as a base. Evacuation of Group III is out of the question.

The Reich Defense Commissioner is competent for preparations and execution of measures.

#### IV. Concerns West Area:

a. The Commanding Admiral, Defenses West proposed to leave the six minesweepers (fishing steamers) for the present at his disposal, drawing attention to the loss of six vessels on the two previous nights, as operations of drifters and groups of armed fishing vessels were not possible more in the Channel without stronger protection of arms.

The Naval Staff decided to leave the minesweepers M "3620, "3800", "3820", "3854", "3853 and "3830" for the present at the disposal of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West and should first be sent on their way to the east as soon as the situation in the Channel allowed a withdrawal of vessels.

b. Group West received orders from the Naval Staff to transfer the steamers BROESEN and FRISIA to Spain. The Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters, the Foreign Office and the Naval Attache Madrid were informed that the transfer of the supply ships BROESEN and FRISIA with 2400 cubic meters of furnace oil was ordered from Bordeaux to Spain.

V. Commanding Admiral Aegean reports the intentions of Army Group E to transfer stronger combat group from Crete to the continent by air transport. The Commanding Admiral Aegean proposed to send a part of the men acting as patients along with the hospital ship GRADISCA touching Crete according to schedule owing to the catastrophical fuel situation as a stopping and examination is not expected by enemy forces between Crete and Piraeus.

27 Aug. 1944

The Naval Staff, Operations Division informed Group South and Commanding Admiral Aegean that the Naval Staff must stick faithfully to the principle that only wounded and patients were allowed to travel on hospital ships.

VI. The Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff understood from the survey of enemy situation, General Staff of the Army - Foreign Armies West - that again a new report demanding special attention was received from a special reliable circle concerning retention of Allied air landing army for operational tasks on a large scale though concrete indications about aim were not given.

Situation on 27 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

Fifty-six planes in action were detected by 19th Group. Two British vessels were detected in the rendezvous area. The destroyers GREENVILLE and JERVIS received in the forenoon hours of the 26th according to radio monitoring orders concerning patrol duties in the Cherbourg area.

Three minesweepers were detected sinking in BF 3656 at 1405 on the 27 Aug.

One battleship with two destroyers were sighted at 0745 18 miles southwesterly of Quessant and one cruiser and several escorting vessels were observed at 1300 northeasterly of Quessant.

Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

Minesweeper M "4014" was attacked by fighter bombers on 26 Aug. The boat suffered casualties and guns were put out of action. Port Command Bayonne reported on the 26th that the harbors of Bayonne and St. Jean de Luz were blocked and mined. Naval installations in the harbor and ammunition dump were destroyed. KMA\* was sunk, all vessels were blown up, the drydock was destroyed. Wharf and crane installations were not blasted according to instructions of the Army. Beacons were destroyed but lighthouses were not blasted.

Patrol boat VP "411" was hit in a fighter bomber attack at 1730 on

27 Aug. 1944

the 26th in Royan roads and sank after boiler explosion. Patrol boat VP "404" and minesweeper M "4026" were placed out of commission on 27 Aug. in Royan. Crews will be serving on the land front.

The tanker TANNENFELS was sunk in Bordeaux. The Port Command reported withdrawal without demolition at 2130 on 26 Aug. and, as Group West believed on orders from the Army. It will be checked if destruction is still possible in spite of the withdrawal.

Land Situation:

Paris: Directorate General of Naval Establishments withdrew essential parts of naval troops from Paris. The bases Operations Staff and Naval Ministry were still defended at 2330 on the 27th. Other naval formations were operating on the land front easterly of Paris.

Cecembre: About 300 shots of harassing fire were covering the battery on 25 Aug. At about 1500 air raid was made, more than 200 bombs were dropped and gunfire attacks were carried out. No casualties were suffered in this attack nor were out of actions caused. The battery was shelled on 26 Aug. from loophole posts of battery Grande Bey. The fire was replied.

Brest: Stirring enemy air activity above the fortress on the 26 Aug. Fighter bombers attacked batteries and roadstead. Enemy pressure strengthened essentially near Plougastel. Battery 4/805 was occupied by the enemy. The main line of resistance is in our hands. Battery "Holtzendorff" was attacked with bombs, battery "Spee" and "Toulbroch" with artillery. Guns, range finder equipment and searchlights were left intact.

In an enemy air raid mine exploding vessel "135" was a complete loss in harbor, mine exploding vessel "8" and "9" were hit in the dock. The hospital ship OAKLAND was so badly damaged that a removal is out of the question.

In agreement with the fortress commander the demolition of the harbor will start on 28 Aug. with the commercial harbor and with parts of the shipyard workshops.

Evacuation of the crew from base Audierne is not possible across the sea. The detail received orders to fight its way through across land.

No special reports were received from Lorient, St. Nazaire and Nantes.

27 Aug. 1944

Sea Area Channel:

Owing to poor visibility, operations of the 2nd, 8th and 10th PT Boat Flotillas were discontinued on the night of 25 Aug. On return voyage the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla picked up survivors of artillery boat between Cap Antifer and Fecamp and one artillery boat was towed to port by PT boat S "174".

The 10th PT Boat Flotilla was attacked seven times by fighter-bombers during outer and return voyage.

Also the 6th PT Boat Flotilla was attacked three times by fighter-bombers when transferring from Dieppe to Boulogne and one boat was slightly damaged in this action.

To the engagement of the 8th Artillery Flotilla westerly of Fecamp on the night of the 25 Aug. the sinking of a destroyer and a PT boat was additionally reported. Our own casualties were proportionately small. Radar location Cap Antifer was attacked at noon without effect by gunfire.

Without results the blasting of battery "Vasouy" near Honfleur was tried on the night of 23 and 24 Aug. All guns and ammunition chambers of the battery were blasted in a daring operation by a command in strength of seven men belonging to the naval replacement division on the night of 25 Aug. Operation was necessary as the Army only rendered the guns unserviceable when abandoning battery. (see War Diary 24 Aug.)

The transfer of minesweepers and submarine chasers from Le Havre to Dieppe is planned on the night of the 27th, escorted by the 14th Minesweeper Flotilla. The departure of PA 1\* and PA 3\* is not possible any more. Vessels will be used for blocking harbor.

---

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

Convoy 1263 with three Hansa new constructions transferred from Hook to Helder on the night of the 26th. A PT boat attack was repulsed southwesterly of Ymuiden without causing us casualties. One attacker was badly damaged. Three enemy PT boats were successfully repulsed by a group of patrol boats and one minesweeper in the same area. Finally patrol boat position "Kairo" had to repulse an enemy PT boat attack at 0420.

27 Aug. 1944

Coastal mine type "A" operation was continued off Borkum.

Patrol boat position 1 in the Bight of Heligoland was attacked at 1600 by four enemy fighters. In this engagement patrol boat VP "1269" was shot afire and sank.

Entering and returning bomber formations were shelled at noon by naval anti-aircraft artillery in all sections of the Heligoland Bight with the exception of Wangerooge. About 150 bombs were dropped in the area of Heligoland at about 1412 without causing damage. Returning bomber formations laid a bomb carpet over the town and harbor of Emden at 1435 without causing military damage worth mentioning. The dropping of mines was reported from the outer Elbe to Wesermuende. Every kind of ships traffic was cancelled on the lower Elbe.

In the afternoon enemy planes were fired upon in the area of Ymuiden and Hook by naval anti-aircraft artillery.

Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Twenty-eight planes in action were detected at 18th Group. Animated enemy radio communications on the night of the 27th indicated further activities of British vessels in Northern Waters.

Own Situation:

A patrol group of the 65th Patrol Boat Flotilla reported at 1600 on the 24th the shooting down of two further carrier planes in the entrance of the Alta-Fiord.

The existing locking of the Lepsoerinne ordered on the 10 Aug. was cancelled.

Sixteen ships were escorted to the north and 17 ships to the south.

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

In the Finnish Bay twelve vessels were sighted in AO 3742 centre of the grid square and three vessels in AO 3749 centre of the grid square at 2430 (Tr.n. Obviously a mistake) on the 26 Aug. steering an uncertain course.

27 Aug. 1944

Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Artillery Ferry Barge AF "82" was attacked on patrol position westerly of Esbjerg, by several fighter planes and arrived with wounded in Esbjerg. Two mines were swept in the Samsø Belt.

Operation minefield 30 A and B was planned for the night of the 27th.

Western and Central Baltic:

Nineteen vessels and seven minesweeper planes were employed with minesweeping duties. Eight mines were swept southerly of Langeland, nine in the Bay of Kiel and one mine each off Gdynia and in the Pommeranian Bay. Beside numerous routes all training areas in the Bay of Danzig had to be barred.

Together with the night incursions on Kiel, 60 to 80 mine-laying planes were reported in two groups above the Baltic Sea Entrances. Two plane crashes were reported easterly of Aarhus.

Two hundred enemy bombers with fighter protection entered the Bay of Kiel from the west during noon hours. The dropping of single bombs was reported from the surroundings of Kiel. Two hundred to 300 more bombers protected by fighters flew across Jutland and entered the area of Aarhus-Randers starting at 1330. Larger raids were not made. Returning planes attacked air base Esbjerg with gunfire and incendiary bombs. The naval anti-aircraft artillery reported one plane shot down above Kiel.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

Twenty-four escaping Esthonians were recaptured by a patrol boat at 0700 in the northern Moonsund. Five of our own submarines were in the operational area. Special incidents were not reported. Convoys, troops and special transports sailed according to plan. For particulars see "Daily Report."

One hundred and forty-six tons and 146 vehicles were transferred to Riga and 1330 tons and 42 guns to Reval on 26 Aug. for Army Group North.

IV. Submarine Warfare:

No special reports were received from submarine bases in western France. It must be resumed that the Channel boats, submarines "214",

27 Aug. 1944

and "333", "984" and "385" were lost. As no essential facts were received from the remaining seven boats according to dead reckoning in the Channel and as the position is unclear in the Seine Bay the last boats, Submarine U "275", "92" and "989" remaining in that area received orders to return. Further operations were not planned for the Channel.

Submarine U "667" did not enter port. The boat was most probably lost by mine or plane off La Pallice after a successful operation in the British Channel. The sea area off the Biscay ports cannot be controlled more owing to missing combat possibilities against enemy fighter groups as well as on account of danger from mines and air. Commanding Admiral Submarines took over command of all Biscay submarines at 0030.

New operational areas were assigned to four submarines in Northern Waters.

In the Black Sea Group South ordered submarines at sea to stay with boats in operational area till combat force is exhausted and after they should be blown up off the Turkish coast, should the situation in Bulgaria render a leadership of submarines by Group South as impossible.

No special new reports were received from the Atlantic, from the Indian Ocean or from the Finnish Bay.

#### V. Aerial Warfare:

##### West Area:

From Belgium/Northern France it was reported that about 900 enemy planes entered and attacked the defense area in depth in the area of the Sonme.

Stronger fighter formations were active in Western France in the total area and carried out attacks especially in the Seine section. About 250 enemy planes attacked in the southern French Area gun positions and bridges. There was not much enemy air activity in the Western area on the night of the 27th. No raids were reported.

##### Reich Territory:

Weaker enemy formations attacked a few places in the area of Luxemburg, Saarbruecken and Metz respectively traffic installations and air bases in the area St. Vith, Idar-Oberstein, Saarbruecken as well as in Metz-Diedenhofen.

27 Aug. 1944

About the incursions carried out in the area of Kiel during noon hours was reported.

Several hundred enemy planes entered the Upper Silesia industrial area from the south and raided Blechhammer, Haydebreck, Oderthal and one air base.

Three hundred to 350 enemy planes attacked the Rhine-Westphalia industrial area and attacked among others Moers, Rheinhausen, Essen and Duisburg. Fighter incursions were reported from the area of Salzwedel, Rostock, Bremen, Wilhelmshafen and Wesermuende.

About 50 Mosquito planes attacked Mannheim and Ludwigshafen on the night of the 27th.

Mediterranean Theater:

About 400 to 500 four-engined enemy planes protected by fighters entered the Romanian area from the south and attacked our army posts near Ploesti and Otopeni. Seventeen Bulgarian fighters shot down one of the attackers. The anti-aircraft artillery reported shooting down five four-engined enemy planes. Six hundred and thirty more enemy planes mostly fighter bombers and fighters attacked traffic targets in the Monfalcone/Trient area as well as on the total front area. One hundred and ninety twin-engined enemy planes were operating on the front section of the Southern French Area. Of these two were shot down by anti-aircraft artillery.

Fifteen of our own bombers attacked Romanian field positions near Arad. Fifty-five planes were reported supplying partisans in the Balkan area on the night of the 26th. of which 20 came from Russia.

Other enemy operations corresponded with the usual number.

Eastern Front:

Nine hundred and eighty own and 4105 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front on the 26th in which we lost eight planes and shot down 84 enemy planes.

With little effect five twin-engined enemy planes and two fighter planes coming from Russia attacked the town area and air base Ungvar on the 27th.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea:

1. Area Naval Group West:

27 Aug. 1944

a. Enemy Invasion in Southern France:

The last report was received from Marseille at 0800 on the 26th.

From evening reports of Army Group G dated 25th, Naval Group West reports:

The marching unit Port Vendres (Navy) forced its way through near Perpignan. Four hundred men were attached to the IV. Air Force Field Corps near Bagnos. The remaining 800 men could not make contact by marching and will be retrieved.

b. Gibraltar:

Special reports were not received.

2. Area German Naval Command Italy:

a. Enemy Situation:

Strong cruiser or destroyer patrols were observed off Cap Ferrat on the afternoon of the 26th. Presumably destroyers or cruisers were detected in the area southerly of Nice and Cap Antibes on the night of the 26th. Four ships were detected by radar equipment 75 miles southerly of Nice on the night of the 26th., 30 ships 22 miles SSE of Toulon and five more ships 44 miles SSE of Toulon.

Radar located four groups of enemy boats off the coast near Tino on NW course and 5 miles WSW of Sestri Levante, near Cap Noli and off Nice.

b. Own Situation:

Escort and patrol duties were carried out according to plan. Two torpedo boats carried out reconnaissance thrust southerly of Genoa outside of the minefields and three minesweepers and six armed fishing vessels off Nice. Special incidents were not reported.

Strong enemy air activity was reported from the Bay of Genoa. Our naval landing craft convoy, two submarine chasers and one war freighter were attacked with bombs and rockets. The war freighter was damaged by two direct rocket hits, one submarine chaser was damaged by ramming war freighter.

27 Aug. 1944

Single bombs were dropped on Nice on the night of the 26th. Imperia and Monaco were attacked by fighter bombers at forenoon. No special damage was caused.

3. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

Reich Security Head Office transmits reports of a German advocate well presented at the Swiss Embassy according to which an Allied landing will take place in the next days in the area of Triest as indicated by Swiss "Ambassador".

A convoy of five freighters and two destroyers was observed south-easterly of Bari on north-west course and with high speed at 0800.

Patrolling up and down the coast six destroyers, were sighted during noon hours in the area of Fano-Pesaro six miles off shore.

From the sea, base Pupnat and Postrana on Corcula were shelled from 0650 to 1400. In addition Pupnat was attacked by three to eight fighter bombers. The shelling was later discovered to be artillery fire from the enemy battery situated on the western point of Peljesac. According to army reports five large ships were approaching the western coast of Peljesac at 1426 coming from Lissa. Four destroyers, four landing craft and three PT boats were sighted at 1430 from Corcula. At 1550 near Cap Loviste the formation turned off to the west.

Mining operation "Nerz" was carried out by the mine carrier KIEBITZ and two submarine chasers according to plan on the night of the 25th.

The KIEBITZ and two torpedo boats sailed again from Venice on the evening of the 27th to carry out mining task.

The Steamer ADDIS ABBEBA sank southeasterly of Caorle after detonation presumably caused by striking our own minefield early on the 25th.

b. Aegean:

After short engagement a British PT boat was overpowered in Porto Cattolico on Sisiha at 0850 on the 26th and towed to Maltezana according to island commander Stampalia. Two British officers and 16 men were taken prisoner.

Motor minesweeper R "38" sank near Paros presumably after hitting a ground mine.

27 Aug. 1944

Three partisan sailing vessels were destroyed on Stippon in operation against partisans along the western coast of Greece. Thirteen were dragged off. Owing to stormy weather nine of these sank.

Group South issued instructions to Commanding Admiral Aegean to make preparations for a sudden occupation of the Bulgarian steamers BURGAS and ZAR FERDINAND and to install German crews; preparations should be made as far as possible without attracting attention.

c. Black Sea:

No special reports were received from the Western Black Sea.

Rear Admiral (Engineer) Zieb on board of submarine chaser "110" reported by teletype at 1527: Forced a way through near Cernavoda with about 60 naval and army vessels. Ship losses cannot be foreseen yet. Casualties were small. Position 15 km southerly of Silistria position probably at 2000 Russe-Giurgiu. Relevant questions will be decided by Inspector Minesweeping Service Danube, if wounded, women and children should disembark in Russe and if all vessels will proceed further.

According to a further teletype from Rear Admiral Zieb at 1832 the formation was stopped by Romanian heavy battery 71 km below Giurgiu. It is said that a 30 km long and heavy bunker line existed there. Passage will only be possible with very slow speed owing to the little water depth and as ammunition is barely sufficient. Rear Admiral Zieb is trying to receive through truce officers permission for a free passage to Giurgiu for wounded women and children.

Group South instructed the Naval Staff by copy about directives of the Commanding Admiral Black Sea from 2315 according to which Sea-Danube to Galatz is occupied by the Russians. Further above it must be expected that passage will be prevented by Romanians. The main resistance must be expected at the bridge Cernavoda which is strongly occupied. The 1st Coastal Speed Boat Flotilla after subduing the Cernavoda bridge and town quickened the further advance. Germans evacuated Orsowa. The cataract tract is in Romanian hands. As a protection to convoy the Inspector of Minesweeping Service Danube employed nine naval landing craft and four artillery carriers above Russe. The forcing of Seedonau with motor minesweepers and war freighter submarine chasers seems to be absolutely possible and therefore should be attempted."

According to a report from Inspector Minesweeping Service Danube from 1250 the position is outlined as follows:

27 Aug. 1944

"As Orsowa was evacuated by Germans and the complete Romanian and partly Serbian cataract line was not yet re-captured by the Army it will be tried to bring through the total transport from the lower Danube to the Serbian frontier above the Timok mouth. Armed ships must leave Russe on the evening of 27 Aug. For the present nine naval landing craft and four artillery carriers will be employed as intercepting posts to protect convoys above Giurgiu-Russe. Commanding Admiral Dockyard Control Staff will also try to pass with wounded, women and children through Russe with 20 ships of the Naval Fitting-out and Repair Works.

---

VII. Situation East Asia:

No special reports were received.

---

28 Aug. 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

Items of Political Importance.

According to "OBSERVER" the Polish Government in London approved of the plan of Polish/Russian agreement which intends to amalgamate the Polish Government with the Soviet Poles.

---

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1115:

I. According to information received from the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command dated 27th - 1805 the Armed Forces High Command decided to inquire from the Commander in Chief West on the 26th if harbor installations Bordeaux should be destroyed in spite of effective blocking:

"With all means the harbor installations of Bordeaux should be destroyed. A blocking alone is not sufficient."

According to Group West this order arrived first after the departure of the Port Command. At present it is not known to the Group why destructions were not carried out respectively why the Port Command withdrew before a decision arrived from the Armed Forces High Command. It might be possible that this situation was caused through an order issued by the LXIV Army Corps demanding a harbor destruction "conformable to reason" but in which way and manner it should be completed was the Navy's concern.

Group West ordered Commanding Admiral Defenses Atlantic to retrieve at least by assault detachment the blowing-up of submarine bunkers and locks.

II. Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament:

Along the Atlantic and Channel coast were each five Spinnen batteries (Spider-batteries?) with torpedoes ready for action and twelve along the Southern French Coast. Ninety torpedoes were lost by the 17 batteries out of action along the Atlantic and Southern French coast. Fifty-three further torpedoes were ready and 27 nearly completed. It was planned to leave five batteries with each four torpedoes at the Atlantic coast and to mount nine batteries with four torpedoes along the Jutlandic coast.

III. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff, Organization and Mobilization Branch:

The Quartermaster General, Naval Staff, Organization and Mobilization Branch reports about proposal from the Armed Forces High

28 Aug. 1944

Command concerning creation of an Armed Forces War Ministry as an intermediate establishment between parts of the Armed Forces and Reich Minister for Armament and War Production.

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division and Chief, Bureau of Naval Administration support rejection.

Commander in Chief, Navy agreed.

IV. After the report from the Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament about the present distribution of Dackel and Spinne torpedoes the Commander in Chief Navy decided that new arrivals of torpedoes of this kind should not be forwarded more as far as they were not already despatched. Till now Group West received all these torpedoes. Group West should be asked to state how they intend to carry out future operations.

The Commander in Chief Navy also agreed to proposal of Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament to await relevant inquiry concerning the bringing-up of Ingolin torpedoes for the Japanese.

The Commander in Chief Navy decided that the bringing-up and delivery of supplies to the armament section in the Greek as well as in the Romanian area should not be made any more.

V. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

According to a report from the Armed Forces Operations Staff Department Foreign Countries, the Romanian desertion had a very bad influence on the frame of mind of the Finnish population especially in the country. War weariness is strongly growing.

The triple committee returned to Helsinki from Moscow with the Russian terms according to a report from the Foreign Office.

A strongly growing internal tension was reported from Salvonia. Troops were partly going over to the partisans.

Conference restricted to a limited circle:

VI. Army Situation:

Western Front:

Our own withdrawal movement crossing the river was carried out between Paris and the Seine mouth according to plan under strong enemy pressure. At different places the enemy was able to establish bridgeheads across the Seine.

28 Aug. 1944

Fighting to still continued in several points of resistance at Paris.

With strong forces the enemy broke through our defenses between Marne and Seine and arrived with tank spearheads at La Fertée and Montmi-rail. The 1st Army intends to intercept this thrust on the Marne at Petit Morin and near Sezanne.

Our forces launched an attack near Troyes and planned to recapture the eastern bank of the Seine.

A revolt was suppressed in Lyon.

The charge of the XX American Army Corps against Reims intercepted by radio monitoring indicated that the American Army Group will at present turn to the northeast with 3 Army Corps'. It must be awaited if the thrust of the XII. American Army Corps easterly of Troyes is only planned as a screening operation or if it is the start of a new thrust in direction to Metz.

#### Italian Front:

Our own forces were fighting their way through to the west along the French frontier. The withdrawal of the rear troops to the Var - section was carried out without being noticed by the enemy.

Owing to serious resistance by terrorists the troops advancing to the west to solidificate the main line of resistance still in construction, were only proceeding slowly. Especially the territory between the main pass roads was strongly occupied by terrorists.

Enemy preparations of an attack were continued on the southern front in the area of Florence. Rear troops were withdrawing in the face of enemy attacks along the Adriatic coast. The enemy was everywhere repulsed before reaching the new main line of resistance. Movements indicate a re-grouping by the enemy to continue heavy attacks.

#### Eastern Front:

##### Army Group Southern Ukraine:

The remnants of the 6th Army received order to fight their way back from the area of Husi to the Carpathian Mountains.

The German forces stationed westerly of Galatz should withdraw to the southeastern Carpathian Mountains and should block the border of the Carpathian Mountains from Floesti to the western Foksani.

28 Aug. 1944

On a broad front the Russians broke through the straits between Galatz and Carpathian Mountains and reached with advanced guard Buzau. Enemy pressure increased against the Carpathian Mountain passes along the frontier of Transylvania. The enemy established successes.

Army Group Northern Ukraine:

For the first time after a long period no combat activity was reported between the Carpathian Mountains and Vistula.

Our own attack in the Lysa Gora was answered by the Russians with strong counter attacks. Our troops were engaged in heavy defense fighting. Only at single places we were still able to occupy ground.

Army Group Centre:

The attacks between Warsaw and Bug were weaker as on the previous days. There every success was denied to the Russians. The attacks yesterday were without doubt concentrated on the area easterly of Scharfen Wiese at the cavalry corps. Due to the illustrious gallantry of our troops the enemy, far superior in numbers, was unable to break through.

Army Group North:

In co-operation with formations of Army Group Centre we were able to occupy further territory westerly of Mitau.

The enemy continued his attacks northerly of the Dvina, supported by tanks and ground attacking planes and was able to occupy territory against our weakened own infantry forces.

Army Formation Narva

Own attacks were unsuccessful northwesterly of Dorpat owing to strong enemy air superiority. In return we were able to throw the enemy back a few kilometers northeasterly of Dorpat.

VII. Concerning Bulgaria the Chief, Armed Forces High Command transmitted among others the following orders from the Fuehrer to the Commander in Chief Southeast:

"1. In the next days it is of consequence in Bulgaria to win time for the preparation of counter-measures. To establish this, obligingness might be displayed in small questions but not in questions based on certain principles. For instance the fictitious disarming of isolated German groups from the Dobrudza might be a accepted but

28 Aug. 1944

only under the preliminary condition that the disarming is carried out in an honourable way. Officers and men allowed to keep their weapons carried at the belt and that the remaining weapons were going along separately from troops, guarded but returned to them when crossing the frontier.

The request about the withdrawal of German forces needs thorough examination. An internment is absolutely out of question. Such attempts should be resisted up to the last man and to the last cartridge. To establish this it is necessary to concentrate all forces and use warlike protected accommodations for all forces. The applied concentrations might be explained to the Bulgarians if such be the case as the first sign of a planned withdrawal of forces.

2. As counter-measures should be accomplished:

a. by Commander in Chief Southeast:

Place at disposal urgently the 1st Mountaineer Division around Nisch and the 4th SS Police Tank Grenadier Division around Skolpje. To accomplish this, cancel as far as necessary present operation Zervas and as far as the military coercive measures were not possible with the remaining forces, screen and delude by negotiations.

Concentrate the motorized parts of the division ahead so that Sofia might be reached on the main roads in the quickest possible way should the necessity arise.

b. By the Chief of the German Military Mission:

Concentrate and place at disposal all available forces so that

1. a friendly disposition to our case is quickly supported in Bulgaria,
2. an unfavorable development could be effectively encroached,
3. important German interests and maintenance goods could be protected respectively retransferred.

3. As far as possible through the method "for special use", employed parts of the Division Brandenburg should be strengthened and the Special Command of the Inspector General of Tank Troops will be placed after arrival under the command of the Chief of the Military Mission. As far as possible screened readiness in the area of Sofia intended. The officer commanding operation will be responsible to the Chief of the Military Mission according to received instructions from the Inspector General of Tank Forces.

28 Aug. 1944

4. Commander in Chief Southeast and Chief of the German Military Mission will report intentions and date."

Teletype was transmitted to Naval Group South.

VIII. Obviously Sea/Danube is now Russian area. Therefore operations of our naval forces there would not be franglet with meaning. The question is if a battering-through to the west is still possible respectively how the reported plans mentioned in No. VII and concerning the holding of our own position in the Bulgarian area should be valued.

The Chief of the Naval Staff clarified this question with the Commander in Chief Naval Group South by telephone.

According to telephone conversation the Naval Staff, Operations Division confirmed by teletype as follows:

"1. Present existing orders for the Naval forces of the Commanding Admiral Black Sea. Supporting of our crossing movements at Sea/Danube were abundant as no own movements existed more.

2. A further aim of the operating naval forces on the Danube was to reach the middle Danube for operations protecting our river shipping which cannot be accomplished now on account of further strengthening of the enemy in the Dobrudscha and his advance against the stream by which the possibility of refuelling is impaired.

3. Therefore only thrusts should be made by the naval forces to Sea/Danube to harass Russian movements.

4. In these it should be strived for to return to Bulgarian harbors (fuel) to carry out further operations from there against the Russians. Face to face with Bulgarians the intentions of a transfer of the forces on the Danube should be observed. Return should be based on sea damage etc.

5. Above this, developments in Bulgaria indicate a possible evacuation of the sea-area Varna.

6. Try to strive for contacting group Grattenauer and Steinbach with aim of crossing frontier for the purpose of strengthening own forces in Bulgaria."

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

28 Aug. 1944

a. The Fleet Command stated the motives of proposal for a short transfer of the "Admiral Scheer" and "Emden" to Oslo respectively Horten (compare with War Diary 26 Aug.) as follows:

- "1. With regard to the increasing aerial danger in the Baltic it is desired to loosen up the bases and training areas.
2. Combined training is necessary with the airforce.
3. The ships will get accustomed to an area which might be in question as an operational base if the need should arise.
4. The organization of the base will again be trained.
5. Change of location takes into consideration a possible development of situation in which also a blocking of the entrances to the Baltic Sea might be expected as well as elimination of the Keil canal. When transfer is carried out it must be accepted:
  - a. that not a fully sufficient anti-aircraft artillery protection is available especially in Horten,
  - b. the consumption of more fuel on account of using own machinery."

To the demand of the Naval Staff, Operations Division the Naval Command Norway takes the following attitude on 24 Aug.:

- "1. Berths protected by nets were available at Oslo, Horten and in the Mulviken Bay. Three more unprotected berths were in the area of the southern Oslofjord.
2. Anti-aircraft artillery protection is not sufficient at Oslo and not available in other places. No smoke screens available, therefore it is proposed if transfer should be carried out to change frequently berths and also use the anchorages south westerly in the neighbouring fjordes.
3. Attention is drawn to the encouragement of air raids and mining by a heavier quartering of the Oslo Fjord with cruisers, destroyers, submarines and consequences to the supply traffic to Norway."

Naval Command East reported on the 26th of Aug:

"Agree if military situation should not change till then especially in the Eastern Baltic."

28 Aug. 1944

Naval Staff, Operations Division proposed to agree on certain principles to the present withdrawal of both ships from the Baltic area but believed it advisable at present only to transfer a cruiser owing to insufficient local anti-aircraft artillery but on account of better possibilities of camouflage advised the transfer of the EMDEN as the presence of both ships at the same time in the Oslo Fjord might cause unwelcomed reactions by the enemy.

Commander in Chief, Navy agreed and remarked that the dispatching of the Scheer to the Danish area and if the need should arise to Copenhagen should be considered and draws attention to the benefit in political relationship which would also result from this. A later removal to Oslo to release the EMDEN would then be possible.

Relevant orders will be issued to the Fleet and by copy to the Naval Command East and Naval Command Norway. A renewed application from the Fleet dated 28th. to transfer the SCHEER to Oslo and the EMDEN to Horten after completing the mounting of new anti-aircraft artillery on both units, will be decided by this.

b. From the position-survey of the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters on the evening of the 27th.:

"1. Romania: No clear situation as reports partly contradict themselves. Situation apparently aggravated. German troops were surrounded near Bukarest and Ploesti by Romanians. New own forces were brought up.

2. Hungary: Attitude unchanged. The government offered again to detail Hungarian troops also to Romanish Transylvania. Requirements were underway.

3. Bulgaria: Situation unchanged. The Fuehrer hopes to draw parts of the Bulgarian Army over to the German case. One German division each is brought up from the Greek and Servian area. The Commander in Chief Southeast received orders to prepare a further loosening up in Greece.

Special Items:

I. In connection with the question of strengthening the defenses of the German North Sea Coast the Operations Staff of the Armed Forces High Command issued the following directives:

"With regard to the ordered recruiting of 25 public grenadier divisions on a short notice, the relevant application of the Chief, Bureau of

28 Aug. 1944

Army Armament and order from the Commander of the Replacement Army concerning transfer of training and reserve units in the area of the Deputy General Command X to the coastal areas is cancelled. But through preparing-measures the possibility should be guaranteed to transfer these forces on short notice to the areas under consideration.

II. Concerns Balkan Situation:

a. Group South reported at 1720:

"1. Battle-group Varna under the command of Admiral Brinkmann was transferred to Sofia by the German Military Mission Bulgaria.

2. Supplementary the Group ordered:

a. Vessels not fit for operations should be sunk in open sea and crews evacuated. Light weapons of vessels should be taken along at all costs.

b. As soon as weather permits, combat ready vessels should be employed according to existing order but should not leave if possible the last evacuating detachment Varna before sailing."

b. Group South reported at 2330:

"1. Billeting of Sofia at present 77 officers and civil servants, 639 non-commissioned officers and men allotted to 3 combat bases:

a. Operations Staff

b. O- Quartermaster Staff

c. Naval Communication Officer and Motor Park Company.

Further alarm company in strength of one officer, 130 non-commissioned officers and men. Armament three anti-aircraft artillery cars 2 cm with 3750 shells, two 7.5 cm anti-tank guns with 600 shells, two mortars with 200 shells, five machine gun cars with twin-mountings, 40 machine guns with a total of 75,000 cartridges of rifle and machine gun ammunition. Further 15 naval pioneer officers, civil servants, car drivers were armed with pistols, all other soldiers were armed with rifles or carbine. For a complete equipment it is at least necessary to arm all pistol carriers with rifles. Short about 200 rifles.

2. Combat group on its way from Varna to Sofia about 1,100 men in strength in main navy of which about 80% were functionaries.

28 Aug. 1944

Armament four cm each with 1000 shells, 47 machine guns, remaining soldiers were equipped with rifles singles with armor-piercing heads. For each soldier were available two hand respectively rifle grenades. Entrenching tools were only available in a smaller degree to soldiers of No. 1 and 2 as well as field equipment were only partly at hand.

3. About 4,500 members of the navy were on the way from the east to Sofia in four express transports who arrived in Bulgaria from Romania via land route and across the sea or by air respectively transports. It is planned to proceed directly to Belgrad according to conference with Chief of German Military Mission. If (no)(Tr.n. obviously missing in text) Bulgarian express cars were available march to Belgrade by foot would have to be carried out presumable.

4. It is planned to use battle group Varna for strengthening operation in Sofia."

### III. Concerns Situation in the Baltic:

a. The 9th Coastal Patrol Force received orders on 18 Aug. from Naval Command East to destroy the wreck of submarine U "250" (secret material and equipment on board) before Russian diver work would be successful.

The Naval Staff, Operations Division ordered the 9th Coastal Patrol Force and by copy the Naval Command East and Admiral Eastern Baltic at once to report operational plans as the completing of operation is urgent.

To this the Naval Command East passed directives to Admiral Eastern Baltic to instigate at once the operation with PT boats delayed till now by suspected mines. The Naval Command East does not believe mines planted by the enemy in the closer surroundings of wreck as present news indicates salvage intentions (marking by buoy).

b. By copy the Naval Command East instructed the Naval Staff, Operations Division of directives to the Chief of the 1st Landing Division respectively request to 416th Infantry Division concerning manoeuvres for operation "TANNE" in Smaaland waters on the 4th to 9th of Sept.

IV. Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff issued the following decree on the 25th:

"All offices between the Italian frontier and southern French invasion bridgehead and up to now under the command of Naval Group West according to situation were placed for the present under the command of Naval Command Italy. The Naval Command Italy will issue relevant instructions to the offices."

28 Aug. 1944

Situation on 28 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

Forty-four planes in action were detected by 19th Group. One British vessel was detected at 1930 in AL 8777. Large concentration of ships were sighted at 1600 about twelve miles west southwesterly of Cap De La Heve.

Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

Four mines were swept off La Pallice and one mine northwesterly of Ile de Re. One submarine was escorted outward bound from La Pallice.

According to report from the commander of the 8th Destroyer Flotilla the following men were rescued from destroyer Z "24":

Commander of Flotilla, Commandant, twelve officers, one midshipman (Engineer), 14 petty officers, 309 non commissioned officers and men;

from torpedo boat T "24":

Commandant, two officers, one midshipman, five petty officers, 165 non-commissioned officers and men.

The supply steamer BROESEN and FRISIA sailed at 0130 from Royan for Pasajes.

Land Situation:

Battery "Graf Spee" near Brest was shelled by large ships from sea on the 27th. but turned off under a smoke screen when fired upon.

Battery and defense positions of the fortress were heavily shelled by enemy artillery and several guns were put out of action. Battery "Graf Spee" was shelled at about 1915 from land.

In addition enemy planes attacked continuously battery positions, town and roadstead.

No special reports were received from other areas of the fortress.

28 Aug. 1944

Sea Area Channel:

Owing to poor visibility no PT boat flotillas were in action on the night of the 27th. Four vessels of the 6th PT boat Flotilla transferred from Osten to Rotterdam and three vessels of the 4th PT boat Flotilla from Wesermuende to Ymuiden. Fighter bomber attacks were reported on the same night against vessels of the 36th Minesweeper Flotilla off Ostende and vessels of the 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla off Calais. The leading boat of group D of the 36th Minesweeper Flotilla was badly damaged by a bomb, other damages and casualties were small. The 4th Minesweeper Flotilla on route from Calais to Dunkirk was continuously attacked by fighter bombers. Damages and casualties were not yet reported. Seven boats of the 14th Minesweeper Flotilla transferred from Le Havre to Fecamp after mining the harbor entrances of Le Havre together with two submarine chasers on the night of the 27th. The formation was attacked northeasterly of Cap Antifer by an enemy cruiser, three or four destroyers and six motor gun boats. Motor Minesweeper R "231" received a direct hit in the first salvo and was unable to manoeuvre. Submarine chaser "1433" sank after receiving several hits. Hits were scored on a larger enemy vessel, which turned off under the protection of a smoke screen. Shore batteries participated in engagement. One file of minesweepers which towed submarine chaser "1431" to Fecamp left port again and returned with motor minesweeper R "231" in tow. During this action contact was made again with a mixed enemy formation; three torpedoes of these exploded on the breakwaters of Fecamp.

According to a report from the Admiral Channel coast all vessels and outer beacons were destroyed at Trouville and Honfleur before the withdrawal of the main resistance centre.

Through the personal activity of the Port Command at Rouen we were able to refit during continuous enemy air attacks two new ferries with which the remainder of the accumulated army vehicles were ferried across the Seine, especially Tiger-tanks and 8.8 cm guns. Demolition of harbor and shipyard is continued. The Normandy shipyard was completely destroyed including new constructions and cranes.

The planned break-through of harbor defense boats from St. Helier to Cécembre was prevented on the night of the 27th. by enemy PT boats. The attempt will be repeated. Prospect of successes were small owing to the presence of moon, destroyer patrols and limited speed of own vessels.

28 Aug. 1944

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

1. North Sea:

A fighter bomber attack against patrol boat positions west-erly of Sylt was warded off at 0926. One mine was swept in the outer Elbe. Coastal mine type "A" minefield I and I a was layed off Borkum with a total of 362 coastal mines type "A". Mine exploding vessel "815" hit a mine off Terschelling and was towed to Den Helder.

Norway/Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Twenty-four planes in action were detected by 18th Group.

Own Situation:

Eighteen ships were escorted to the north and 32 ships to the south.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Three minesweeper divisions and 25 naval vessels were detected in the Finnish Bay on the 27th.

Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Two mines were swept in the Samsøe passage. Besides these no special incidents.

Western and Central Baltic:

Strengthened forces were employed with minesweeping duties in the Bay of Kiel and Danzig. Eight mines were swept in the Bay of Kiel, one mine each was swept in the Stettin Haff and northerly of Pillau. Three mines were found on shore at Mehlsdorf southerly of the Kiel canal.

About 15 enemy planes from the east entered the coastal area between

28 Aug. 1944

Memel and Libau at forenoon. Six Boston planes attacked without effect the 25th Submarine Flotilla Training Formation off Libau at 1600 with torpedoes, bombs and gunfire. One plane was shot down by training formation and three planes were brought down by our fighter protection.

Alarm was ordered in Riga on the suspicion of communistic revolt planned for the night of the 27th.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

WS "36" was damaged in an enemy air raid directed against the breakwater of Aseri.

The 1st Minesweeper Flotilla left Loksa to clear the area for barrage "Seeigel X b."

Artillery ferry barge AF "35" hit a mine westerly of Kiuskeri while escorting a deceptive convoy. Later the boat capsized. Four Finnish PT boats were dispatched to assist. Artillery ferry barge AF "50" was beached northerly of Pukkio after hitting a mine. One hundred and fifty-two coastal mines type "A" were planted westerly of Valaste.

Twelve hundred and fifty-five tons of supplies were transferred to Reval on the 27th. for Army Group North. The commander of the 4th Artillery Flotilla with six officers, staff and base company as well as crews of vessels not ready for action were employed at Lake Peipus to defend Dorpat. To a greater extent the formation was destroyed. No news was received from the commander of flotilla. ZPK "2"\* was presumable shot afire on Embach and lost. Naval artillery barge MAL "18" and "24" transferred to Ramna Pungerja, naval artillery barge MAL "14", "23", ZPK "3" and three patrol boats transferred to Mustve. Convoy, troop and sea transports were carried through without incidents. For particulars see "Daily Report".

---

IV. Submarine Warfare:

According to a report from the 1st Submarine Flotilla, Submarine Escort service was only possible with midget boats owing to fighter bomber interference. Besides this no special reports were received from the Atlantic or from the western boats.

Six boats will sail from Hammerfest on the 28th and 29th via AC 51 to AC 69 to form group Dachs. In the Black Sea submarine U "23" proceeded

28 Aug. 1944

on the 27th and 28th up to a distance of 800 meters off the harbor entrance of Sevastopol and found the harbor empty.

Submarine U "20" occupied new operational area easterly of Sulina. Submarine U "19" is on a position easterly of the Danube delta and submarine U "23" easterly of Constanta. Should the command of leadership of Black Sea Submarines be excluded from the Commanding Admiral Black Sea or Group South through development of situation, command will be taken over by Commanding Admiral Submarines. The Commanding Admiral Submarines ordered as long as situation in Bulgaria allowed in any way, the destruction of Submarines off the Bulgarian coast after consuming fighting strength and crews should try to force way through to contact German troops.

---

V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Strong enemy formations attacked maintenance of rail communication and other targets in the area of Arras, Lille, Namur, Cherleroi and Huy as well as air bases, zone of defenses in depth and other targets in the area of Amiens, St. Omer, Rimeux and Hestin. Two hundred and fifty enemy planes entered the Southern French area from the south and attacked gun positions and roads. Twenty-five enemy planes were reported from Belgium on the night of the 28th without attacking.

No report was received from the western area concerning our own operations during day light.

One hundred and sixteen of our own planes raided Melin with observed effect on the night of the 28th.

Reich Territory:

Several fighter bomber formations in a total strength of 300 planes attacked trains and maintenance of rail communication with bombs and gunfire in the area of Bocholt, Mainz and Strassburg.

Industrial plants were attacked by a strong formation of four-engined enemy bombers with fighter protection entering the area of Komorn-Budapest respectively Vienna in two groups from the area of Foggia. A formation of 300 four-engined enemy bombers protected by fighters entered the area of Debrecen-Miskolc and raided marshalling yards.

28 Aug. 1944

Forty to 50 Mosquito planes attacked four towns in the Rhine-Westfalian industrial area on the night of the 28th.

Twelve single planes flew incursions against Cologne and Leverkusen.

Mediterranean Theatre:

Enemy air activity concentrated in the Italian area on maintenance of rail communications and bridges in the area of Mailand-Rimini. In total about 1150 bombers were operating in these sorties of which 250 were four-engined planes. Other operations do not deserve special interest.

Our reconnaissance detected 34 ships with radar equipment on the evening and night hours of the 28th in the sea area off the Southern French respectively Southern Italian coast.

Eastern Area:

Six hundred and ninety-four own and 2420 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front on the 27th. Twelve of our planes were lost, 50 enemy planes were shot down.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea:

1. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Fifty ships were detected about 50 miles southerly of Toulon on the night of the 27th and one cruiser 16 miles southerly of Toulon on northerly course. Nine ship targets probable disposed patrols were placed southerly of Tropez to southeasterly of Nice. During daylight hours of the 28th. the invasion bridgehead was protected by cruisers and destroyers. Again several group of boats consisting of destroyers and gun boats were detected off the Riviera coast on night patrol.

At the western coast of Sardinia 20 smaller ships, one submarine and 5 larger ships were at anchor in the Pecora Bay.

The presence of six cruisers, seven destroyers, five escorting vessels, 23 smaller naval vessels, two passenger boats and 30 freighters in Naples were established by photograph at 0128.

28 Aug. 1944

Stirring reconnaissance and fighter bomber activity was carried out by the enemy in the Genoa Bay on the night of the 27th. Our convoys were all detected. One convoy was four times attacked without effect. Two of our battle barges were attacked presumable by PT boats with torpedoes which missed when protecting the coast between San Remo and Imperia. The ferries were damaged in a fighter bomber attack after arrival in Imperia.

Own Situation:

War freighter KT "26" shot down one plane off Rapallo on the night of the 26th. The store-house of the torpedo command near Savona was destroyed in a fighter bomber attack at noon on the 27th. One tug was sunk in an attack against the same harbor in the evening, a hit was scored additionally on the Mining and Barrage Command. Beacon Cap Ferrat was blasted on the evening of the 27th.

All assault boats returned from operations on the night of the 26th. One hit each was scored on a unrecognized smaller vessel respectively gun-boat or patrol boat. One smaller vessel presumable a patrol boat was destroyed. Operations of eight - two men assault boats on the night of the 27th off the invasion bridgehead were also ineffective. Four Italian vessels were bombarded with star shells and 2 cm by destroyers without effect.

Convoy and escort duties were carried out according to plan on the night of the 27th.

Concerning operational possibilities of Small Battle Units the German Naval Command Italy reported that the main discharging place of the enemies invasion army was situated between St. Tropez and Marseille which is out of range of Special Battle Units. Convoy traffic between Corsica and main discharging places is heavily protected easterly of the line Cagnes - Calvi. Operations of assault boats in moonlit nights seems to promise success.

Marder operations were at present poor in prospect according to sentence pronounced by naval reserve company Haun.

2. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

Two destroyers and four probable PT boats were sighted by air reconnaissance northeasterly of Pescara during forenoon. Two destroyers were steering a north-westerly course twelve miles off

28 Aug. 1944

Senegallia outside of the minefields. Presumable three LCT were sighted northwesterly of Pescara steering north northwesterly course. Ships in the harbors Civitanova, San Giorghio, Pescara and Ortona were not recognized. Three smaller freighters and two patrol boats were at anchor in Ankona roads.

The enemy formation, reported off Peljesac on the afternoon of the 27th disappeared to the west.

Two of our PT boats were chased near the eastern corner of Hvar by several gun-boats and destroyers on the night of the 27th. After an unsuccessful breakthrough attempt the boats had to return again to Split. Three of our own PT boats sighted further groups of two to three motor gun boats in the same night several of times in the Mljet-canal. But no contact was made.

The Minecarrier KIEBITZ and two torpedo boats completed mining tasks "Cattlica" on the night of the 27th. Two MAS vessels were placed as advanced guard. The formation was attacked four times by planes without effect and by bombs while carrying out operation.

Four boats of the 7th PT Boat Flotilla and one boat of the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla sailed from Split with destination Curcula on the evening of the 28th. The boat of the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla will be picked up there by three boats of the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla and transferred to Dubrovnik.

As usual enemy air activities were stirring on the 27th and 28th. Dubrovnik and PT boat base as well as island of Lopud were raided, also in a low level attack Triest and in addition sailing ships in the Bay of Capodistria. A few of the attackers were shot down.

According to report from the Reich Security Head Office based on remarks made by the Turkish Commercial Attaché in Budapest the main subject of meeting between Churchill with Subaschicht and Tito in Rome was the possibility of an invasion on the eastern coast of the Adriatic. It is said that the coast between Venice and Triest was chosen. Point of operation Grado on the Isonzo mouth. After capturing Triest the direction of the thrust will be across the Karst to Laibach with the intention of uniting with Tito. The operational army will include British-American forces but the largest part will consist of Southern Slavian troops.

b. Aegean:

The mine carrier ZEUS and DRACHE were ready for action in Saloniki to carry out the special operation in service of Army Group E.

28 Aug. 1944

The J-boat group Dodekanes (15th Landing Flotilla) and army shock troops defeated and captured a British PT boat after a short engagement near Sirina southerly of Stampalia at 0850 on the 26th. Two British officers and 16 men were taken prisoners.

c. Black Sea:

Owing to weather conditions the Commanding Admiral Black Sea stayed in Varna. All of the four PT boats which arrived in Varna were not in combat readiness but only partly ready to sail. PT boat S "28" and S "149" staying behind at Constanta were sunk. The garrison of base and crews of vessels were marching back through the Bulgarian area. Position presumable near Dobritsch. In Varna were also three artillery carriers, one naval artillery barge, 16 naval landing craft ready for action and two naval landing craft, damaged by bomb hits. Three naval landing craft ran aground when crossing. All vessels of the 2nd Coastal Patrol Flotilla were no more fit for operations owing to engine damages, damages caused by the sea and deficit of weapons. Sixteen vessels of this flotilla were lying in Varna, two other vessels sank presumable when crossing. In addition three war freighter submarine fighters were also in Varna which partly needed repairs. Extention of the 24 hour harbor relieve was ensured by the Bulgarians. The order concerning disarming of German vessels when entering Bulgarian territory was withdrawn.

No reports were received from the Chief of the Staff, Black Sea and from the Naval Shore Command Romania as well as from battery Tirpitz.

d. Danube Situation:

Sea-Danube near Galatz is occupied by Russians. Russian impediment must be expected above this town. According to British broadcast Sulina and Tulcea were occupied by vessels of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. The command of the complete Danube was handed over by Group South to the Inspector Minesweeping Service Danube who alone is in the position to create presentive measures for the river. According to the report from Inspector Minesweeping Service Danube to Group South Rear Admiral Zieb (Engineer) subdued Romanian resistance below Russe and arrived in Russe with two war freighter submarine chasers, 18 naval landing craft, one coastal escort flotilla consisting of 23 vessels, 54 pioneer vessels, hospital ship BAMBERG, two work-shop vessels and three barges. About 2,800 lightly wounded, 300 women and children and about 800 able soldiers of the army will disembarke here. After that the formation will continue it's voyage against the steam.

28 Aug. 1944

To subdue the Romanian monitor above Russe air force activity was now promised after a first of all decline owing to fuel shortage. A few vessels of the Danube-flotilla fought their way through the cataract area to Orschowa. Further vessels will follow to assist. As Orschowa was evacuated by Germans and the cataract area is not yet fully occupied by the Army, it will be tried to bring through the total transportation of the lower Danube to the Serbian frontier above the Timok-estuary.

The dropping of mines was not observed on the 27th. One minesweeping success was established near km 1105.

---

VII. Situation East Asia:

No special reports were received.

---

29 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance:

Hull declared at a press conference on 28 Aug. that the Armistice with Romania was in first line a Russian affair as Romania was inside of the Russian military sphere. Negotiations with Romania started through Russian initiative.

According to Reuter the Allied capitulation terms for Bulgaria will be handed over to the Bulgarian ambassador in a few days presumable at Cairo.

The World Security Conference of the Great Four closed at Dunbarton Oaks on 28 Aug.

---

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1120.

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

The following order was received from the Fuehrer on the night of 28 Aug. concerning constructions along the coast line of the Heligoland Bight:

"1. For the purpose of strengthening the defenses along the coastline of the Heligoland Bight I order:

a. Improve defenses along the complete coast from the Danish to the Dutch frontier including northern and eastern Frisian Islands (program A), not armed yet. Islands under consistent construction should be raised to a full defense ability.

b. Reconnaissance and preparations of all measures, to construct a second position on short notice running from the Danish frontier along the coast at a distance of about 10 km off the beach, a cutting-off position in about the course of the Danish frontier as well as further cutting-off positions in Sleswig-Holstein northerly of the Kiel canal. In addition the Commander in Chief Armed Forces Denmark is exploring and constructing further cutting-off positions situated in an east-westerly direction northerly of the German/Danish frontier.

2. Gauleiter Kaufmann will be responsible and in charge of constructions and will employ all available means and organization Todt for this purpose.

29 Aug. 1944

3. The Commander in Chief, Naval Command North will be in charge of military tasks as Commanding Admiral, Defenses North according to instructions received from Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command. The Xth Deputy General Command should be responsibly employed to complete the military tasks under this command.

Tasks:

- a. Re-check complete defense system (inclusively establishing request for materiels necessary) based on calculations for a permanent and field ready construction for forces, necessary in an all out defense and in sufficient strength.
- b. Establish operational directives for position in detail and
- c. Urgency for construction of single sections.
- d. Designate the kind of construction according to operational and technical combat experiences and available means. For this purpose the Xth Deputy General Command will set up three more enquiry-staffs beside the already existing staffs consisting of officers of all army branches. These will be sent by the army personnel office to the Xth Deputy General Command. The pioneer staffs, necessary for the constructions should be set up by the Xth Deputy General Staff. Therefore the naval fortress pioneer organization, operating for this purpose in the area of the Heligoland Bight is placed at disposal in this area and for this task. Additional personnel necessary should be demanded by the Xth Deputy General Command from the Armed Forces High Command/General Pioneers.

4. Directions for Constructions:

As especially important should be constructed: The northern and eastern Frisian Islands, the coastal section opposite Sylt (Hindenburg Dam), the peninsula of Eiderstedt, the river defense of the Elbe-Weser estuary including the coastal section from Brunsbuettel - Cuxhaven - Wesermuende to Wilhelmshaven, the Ems-estuary including Delfzijl. A second degree of importance should be attached to the complete remaining coastal area. Constructions should be carried out in that fashion that first of all a complete tank obstacle and an entrenchment position echeloned in depth is produced which should be strengthened continuously by entrenchments close-by. Special directives concerning constructions will be issued by the Armed Forces High Command/General Pioneers and Fortress.

5. All military offices and troops employed in construction

29 Aug. 1944

of position will stay under the command of the Superior Military Offices. Concerning the real labor employment they will be tied down to the instructions of the Gauleiter.

6. The seizure of civilian labor and employment will be the task of the Gauleiter. He will also be responsible for the welfare and supplying of these forces including engaged organization Todt.

7. Employment of organization Todt in connection with reconstructions. According to direct agreement between the Gauleiter and organization Todt this organization will be employed so, that they will supply the necessary building machinery and the professional supervision when performing construction. Responsible for the constructions is Gauleiter Kaufmann respectively those authorities appointed by him. To these is added always the local organization Todt office as technical formation.

8. Performance of the total providing of materiel (demand and allotment, transportation) will be settled by "Special Directives".

9. Gauleiter Kaufmann will report to me as soon as possible through the Director of the Reich Kanzlei about planned organization of constructions and required labor forces, Navy, High Command North Sea and on the 1st and 15th of each month to Operations Staff of the Armed Forces High Command concerning state of construction and improvements."

The Naval Staff; Operations Division informed the Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament, Chief, Bureau of Naval Administration, Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division and Naval Command East. Copy of decree according to 1/SKL I op 2637/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in War Diary Part C Volume II a.

---

II. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff: Based on annoying events during withdrawal movements in the last few days the Chief of the General Staff Army demanded today from the Fuehrer Armed Forces authorization for the Commander in Chiefs in his areas. The Fuehrer reserved decision for himself till consulting Commander in Chiefs of all branches of the Armed Forces and Minister Speer.

---

III. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff: Revolt in Slowacia made it necessary for German troops to march into the industrial area. Tiso agreed.

29 Aug. 1944

Special plenipotentiary Southeast (Neubacher) recommends at once resolute armed assistance for Mikailowitsch who decided to fight against Bolshevism together with Nedic to the last. Delay might cause danger that British might turn again towards Mikailowitsch as soon as they would have to occupy earnestly anti-bolschewistic positions in Europe. The moment seems to be near and political change could be proved manifold from observations in the Greek, Albanian and Serbian area.

The following report was received by Group South dated 28th - 1330 concerning situation in Bulgaria:

"Japanese ambassador Sofia called today on Commander in Chief Group South and reported:

1. He believes the German situation on the Balkan as being very serious, but especially critical is the situation in Greece.
2. The Bulgarian negotiator Moschanoff returned with Anglo-American armistice terms, which were believed here to be generous. Already in the middle of the week armistice might be agreed upon under conditions.
3. The Russian ambassador at Sofia was recalled to Moscow, and will presumably be replaced by a new ambassador who will demand more strongly the Russian viewpoint for a government in bondage with Russia than the late ambassador.
4. The Japanese ambassador received report according to which British troops were in Edirne. Not confirmed here up to now.
5. In the main corresponding interpretation with group that armistice between Bulgaria and Anglo-Americans was insignificant, if terms were not in advance agreed upon by Russia. In accordance with the reported generosity of terms it must be expected that the Russian pressure will soon increase to an ultimative demand to disarm and banish respectively intern German armed forces till a Tito government and a relevant strong partisan army is created. Separately from this the arrival of Russian troops in Bulgaria must be expected to eliminate German influence, to prevent advance from the south and by this, threatening the Russian plans of advancing through Romanian territory to the west."

---

IV. Army Situation:

29 Aug. 1944

Western Front:

The enemy is forming further bridgeheads between the Seine and Paris. Our own forces were withdrawing to the northeast from the Seine.

From Paris the enemy advanced to the north and east. Penetrations were cut off.

Easterly of Paris Americans crossed the Marne and the Petit Morin and advanced with tank spearheads westerly of Reims to Fismes and through the forests of Villers - Cotterets to Soissons. The XII American Army Corps turned sharp to the north at Troyes and attacked Chalons, protecting the flank near Vitry le Francois. Fighting took place also there with air-landing troops.

Heavy fights were going on for the possession of Brest. Parts of the 5th enemy division were located here. All attacks were repulsed with the exception of smaller penetrations.

No new reports were received from Southern France.

The 8th British Tank Division was transferred from Egypt to England. This transfer indicates the exertion to attach further divisions to the forces concentrated near London.

According to enemy broadcasting Toulon and Marseille were captured by the enemy. According to intercepted radio message still a few coastal batteries and four anti-aircraft artillery batteries were fighting in Marseille.

Italian Front:

The enemy is continuing his preparations for a large scale attack at the southern front. Again the enemy was successful after heavy fighting in forcing our front a little back at the Adriatic coast.

The possibility of an invasion between Triest and Venice was discussed by Churchill and Tito according to report from the intelligence service and the advance to the Vienna basin from here after joining Tito forces of the Slovenian area.

Balkan Front:

A loosening-up of our forces southerly of the line Corfu - Salonici was started as well as the transfer of two divisions to the area of Sofia. Tito issued orders cancelling own traffic with the southern Balkan in the area of Skoplje - Veles - Debar.

29 Aug. 1944

The Bulgarians were withdrawing their two divisions from Serbia in direction of Nisch. Through this operation they were endangering heavily the German Supply and transit traffic.

German patrols passed from Romania on to Serbian territory between Orsova and Holdova. The garrison of Orsova suffered heavier casualties. The enemy is shelling and blocking the Danube shipping from bunkers.

Eastern Front:

Army Group Southern Ukraine:

Reports were not received from the 6th Army. Based on Russian report heavy casualties must be expected. The enemy captured Buzau between Danube and Carpathian Mountains and advanced from here in direction to Ploesti and Bukarest. No reports were received from the German battle groups of this area.

A few pass roads were lost along the Transylvanian frontier westerly of Targul Ocna. Counter measures were started.

Army Group Northern Ukraine:

Heavy and dangerable engagements were continued easterly of the Lysa Gora.

According to report from an agent the enemy is bringing up 24 infantry divisions and five tank corps from the area of Kiew - Gomel to the central Polish front and disregarding other fronts he planned to force a break-through into the Reich by strongest concentrations.

Army Group Centre:

Fighting was weaker as on previous days between Warsaw and Narew. After heavy fighting penetrations were cut off south-easterly of Scharfenwiese.

All was quiet at the Eastern Russian front.

Our own attack was postponed for the time being in the Baltic States.

Army Group North:

In a limited area northerly of the Dvina and westerly of Modohn the enemy attacked with two infantry divisions and tanks. He was repulsed in the main.

29 Aug. 1944

Army Formation Narva:

The battle between Lake Wirz and Lake Peipus is continued. The enemy who is continuously receiving reinforcements was thrown back to the south near Voldi. Also northerly and north easterly of Dorpat the attacking enemy who was supported by tanks, was thrown back in a counter-thrust.

The day passed without activities on the Narva front.

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

a. According to telephone information from Chief of Operations Branch Group South at 1245, the Commanding Admiral of the Bulgarian Fleet at Varna delivered today during forenoon the official terms of his government to the Commanding Admiral Black Sea according to which all troops crossing the frontier in direction from Romania - unconcerned if by land or sea-route, will be disarmed and interned. The position is at present so that the 3rd Minesweeping Flotilla is at sea while all vessels in Varna were out of action and sunk this morning at sea.

The re-forming of the government is expected for today, in which exclusively left radical elements will come into power.

Chief of Operations Branch Naval Group South confirmed, that under no conditions will the Commanding Admiral Black Sea agree to internment plans but will resist by the force of arms.

The Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters was informed by telephone at 1250.

Under these conditions the issued directives to Group South concerning operations of the 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla were out of power.

The Commander in Chief Navy decided, that the Group should employ returning vessels of this flotilla in such a fashion that the combat strength of these, if possible and necessary should be made the most of but that the boats should in no case fall into the hands of the enemy or Bulgarians.

Therefore Group South received the following instructions:

"1. Owing to the situation in Varna reported by telephone the Naval Staff cancelled the existing order concerning operations of naval forces.

2. For the use of naval forces inclusively returning

29 Aug. 1944

minesweeper flotilla it is of importance that the fighting strength of vessels which could not be made the most of were under no conditions allowed to fall into enemy or Bulgarian possession and that crews should try to attach themselves in Bulgaria to German troops and force their way back."

The Chief of Naval Staff does not believe the further presence of Group South in Sofia as correct. About this question the Commander in Chief Navy intends to contact the Armed Forces High Command personally.

b. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command issued the following directives to the Commander in Chief Southeast, Chief of Transportation, High Command Army and others:

"1. Furlough contingent on the Aegean and Ionian Islands will be raised at once to 10%.

2. Available fuel stores on the islands will be placed at disposal of air transportations.

3. Owing to the strengthened partisan activity in the southeastern area one machine gun and if possible numerous automatic pistols should be taken along for each 10 soldiers going on furlough."

The Naval Staff, Operations Division transmitted order to Group South and Commanding Admiral Aegean.

---

Special Items:

I. In completion of the situation report, teletyped on the afternoon of the 28 Aug. the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters reports by telephone at midnight on the 28th. that the American thrust in direction of Reims captured so much ground that he personally did not believe it possible to hold the Seine position. A further withdrawal of the front flank along the Channel coast must be expected. It might have been expected from Group West that they were well informed about the situation by Commander in Chief West. Postscript by Chief of Naval Staff Operations Division: Group West ordered already three days ago, that all personnel not required for operation westerly of the Somme should be transferred back to the east which proved that they were expecting development of situation.

The Naval Staff Special Weapons Division was instructed.

29 Aug. 1944

II. Concerns Balkan Situation:

Group South ordered at 0100 the following tasks to be accomplished by the naval forces:

- "1. Attack Russian naval forces in the area off Constanta and Sulina.
2. Harass ferry-traffic of the Russians on Danube.
3. Return to the Bulgarian coast if fuel stores allowed. Scuttle vessels in deep water, transfer personnel to Sofia."

After receiving directives from the 1/Skl 2630/44 Gkdos. Chfs. (see War Diary 28 Aug.) the Group reported that order was replaced by the following new order:

- "1. After completing present operations return to Bulgarian ports to carry out other operations from there. In the presence of Bulgarians, state plans for transferring forces to the Danube. State motives of return as well as damage caused by rough sea etc.
2. Leave the necessary ground organizations, fuel, supplies and ammunition at Varna."

Concerning this, the Group reports to Naval Staff:

"1. Order Group 5307 Gkdos. after arrival replace maintenance by Group 5316 Gkdos.

2. It cannot be expected that re-entering and further operations will be possible from Varna as:

a. Up to now concessions were made since a longer period of time with regard to this harbor, concerning withdrawal of German vessels, cancelling of construction of naval vessels, fictitious disarming up to now of troops crossing into Bulgaria etc.

b. With certainty it can be expected: that continuous operations will be carried out by the Russians as a pressure respectively excuse of the proceeder against Bulgaria based on the principle of un-neutral behaviour by placing operational bases at disposal of German Naval forces by Bulgaria.

c. Such considerations will be made by the Bulgarians themselves if we depart and re-enter again.

29 Aug. 1944

3. Therefore the carrying out of further operations is probable not possible more without applying force and which would cause corresponding political effect.

4. No fuel more available. In spite of rechecking possibilities, it will probably not be possible more.

5. The attempt will be made according to order. This includes of course the danger that vessels might be confiscated by Bulgarians when entering and might therefore be prevented from scuttling vessels."

According to report from Group South to Bureau of Naval Administration and Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch, the following forces were on the way from Varna to Sofia:

a. Task Force Varna with about 1100 men, in the main navy of which 80% were functionaries. They were intended for operations in Sofia, strengthening the base formed here.

b. 4,500 naval soldiers crossed to Bulgaria from Romania by water, air and land routes with destination Belgrad which should not stay in Bulgaria according to directives from the Chief of German Military Mission. Group requests directions to where this group should transfer.

With this Varna is evacuated as naval base.

Group South reported at 1535 that they took over command of naval operations and issued orders to the Commanding Admiral Black Sea to hand over the remaining tasks at Varna to Captain Remmler.

After receiving instructions from the Naval Staff from today's conference on the situation with Commander in Chief Navy (see under Va) Group South countermanded at 2120 its last order concerning naval tasks. The Commander 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla, submarines U "19", "20", and "23" received instructions:

"a. Shelling of Constanta should not take place, only torpedo attacks by submarines after return of 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla.

b. After completing present operations the minesweeper flotilla will return to Varna, scuttle vessels and personnel will be picked up by Group Remmler."

29 Aug. 1944

According to renewed conference between Commander in Chief Navy and Operations Staff Armed Forces High Command the transfer from Sofia was left to the Naval Group Command to be carried out as soon as presence is on no account necessary more by reasons of leadership.

Personnel of lower ranks, fit for combat and not needed by the staff had to stay in Sofia in accordance to orders from the Fuehrer.

These instructions to Group South thwarted with report from group according to which the reparations approved by the Naval Staff, Operations Division on the 22 Aug. for a transfer of Group Command were at once started and the approved part-transfer was carried out to Werschetz on 25 Aug. with 30 railway-carriages. The report further stated:

"The German General and Reich Representative approved of transfer owing to the further strained situation in Romania and conception in this question was passed on to the Armed Forces High Command by the Chief of German Military Mission through Commander in Chief Southeast. The Fuehrer passed sentence, that Group Command should stay in Sofia. On account of retransportation of important documents and destroying of all important documents according to orders from the Chief of German Military Mission dated 26 Aug. the Superior Quartermaster Staff is nearly unable to work with all reporters or only in a very restricted way."

---

### III. Concerns Eastern Baltic:

a. According to information from the General Staff of the Army, the 563rd Infantry Division will leave Doeberitz on 1 Sept. to be transferred and placed under the command of Army Group North. The division will be transferred in express transports of which one half goes to Danzig and the other half to Gydinia and will be transferred from there in sea transports to Reval. The Naval Staff Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch will instigate to leave five transporters each at disposal for the 3rd respectively 4 Sept. with an average speed of 14 knots and will place at disposal berths for six transporters in Reval and four transporters in Baltic Port.

b. To the directives from the Naval Staff, Operations Division concerning the endangering of Gydinia through ammunition (See War Diary 26 Aug.) the 2nd Task Force reports:

29 Aug. 1944

"1. Planned transfer:

The PRINZ EUGEN to berth Seebahnhof, the LEUTZOW to the roadstead, cannot be carried out at present as harbor and roads were blocked as being suspicious of mines.

2. The following precautions were already accepted:

a. In airdanger 30, all ammunition trains will pull out of the harbor area.

b. If bomber formations approach Gydinia it is planned that all ammunition steamers, which should always be kept under steam, should leave the quay.

c. A space of about 100 meter will be left at bow and stern between the PRINZ EUGEN and ammunition steamers.

d. The distance between the PRINZ EUGEN and ammunition steamers in harbor basin four will be enlarged on 28 Aug. by placing between them each a supply ship.

Measure a. was of good success in last night's air raid.

Measure b. could not be carried out owing to smoke screen in harbor and will also be impossible in future.

3. As no light and steam connections existed at the berth Seebahnhof the daily fuel consumption of the PRINZ EUGEN will amount to about 20 tons."

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch reports:

"The loading of the following ammunition amounts will in future be made daily: Danzig - Westernplatte 900 tons, Koenigsberg - Elbing 450 tons, Gydinia - Stettin 450 tons and in addition Pommeranian harbors daily 900 tons. Naval office Gydinia will report when a loosening up of ammunition transports takes place."

c. Concerning operation "Tanne", the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch sent the following teletype according to directives to Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command:

"Examination of resumption of operation "Tanne" as in earlier appointed strength in regard to personnel was started. The Navy will give a final statement concerning possibility of operation till about 3 Sept. 44. Information is demanded to this if a withdrawal of 1st Naval

29 Aug. 1944

Artillery Unit 531 can be expected for certain from the army front. After placing again this personnel at disposal, training of infantry forces as well as classification of units will be necessary. For infantry training the Naval Command East will have to refer to instructors of the Army formation of the "Wehrkreis" Headquarters.

The Naval Command East demands alone for undertaking operation "Tanne Ost";

1. Place at disposal battle trained unit of the 1st Naval Artillery Formation 531 in previous strength (950 men) and additional.
2. Two infantry units as 1st Naval Artillery unit 531.
3. One Pioneer Company.
4. One Communication Platoon.
5. One Infantry Gun Battery (8.8 cm).
6. Two more infantry units ready at once as available reserve.
7. One anti-aircraft artillery unit ( about 300 men).

Is it possible for the army and air force to place at disposal this higher request? The Navy will not be able to do so without causing grievous encroachments in the naval warfare."

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch agreed with Naval Defense and Department of Naval Personnel that the appointment of necessary personnel for operation "Tanne" in previous strength is made already now to accelerate case through this advance work after decision is made by the Commander in Chief Navy which is expected in about eight days time.

d. Concerning "Birke" the Naval Staff, Operations Division transmitted the following teletype to the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Navy:

"1. Naval Attaché Helsinfors telegraphed:

a. Position requires preparing considerations for the case of a necessary evacuation of civilian population short dated in case of need. About 4,000 Reich and ethnic Germans were in first line in question.

29 Aug. 1944

b. Above this numerous Finns (at least several thousands) will ask to be evacuated owing to their co-operation with us in the case of unfavorable developments.

c. Owing to relevant measures the Naval Liaison Staff approached the German General and other German authorities.

2. The Naval Staff planned to inform the Naval Attaché Helsingfors that reflections and preparations according to timing of evacuation were made but that he should pass informations to the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch, 20th Mountaineer Army Command, Admiral Eastern Baltic and Naval Command East concerning relevant requirements with possible exact statements concerning people and material to be evacuated.

3. It was asked to agree with No. 2 as well as to issue orders so that the Naval Attaché Helsingfors who is always in communication with German General might be informed about operation "Birke".

e. The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch gave the following summary concerning German tonnage in Finnish ports:

At noon of 26 Aug. in:

Kemi	Three steamers with 3,500 BRT,
Oulu	Three steamers with 5,000 BRT,
Brahestadt	One steamer with 2,000 BRT,
Maentyluoto	Three steamers with 3,000 BRT,
Helsinki	One steamer with 1,500 BRT,
Kotka	One steamer with 1,500 BRT

Ten steamers more were on their way to Finland.

f. Admiral Eastern Baltic reported:

1. German-Swedish and Swedish-Esthonian circles approached the Reich Commissar about the evacuation of also distantly related Esthionians with Swedish ships which for the present should attend to transportation from Esthonia to Finland.

The case is fully undecided yet.

Swedish arrivals in the main ports were out of the question. If proceedings should bear positive result evacuation only via Rohekuela and Werder."

29 Aug. 1944

IV. The Naval Staff, Operations Division informed Naval Command East that minesweeper M "3800" sank after being hit by a bomb and that minesweeper M "3820" was towed to Boulogne after being damaged by a close bomb hit according to situation report from the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West.

The Commanding Admiral Defenses West reported that F "840", "841" and "829" the mine- naval landing craft under the command of the 36th Minesweeper Flotilla were not more required after completing task and that transfer of naval landing craft MFP "431" from Dieppe was not possible owing to enemy situation.

The Naval Staff ordered that mine- naval landing craft "840", "841" and "829" would be operational placed under the Commanding Admiral Defenses North till about the 15 Sept. to complete the final coastal mine type "A" action in the Dutch area and should be placed after that at the disposal of the Naval Command East for the eastern Jutlandic coast. The Commanding Admiral, Defenses North has to guarantee that the naval landing craft will arrive before 25 Sept. in the western Baltic.

V. The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch transmitted the following attitude dated 26 Aug to the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command and by copy to Naval Command East, North and Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters concerning preparations for the defense of the Reich and the coast of the home country:

"As stated already earlier and according to the views of the Naval Staff it is impossible to separate operationally the Reich Defense in coastal areas from the coastal defense. To re-establish conformity the following proposal is made:

1. The Commander in Chief, Naval Command North and East keep Armed Forces authorization in coastal defense home-war area according to Fuehrer's decree 40. At the same time they receive armed forces authorizations in the corps area of the coastal section conferred for preparations of the Reich Defense.

2. For the tasks under 1. the Commander in Chief's of Naval Commands East and North will be placed operational under the command of the Chief, Bureau of Army Armament and Commander Home Forces. As to the special tasks of the navy in connection to the coastal defense conformable to Fuehrer's decree 40 section IV. they will stay under the command of the Commander in Chief Navy.

3. For the coastal and Reich defense the commander of the corps area in the coastal area will be placed operational under the command of the Commander in Chief's of Naval Commands.

29 Aug. 1944

4. In corps areas which were taken over from the Chief, Bureau of Army Armament or Commander Home Forces owing to situation and were placed under the command of the General Staff of the Army respectively commanding posts of the field army for the Reich defense, the Commander in Chief's of the Naval Commands should be released from their Armed Forces authorization in Reich and coastal defense.

Only the special tasks will remain for the navy according to Fuehrer's decree 40 section IV.

5. The placing of the Commander in Chief Naval Commands under the command of the Chief, Bureau of Army Armament and Commander Home Forces will be effective at once. Authorizations of the Chief, Bureau of Army Armament and Commander Home Forces about Commander in Chief of Naval Commands cannot be conferred by these to other Commander in Chief's under their command.

Concerning this affair the Commander in Chief, Navy took up already communications with the Reichsfuehrer SS. The Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command was asked to confirm proposed arrangement."

VI. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff presented a report to the Commander in Chief, Navy dated 23 Aug. concerning future menace of the Jutlandic area through enemy invasion Composition of report according to 3/Skl 5251 Gkdos in War Diary Part C Volume III. To this the Commander in Chief, Navy ordered to compose a short memorial which will be presented to the Fuehrer. In this it is especially to be mentioned, according to directives from the Chief, Naval Staff, that the enemy might cause the greatest difficulties in the entrances to the Baltic and in the western Baltic by the possibilities of mine warfare for the continuation of the Submarine Warfare and the supplying of Norway and therefore it is urgently necessary to strengthen the minesweeping forces and also to adjust the air defense against enemy minelaying raids. Our minesweeping forces were already heavily weakened and have to handle increased tasks in the whole Baltic area all the more as the Russians were starting from the east with air raids and mining.

VII. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division passed sentence on proposal presented by the Naval Command Norway in April concerning construction of coastal defenses in Norway with order Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Coastal Defense Branch dated 24 Aug. Copy according to 1/Skl 26703/44 Gkdos is filed in the documents of 1/Skl I North XVIII/2. According to this the principle demand is the protection of every long-range battery by a 15 cm battery independently of proposed heavy anti-aircraft artillery battery which cannot be realized owing to the level of personnel and material demands. The demand for a re-arming of the captured batteries is admitted.

29 Aug. 1944

Three - 32 cm L 44 (Italian in triple turret) will be sent for re-mounting at present on Cavour for Fetje near Bergen as well as four 15 cm SK C 28 from new delivery, at disposal presumably June 1945 for Ervik near Stadlandet.

For re-arming will be at disposal four - 10.5 cm SK C 32 presumably December 1944 and four others presumably June 1945. Proposals were expected from the Naval Command Norway concerning disposition. It is known to the Quartermaster Division that the personnel situation does not allow at present the disposal of crews for the new batteries at the appointed dates. The Naval Defense was asked to make a proposal advising a relevant increase in personnel.

VIII. To the enquiry concerning encroachment upon the Hansa new construction program through claims of the navy, the Naval Staff Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch ascertained that the release of capacities for merchant ship-building is impossible as already the naval building program could not be realized owing to the shortage of contingent and shipyard specialists. The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch advised support of the Reich commissioner for maritime shipping by placing at disposal further special forces from the army for the yards. About 80 ships of the merchant navy of 200,000 tons were at present undergoing repairs in the areas of the North Sea and Baltic. In addition 48,000 tons were not worth repairing. Losses through air attacks amounted to about 50,000 tons since the beginning of August. The tonnage at command of the Reich commissioner for maritime shipping received recently 53 ships of 142,200 BRT between the 1 Jan. and 31 Jul. 1944. Sixty-four ships of 225,500 BRT were lost in the same period. Therefore the actual losses amount to 83,300 BRT from a total of 812,000 BRT of available tonnage at disposal of the Reich commissioner of maritime shipping.

The surplus requirements of our merchant shipping through the supplying of Army Group North calls for about 150,000 BRT and through the replacement of Swedish tonnage of about 200,000 BRT. About 430,000 BRT were missing compared with the situation prevailing in the beginning of July.

IX. Army High Command, General Staff Army reported on 24 Aug. to Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command:

Poisoned gas prepared by us include two large groups:

1. The group of poisoned gas, known in general and mostly

29 Aug. 1944

used during the last war. With these the creation of surprises concerning their effect cannot be expected. This class includes all white cross substances, from the blue cross substances Adamsit, Clark I and II, from the green cross substances Phosgen, prussic acid and related substances Lost and introgen Lost fumes and from the yellow cross substances Lost.

2. Those poisoned gases which were developed on an absolute new German design and were therefore presumably unknown to the enemy.

A deciding success might be expected with these poisoned gases according to conventional considerations when used in bulk and in surprise. These substances were Tabun and Sarin.

Therefore it will be of deciding importance in a gas war not to disclose these weapons too early but use them in a large amount concentrated at deciding points with effect.

Therefore the Chief of the General Staff, Army proposed to make the use of these poisoned gases dependent for all branches of the Armed Forces to the positive order of the Fuehrer above the already existing precautions."

---

Situation on 29 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Thirty-four planes in action were detected by 19th Group and four more in communication with ground organizations. One British vessel was detected in BF 5470 at 0757. A strongly protected convoy was steering a southern course 25 miles westerly of Le Havre at 1800 on 28 Aug. Twenty-three vessels were sighted on a southern course northwesterly of Cherbourg at noon on 29 Aug. and six Liberty freighters and one patrol boat were observed in the same sea area in the evening on northerly course.

Enemy targets were detected in the Channel Straits between 2145 and 0317 on the night of 28 Aug.

General Staff Army-Foreign Armies West reported under 26 Aug. about

29 Aug. 1944

organizations and tasks of the French groups of resistance FFJ and FTP (FORCES FRANCAISES DE L' INTERIEURE and FRANCTIREURS ET PARTISANS). Relevant report from the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff to the upper Operations Staffs of the Navy according to 1/Skl. 32595/44 Geh. in War Diary Part D Volume 8a.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

Minesweeper M "4004" and mine exploding vessel "135" were set afire in a fighter bomber attack in Brest Roads. Other vessels were sunk. One motor coaster with supplies was escorted from St. Nazaire to Lorient. Two armed fishing vessels carried out supply operations between Lorient and Quiberon. Three ELM/A\* mines were swept off La Pallice. The dropping of mines was again observed here. One submarine sailed from La Pallice.

Land Situation:

Ferry traffic ceased. The destruction of the harbor as well as the blocking was completed with the exception of a few places close to the ferries. Blasting and scuttling continued.

Brest:

Continuous fighting is concentrated on the northern front. Naval anti-aircraft artillery battery 3/811 was rendered unservicable by a bomb-hit, crew was employed as infantry. Battery 4 and 5/811 were seriously damaged. A part-demolition of the merchant harbor was carried out at 1400 on 28 Aug. Strong enemy air raids were made at 1640 and 2100 with heavy high explosive bombs against the arsenal, war and merchant harbor, with simultaneous bombardment of artillery harassing fire. One tug sank, several boats were damaged. Ammunition stocks in the naval battery Portcic were destroyed by a direct hit. Enemy fighter bomber attacks were directed during the whole day against coastal and anti-aircraft artillery batteries. Battery Toulbruch was bombarded with phosphorus and smoke shells in the afternoon. Communications ceased between Battery "Holtzendorff" and "Graf Spee". Our own batteries fought with observed effect infantry penetrations and enemy concentrations. Main naval direction finding station was destroyed owing to the presence of enemy close-by.

Lorient:

Only little enemy activities. Ammunition bunker battery

29 Aug. 1944

1/704 with 4,000 shells was destroyed through an explosion. Reasons unknown. Battery Plouharnel refused again to accept demands of surrender.

St. Nazaire:

Two bridges across the Uilaine near Redom as well as the church tower Rieux were blasted in thrusts by raiding detachment. Thirty-one officers and 1728 men were engaged in operations on land from boat crews under the command of Commanding Admiral, Defenses West. As far as possible boat crews were left together. Re-mounted guns were again in operation as far as reconstruction was possible.

La Pallice:

Up to now one officer, five petty officers, 96 non-commissioned officers and men arrived with two - 7.5 cm guns, one - 2 cm anti-aircraft artillery gun and five heavy machine guns from Ile D'Yeu.

Gironde Fortresses:

Patrol boat VP "404", minesweeper M "4206" and one survey boat were placed out of commission. Crews and weapons were attached. Crews of batteries Le Forge and Carcanes arrived completely. All radio stations southerly of Royan were placed out of service, equipment was destroyed. It is planned to destroy battery Hourtin as a transfer into fortress is not possible.

The position of the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery School with 3/16 naval motor truck detachment was reported at 2000 on 26 Aug. as 35 km northerly of Bordeaux on the road to Anguleme. Position of naval artillery unit 286 from 28 Aug. Magnac easterly of Anguleme. According to reports from the naval liaison officer of the 64th Army Corps the submarine bunkers, lock-installations and all war important installations of Bordeaux were blasted with the exception of the larger part of the wharfs. Report contradicts account given by Commanding Admiral Atlantic Coast.

Paris:

The naval harbor commander left in direction Epernay with the 12th naval motor truck detachment and company Krebs. Infantry company Andix followed. Labor company Schwerdner arrived in Nancy on 29 Aug.

Again Group West took over command at 1600 of alternative place Markrele.

29 Aug. 1944

Sea Area Channel:

Battery Cecembre reports on 28 Aug. that continuously one to three destroyers were stationed northwesterly of St. Malo. Mediators arrived at 1700 on the island demanding capitulation or threatening us with annihilation. Request was turned aside. In addition battery was bombarded from land and sea with 2400 shells. The fire from the torpedo boats was answered without observing effect.

Owing to sea motion and poor visibility PT boats were not in action on the night of 28 Aug.

Three boats of the 38th Minesweeper Flotilla with a submarine chaser and a patrol boat transferred from Dieppe to Boulogne on the night of 28 Aug. Minesweeper M "3800" sank in continuous fighter bomber attacks after receiving a bomb hit, minesweeper M "3820" was towed to Boulogne after being damaged by a close hit.

The sinking of a PT boat was additionally reported from the engagement of the 14th Minesweeper Flotilla on the night of 27 Aug.

Based on the land situation, Group West ordered the mining and blocking of Le Havre as well as the evacuation of all bases westerly of Boulogne. PT boat and Dackel-operations were cancelled from Le Havre. It was planned to transfer the last forces of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West from Dieppe to the east on the evening of the 30th. Radar equipment at Antifer and Etretat were evacuated. According to possibilities equipment will be transferred.

The mining of the harbor entrance Le Havre by PT boats is planned on the night of 29 Aug. and after that march to Dieppe. PT boats planned a diverting operation for convoys under the command of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West and return to Boulogne.

---

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

Patrol boat positions were not occupied off the Dutch coast owing to the stormy weather conditions. Owing to same reasons all precautional tasks were cancelled.

Four of our patrolling vessels were attacked by numerous enemy torpedo planes northerly of Wangeroog at about 2020. One mine exploding vessel sank near Elbe I another one was set afire. An anti-aircraft

29 Aug. 1944

artillery chaser was disabled and patrol boat VP "802" was also set afire.

Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty-nine planes in action were detected by 18th Group. Planes received operational radio messages from Donibristle and from an Iceland radio station at 1507 and 1530.

According to report from the 5th Air Force, one of the two aircraft carriers which protected PQ convoy was located by Svanvik in 28° at 1500.

Own Situation:

The western convoy was attacked by a submarine with three torpedoes which missed northwesterly of Vardoe at noon on the 28th. Kaafjord was attacked by about 60 enemy carrier planes at 1701 on 29 Aug. According to incomplete reports obviously no damage was caused and several planes were shot down.

Air attack was reported from the area of Hammerfest carried out by seven carrier planes at 1702. About 2,600 cubic meter furnace oil were set afire at a Shell tank installation in the Drefjord in a low level attack.

Patrol boat VP 6515 was attacked with gunfire near Loppahavet. The commandant was seriously wounded.

A Norwegian steamer, sailing alone was attacked off Ryvingen with gunfire from two Mosquito planes in the area of the Admiral commanding western coast. A bunker fire was extinguished.

Twenty-nine ships were escorted to the north and 24 ships to the south.

Naval Command Norway proposed as berth for the EMDEN the Mulviken Bay near Horten.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

29 Aug. 1944

Three Minesweeper Divisions and 33 naval vessels were detected in the Finnish Bay by radio monitoring on 28 Aug.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Owing to weather conditions patrol boat positions were not occupied off the western Jutlandic coast. Also the coastal mine type "A" formation was not employed.

Minefield 30 Part A and B was layed in the Aalbaeck Bay on the night of 28 Aug. Seventeen vessels were employed with minesweeping duties. Reports concerning successes were not received.

Western and Central Baltic:

Forty-eight vessels and eight minesweeper planes were employed with minesweeping duties. Eight mines were swept in the Bay of Kiel and one mine easterly of Pillau. Submarine U "2327" was slightly damaged in the Strander Bay through the detonation of a mine. Among others destroyer Z"30" was escorted to the west.

Naval Command East planned to employ the 2nd and 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla as anti-aircraft artillery escort when transferring the 563rd Infantry Division. Operation will be made by the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Baltic.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

One mine and three anti-sweeping devises were cleared by the 1st Minesweeper Flotilla in grid square AO 3744 left corner. It was planned to employ the 1st Minesweeper Flotilla after completing task Seeigel X b with sweeping the last part of the route to the sinking spot of submarine U "250".

Naval Command East instructed the Admiral Commanding Eastern Baltic that the destruction of submarine U"250" is at present a task of importance. After completing this operation the 5th PT boat Flotilla will be employed with offensive thrusts in the sea area Lavansaari - Seiskari.

Troop and special transports sailed according to plan. From the 25 Jul. to 28 Aug. were in total transferred to the east 52,735 men, 2,134 horses, 2,005 vehicles to the west 34,098 men, 38,077 wounded, 72,089 evacuated persons, 35,309 prisoners of war, 5,586 horses and 1,698 vehicles. In addition 16,518 wounded were transferred from Pillau to Swinemunde.

29 Aug. 1944

Five thousand eight hundred and fifty-five tons of supplies were transferred to Riga on 28 Aug. and 2,165 tons to Reval for Army Group North.

Naval Artillery Barge MAL "14" and "23" had an artillery engagement with five enemy gunboats on Lake Peipus at 0645 on 26 Aug. in the Embach mouth. It was observed that hits were scored on the enemy. No damage was caused to our own vessels. Battery Warnja cooperated in engagement.

---

#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

Submarine U "309" which left La Pallice and approached the entrance of the Bristol channel. The leadership of western submarines passed into the hands of Commanding Admiral Submarines early on 28 Aug. Commanding Office of Submarines West was disbanded.

Submarine U "703" is proceeding in northern waters with motorship KEHDINGEN (operation "EDELWEISS") via AB 28 to the west.

Submarine U "636" reported three destroyers in AC 5423 on the night of 29 Aug.

In the Black Sea submarines received order from the Commanding Admiral Submarines not to scuttle the boats off the Turkish but off the Bulgarian coast after consuming combat strength. Attacks against all Romanian naval and merchant vessels were allowed.

No special reports were received from other operational areas.

---

#### V. Aerial Warfare:

##### West Area:

Enemy air activity was relatively weak in Northern and Western France as well as in Belgium. About 250 planes raided air bases easterly of Brussels. More than 600 enemy planes attacked gun positions, railway bridges and road targets in the southern French area.

29 Aug. 1944

Sixty of our own planes were employed chasing fighter bombers in the area Soissons-Reims - Chalon sur Marne and shot down one plane without suffering own losses.

---

Reich Territory:

Essential incursions were not reported from northern and western Germany. Fifty four-engined enemy planes were present in the area of Klagenfurt without attacking. To attack Maehrisch-Ostrau and Oderberg, many hundred of bombers with fighter protection entered from the south. Parts of these forces attacked villages and air bases in the Hungarian area.

Fifteen single planes dropped high-explosive bombs in the area of Cologne and on air base Nordholz and Parchim on the night of 29 Aug. Forty Mosquito planes raided the area of Hamburg and 30 raided Berlin. Single planes presumably mined the sea area of Esbjerg.

A further formation of 250 bombers flew across the area of Copenhagen, westerly Bornholm to the east and carried out a heavy terror attack against Stettin.

Mediterranean Theater:

About 14 enemy planes were located in the Italian front section on 28 Aug. combatting thoroughfare Mailand - Rimini and traffic targets in Upper Italy.

From the usual operations on the night of 28 Aug. the mining of the Danube near Paks by five planes deserved mentioning.

Own plane carried out reconnaissance with detectors between the southern French coast and Corsica on the night of 29 Aug.

Eastern Area:

Three hundred and fifty-two own and 2012 enemy planes were operating above the eastern front on the 28 Aug. One of our planes was lost and 18 enemy planes were shot down.

One Boston plane was shot down in the afternoon by our fighters in the area northerly of Libau. The plane dropped onto a submarine of unknown nationality. Submarine and plane sank.

29 Aug. 1944

Concerning the attack in the Altafjord carried out by carrier planes the General Staff Air Force reported that only little material damage was caused.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea:

1. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Forty-seven ships on easterly course were reported from the Gibraltar area at 1030 off Cap Spartel presumably UGS 51. At noon one transporter, eleven freighters, one tanker and six corvettes left Gibraltar on a westerly course, presumably MKS 59.

In total about 29 ship targets were located by the Air Force between the southern French coast and Corsica during reconnaissance with detectors. Three ships were easterly of Bastia and two ships 24 miles southwesterly of Leghorn.

Three destroyers were reported on westerly course 15 miles southwesterly of Tarent at forenoon.

Own Situation:

No special reports were received from the area of the Southern French Coast.

No essential damage was caused in an enemy fighter bomber attack at Imperia and Savona on the evening of the 28 Aug. One sailing vessel and one tug were damaged in a similar attack at Sestri Levante in the afternoon.

Four minesweepers and five battle ferries were engaged inside and outside of our mine fields in protecting the coast up to Cap Ferrat. Without sighting anything the boats returned.

One gun boat was attacked at a distance of twelve meters during the operation of a German assault boat on the night of 27 Aug. Recoilless Anti-Tank Grenade Discharger was a failure. After receiving several hits our boat started burning, fire was extinguished. The 2nd pilot dropped over board when throwing a hand grenade but reached operational harbor after swimming for three hours.

29 Aug. 1944

2. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

One destroyer, two PT boats and two midget naval vessels on different courses were northerly of Brindisi at forenoon according to air reconnaissance. One convoy of twelve ships with four destroyers were sighted on northwesterly course at noon, five miles easterly of Monopoli. One destroyer was easterly of Bari heading for the harbor. Four freighters were reported on westerly course easterly of Molfetta.

The 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla with four boats arrived early on 29 Aug. in Dubrovnik from Corcula. The formation sighted presumably one MAS vessel and detected three motor gun boats. Contact was not made with the enemy.

Army Group F expects a larger commando-operation in addition to air raid in the area of Brac - Havar on the evening of the 29th owing to operation of strong night formation.

The 7th PT Boat Flotilla sailed with four vessels from Split to screen a convoy of seven vessels with 450 soldiers in the sea area of Cap Ploca.

b. Aegean:

No special reports were received.

1st degree of alarm was ordered for the Greek area starting at 1450.

c. Black Sea:

According to British broadcast the Russians occupied the harbor of Constanta.

According to advance report by telephone, battery "Tirpitz" was blasted. Crew, the marching group of the Commanding Admiral Black Sea and Naval Shore Command Romania crossed on to Bulgarian territory after handing over arms.

Under "Special Items" was already reported about the Balkan area.

d. Damube Situation:

Group Seetra - Braila with the steamer GRAFENAU, three naval landing craft, the MARIANNE and three sailing vessels with 770

29 Aug. 1944

wounded from the army on board united with Group Zieb. Both groups met Romanian monitor at km 620.

Naval Radio Station Russe was dismantled and re-fitted on board of AT "915".

The minesweeper group of the lower Danube had an engagement with two Romanian monitors at km 573 on the 28 Aug. of which one was shot afire while the other turned off to the west. Artillery carrier "913" and F "316" sunk in battle near km 629. After heavy bombardment the group forced it's passage through in the afternoon near km 795. According to unconfirmed Bulgarian reports one tanker was shot afire and two tankers were beached by trailing Romanian monitors.

Group "Eisernes Tor" was successful in breaking through cataract extent. Group met artillery barrage at 1800 on 28 Aug. near km 1072. Guard ship TRONJE hit a mine during an engagement westerly of Moldova and sank. With the support of ship "192", one artillery carrier and one minesweeper the group forced it's way through near Bazias on 29 Aug. and arrived in Gradiste. Military and transmitting installations were destroyed by landed troops from ship "192" in Bazias. The place was evacuated by the enemy.

Ship "192" freed a number of barges and tugs in an artillery engagement between Moldova and Ram and shot down one Russian plane on the night of 26 Aug. which attacked with gun fire. Supply ship UTE shot down one mine carrying plane on the night of 27 Aug. A number of Romanian guns were put out of action near km 1066 by planes from Group "Eisernes Tor". Ammunition supply was made to ship "192" and Group "Eisernes Tor".

PT boat S "86" was damaged by mine when breaking through near cataract extent.

Commander of Group "Eisernes Tor" reports to inquiry of inspector minesweeping service Danube, that the successful prospect for a breakthrough from the Lower Danube for an armed convoy is only then given, if the Danube road from Bazias to Turn-Severin is cleared by infantry and tanks by simultaneous operations of naval vessels and if the bases were reached.

The mining of the river was observed between km 1384 and 1072 and between 1561 and Drau estuary on the night of 27 Aug. Four minesweeping successes were reported.

CONFIDENTIAL

29 Aug. 1944

VII. Situation East Asia:

No special reports were received.

---

30 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

A new cabinet was formed in Hungary under the leadership of General Lakatos which was acceptable to Germany.

A provisional government of the French republic was set up under the presidency of de Gaulle according to radio Paris.

Churchill returned to London from Italy.

Tass contradicts reports according to which the Russian Government acknowledged the Bulgarian declaration of neutrality. On the contrary measures were stated to be fully insufficient.

According to information from London, Stockholm spreads the news, that the Finnish Government is determined to quit the war as soon as possible. It is expected that a truce will take place during the course of the week!

---

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1115.

I. According to information from the commercial and economic warfare the natural rubber stock in the Reich will last now till the end of 1945, as monthly consumption was reduced to 200 tons.

II. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff:

a. Four emergency railway stations were set up in the area of the Rhine for the evacuation operation of Western and Southern France.

b. The loss of the Romanian oil deliveries will not be felt yet by the naval consumer in the September contingent. Missing allotments might be adjusted by meeting requirements from stock. The adjustment in furnace oil will only be small as requirement of Group West ceased. Of course a larger incursion of 8000 cubic meters will be necessary in heavy Diesel oil stock, to place at disposal for reduced contingent.

In total 80,000 cubic meters of furnace oil were sent, among which were 8,000 cubic meters of furnace tar-oil compared with

30 Aug. 1944

79,800 cubic meters in August of this year. The largest contingent is required by the fleet with 22,000; Naval Command East with 29,000; Naval Command Norway with 12,000 and Commanding Admiral Submarines with 9,000 cubic meters.

Only 26,900 cubic meters of heavy Diesel oil will be released against 33,000 of the previous month. Of these the Commanding Admiral Submarines will receive 4,000; Naval Command East 8,500 and Fleet 3,000 cubic meters. Requirements for submarines employed in operations will also not be limited for September and should be fully taken care of by the commanding zones.

III. Commander in Chief, Navy ordered report about consequences caused by deficit of Swedish tonnage, remaining possibilities for sea transportation and development of Hansa new construction program.

IV. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

According to the report from an agent it is said that the first convoy on a large scale arrived in Cherbourg on the 28 Aug. directly from the U.S.A.

According to different reports, partisan activity is increasing heavily especially in central Slovakia. A defense zone was formed in the area Sillein - Rosenberg in which German troops will be engaged from the 29th.

Contrary to the Russian Government the Anglo-Saxon Governments agreed to negotiate with Bulgaria. Already negotiations were actually going on in Cairo.

Group South reported that no further aggravation took place in situation during the course of the previous day in Bulgaria.

Reforming of government is expected for the 30 Aug. The Military Mission believes it possible to create a present hovering situation in which of course the development might be at any time overthrown by Russian interference.

Reports from agents mentioned recently again heavy troop and ship concentrations in central and northern England as well as in eastern Scotland and drew attention to the possibility of operations against southern Norway respectively Jutlandic area.

30 Aug. 1944

According to the report of a second-hand agent an Allied invasion will take place in the Stavangerfjord within two months..

The Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff gathers from the enemy position survey General Staff of Army, Foreign Armies West dated 30th. as to the Mediterranean:

"Five fresh battle trained divisions highly valued were inserted in the eastern wing of the Italian front. Thereby concentrations here confirmed with task to force a deciding breakthrough along the Adriatic coast through the Apennin.

A further not so clearly pronounced focal point is close east of Florence where numerous hints indicate that strong attacks will soon start.

In spite of heavy increase of reports, predicting an imminent invasion of the Istrian and northern Dalmation coastal sector with the intention of breaking through to the Vienna basin respectively Hungarian lower plain, no odd ship concentrations were noticeable in the Italian harbors of the Adriatic.

The number of available army formations at disposal in the Italian area decreased also seriously after the withdrawal of forces to southern France and amounts at present to about four to five divisions of mostly Slavonic origin. Two Polish divisions of these were strongly tired out after a lasting employment of about six months. Therefore an imminent new operation on a large scale is not probable. It might be possible to bring up further British forces from the area of the eastern Mediterranean for a landing operation in the Adriatic - similar to the Sicily invasion at its time. But concrete indications were not received to this purpose.

Possibility of an invasion in the Ligurian Sea were at present not given."

The Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff remarked to this:

"Smaller landing operations along the Dalmation coast (concentrated on the area of Lissa) and against Southern Greece were always possible on short notice as well as out-flanking landings on a smaller scale behind our Apennin position along the Adriatic Coast of Italy."

30 Aug. 1944

Conference Restricted to a Limited Circle:

V. Army Situation:

Western Front:

Report concerning the Fuehrer's orders about warfare in the west. Copy according to l/Skl 2653/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, special file "Invasion 29 Aug."

The enemy is following up quickly our withdrawal movement between Fecamp and Paris. Penetrations were cut off. Rouen was evacuated.

The enemy crossed the Aisne between Paris and Chalons, arrived at the Chemin des Dames and launched an attack in direction to Laon. Tank spearheads advanced to Serre near Marle and Montcornet.

Northerly of Paris to Soissons we were successful in establishing a general defense front.

Our own forces of the 5th Tank Army received order to advance northerly of Compiègne to the east in direction to Soissons.

Heavy fighting under way near Reims, Chalons and along the Rhine-Marne canal easterly of Vitry le Francois.

No new reports were received concerning the withdrawal movement in the Rhone valley.

Italian Front:

The town of Briancon inclusively forts Rambouillet, Dauphin and Trois Tetes were re-captured at the French frontier.

A further advance of the 90th Tank Grenadier Division is not possible at present owing to the lasting destruction of bridges and shortage of fuel.

Stronger attacks were repulsed in the area of Florence along the southern front. Our own forces withdrew to the green line along the Adriatic coast. Owing to the heavy fighting of the last days, which caused both sides many casualties, the enemy did not continue his heavy attacks on the 29 Aug. Also the artillery fire ceased on account of re-grouping which was intensified on the day before yesterday during two hours to 45,000 shots.

30 Aug. 1944

Eastern Front:

Army Group Southern Ukraine:

Still no news from the 6th Army.

The German forces southerly of Buzau were not yet able to establish a break-through in direction to the Carpathian Mountains.

The enemy captured Constanta and arrived with tank spearheads in the area of Ploesti where heavy fighting was taking place with German troops.

The enemy advanced in Transylvania up to the railway track Kronstadt - Cikszereda. Heavy fighting is under way for the possession of this town.

Advance of Russian forces across the Carpathian Mountains between Stanislau and Sanok must be expected soon. Disturbances started in central Slovakia.

Report concerning the Fuehrer's orders about further warfare of Army Group Southern Ukraine. Copy according to l/Skl 2649/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in War Diary Part C, Volume XIC a.

Army Group Central and Northern Ukraine:

Attacks and defense fighting was continued in the large Vistula bridgehead without one or the other side achieving deciding successes. Furious fighting is continuing between Warsaw and Narew. Furious tank battles were fought easterly of Scharfenwiese but the enemy was not able to establish an operational break-through.

The enemy is concentrating strong forces in the area of Tuckum. It must be expected that the Russians will soon try here to surround again Army Group North.

Army Group North:

Enemy attacks were repulsed northerly of the Dvina and local territory successes were obtained.

Between Lake Wirz and Lake Peipus we were able to throw the enemy further back in direction of the Embach and Dorpat.

30 Aug. 1944

All was quiet on the Narva - river.

VI. Report by Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division and reviewer about strengthening Jutlandic area:

The situation demands at once urgently a quickened strengthening of the coastal defense installations in the area of Denmark.

Quickly available were batteries which were meant for France and especially such batteries which might be borrowed from ship outfits in question and which might not be required in near future. In question were three batteries of each four - 12.7 cm guns (Battery U 1 - 3), five batteries each of four - 7.5 cm PAL (Battery U 4 - 8), four batteries with a total of 16 - 8.8 cm guns (Battery U 9 - 12) and 4 batteries with a total of 13 - 10.5 cm anti-aircraft artillery. (Battery U 13 - 16).

Batteries U 1 to 9 were ready for action, 10 to 16 still require test with regard to site. The Commanding Admiral Skagerrak should at once start inquiry concerning of guns. Way of citing in field-like fashion with emergency foundation and of round about effect.

Submarine crews who were waiting for the commissioning of their submarine will also be called to man batteries in case of need besides the available ships personnel. Battery commanders and specialists will quickly be trained from suitable officers, non-commissioned officers and men by the coastal artillery school, anti-aircraft artillery school V, ships artillery school III, and naval artillery signal communication school Stohl in special short courses. The complete supervision was handed over to Naval Command East. Commander in Chief Navy agreed.

Relevant directives will be issued by the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Coastal Defense Branch. Copy according to 1/Skl. 27350/44 Gkdos in file 1. Naval Staff I North.

It was further proposed to detach 36 Spinne-torpedoes for the Skagerrak. Commander in Chief Navy agreed. Statement is still expected from the Naval Command East.

With regard to the strengthening of minefields, the Naval Staff, Operations Division, Mine Warfare Section and Anti-Submarine Section reports, that further 13,000 coastal mines type "A" were intended to continue beach barrages easterly and southerly of

30 Aug. 1944

Skagen. One hundred and fifty mines per day were completed at present. A laying of mines is planned up to the height of Laesoe. The speed of operation is restricted by laying formation. The laying of 4,500 mines per month might be expected. With this it must be kept in mind, that coastal mines type "A" detonate independently in ice.

At present ground minefields were layed in the Aalbaek-Bay. DM-mines were not yet laid in this area nor planned. But the possibility exists.

The question has to be checked if minefield Skagen-Vinga should be renewed. For this the complete out-put till the end of September would be required. Advisable would be mine operation in the declared area of the Skagerrak to form focal point here and to stay in front. Serious is the question of mine carrier. Operation of the training-cruiser would have to be considered.

A new laying of the western wall is out of the question as the necessary materiels were not available and the minefields could not be protected.

Commander in Chief, Navy agreed. Naval Command East started already working out particulars.

Concerning operational possibilities of Small Battle Units, Captain Frauenheim reports that 60 of the action ready Marder were able to go to Jutland on the 30 Aug. Ninety-six Linsen were able to follow in the beginning of September. Remaining Small Battle Units, ready for action today, must be employed as far as possible in the western area and in the south. If the need should arise, Linsen might be taken into consideration for Norway. However, operational conditions were more favorable for these in Denmark. There is still one week of time left for decision.

Twelve boats of submarine group were at disposal for operation.

According to the report from Operations Branch, North, Naval Staff, Operations Division, the harbors of Esbjerg, Tyboroen, and Frederikshavn should be prepared for blasting. Particulars of measures will be issued by Naval Command East.

30 Aug. 1944

With regard to personnel, the Quartermaster General, Organization and Mobilization Branch reports, that at present 4500 soldiers belonging to training formations were in Denmark. Strengthening is possible by bringing up two formations each from Lorraine respectively West Prussia, as well as by newly organizing a training formation. About 6000 men in total could be transferred to the Danish area whereby questions concerning accommodation and armament would have to be solved.

Commander in Chief, Navy ordered at once accommodation measures in Denmark for the two training formations from Lorraine.

In addition the Commander in Chief, Navy ordered preparations to be made for Dackel operation in Jutland from auxiliary launching places.

VII. With regard to situation report about the defense against enemy carrier plane attacks at the Kaafjord on the 29th, the Commander in Chief, Navy ordered the following teletype to be sent to the Tirpitz, 1st Task Force, Commanding Admiral, Defenses Hammerfest, Commanding Admiral Arctic coast and by copy to Naval Command Norway:

"I am pleased with the successful air defense.  
Signed: DOENITZ, Admiral of the Fleet."

---

Special Items.

I. Concerns Balkan Area:

a. Concerning transfer of Operational Staff South, the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters transmitted decision of the Fuehrer at 1945 on the 29th which was again confirmed by teletype thus far from Operational Staff, Armed Forces High Command at 0600 on the 30th that one operational detachment from the staff of group could be transferred. The alarm units, formed from the staff, has to stay in full strength inclusively armament at the present garrison.

Concerning the transferring question, Group South reported in the afternoon, that owing to previous developments of warfare in the southeast and relevantly to directives from the Naval Staff,

30 Aug. 1944

Operations Division, a transfer of the staff at present is planned to the area of Vienna as far as they were not battle groups. The present evading base Werschetz was cancelled. The Naval Lisison Staff will stay at Sofia to attend and represent in front of German and Bulgarian authorities.

According to the present situation of things the Commander in Chief, Navy believes it necessary that the Commander in Chief Naval Group South stayed in person in Sofia as long as troops and naval vessels of the Commanding Admiral, Black Sea were in the Bulgarian area as unforeseen political and military frictions must be expected which only could be settled on the very spot by the Commander in Chief personally with Bulgarian authorities.

relevant information was transmitted by teletype. Copy according to l/Skl. 26936/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Volume XIV a.

b. The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division decided to request from Inspector Minesweeping Service Danube (see War Diary 29.8) that the personnel should be transferred to Belgrad to the naval base of that place which should be reconstructed as evading base for naval personnel by Group South.

c. Group South reports at 2040 that from the members of the navy, who crossed the frontier from Romania on the 29th, 730 men were interned at Varna in Camp Constantin by the Bulgarian Armed Forces. Negotiations about the release of 140 men of the late 3rd Landing Flotilla were under way with the Corps Commander Varna, concerning the release of all with the Bulgarian Minister of War. A complete transport of members of the Armed Forces (Navy and Air Force), crossing frontier from Romania, were interned in Bulgarian barracks at Sofia on the 30th. Negotiations about release were directed by Military Mission.

d. The Inspector of Minesweeping Service, Danube reports by telephone at 2300:

"1. Position of Group ZIEB at 2300 on the 30th near Vidin Galafat. Must soon reach Serbian-Bulgarian frontier. Has ahead three Romanian monitors. These were passed today by first group (In command lieutenant (s.g.) Brauer from Russe.) Nevertheless a meeting with these monitors is estimated as considerably risky to Group ZIEB if they were not successful in passing them during the night time.

30 Aug. 1944

2. Group Zieb will presumably reach Prahovo (in the middle of Vidin and Turno - Severin) on the 31 Aug. At present Group Brauer is stationed here. Operations of the Army will start here to clear the tract. Inspector Minesweeping Service, Danube intends to send the Danube Flotilla through the Iron Gate to meet Group Zieb. On account of the Romanian positions in the area of the Iron Gate the further advance is still believed to be serious.

3. Interference of the army was up to now unsuccessful through shortage of forces, also operations of the Air Force as reconnaissance planes did not sight the monitors. Communications with the army were working well. But the Inspector of Minesweeping Service Danube believes that better results could be established by the forces of the air force if pressure was applied on the command of the air force and therefore asked for the support of the Naval Staff in this direction."

The Naval Staff sent the following teletype after that to the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, to the Operations Staff, High Command Air, and by copy to Army Group F, Naval Liaison Officer, German Air Force Command Southeast, Naval Liaison Officer and Inspector Minesweeping Service, Danube:

"1. A formation of about 100 Danube ships is steaming up the Danube with large amounts of goods under the command of the Chief of Dockyard Control Staff, Admiral Black Sea, Rear Admiral (Engineer) Zieb. Romanian resistance was forced at different places up to now through vigorous counter actions causing us casualties. Position of formation Zieb at 2300 on the 20 Aug. (Tr.n. should obviously mean 30 Aug. according to War Diary, Page 805) Vidin Galafat and planned to reach Prahovo on the 31 Aug.

2. Ahead of the formation were Romanian Danube monitors of which up to now only one was annihilated. Three were still at large which means a serious risk as they passed Vidin - Galafat on the 30 Aug. Elimination is only possible if the Air Force searched and combats them on the Danube river or canals.

3. Attention is especially drawn to the importance of the valuable ship park for future operations and supply traffic as well as to the value of the carried goods.

30 Aug. 1944

4. The Naval Staff asked the Operations Staff, Air Force to order operation for this single task. Operation is especially important on the 31 Aug. and 1 Sep. while the deciding breakthrough will be forced here through the Iron Gate.

II. Concerns Eastern Baltic:

a. General Staff Army reports that the 327th Army Pionnier Battalion will be transferred to Reval on the 2 Sep. for Army Group North from the area of Army Group Northern Ukraine. Transportation will be carried out to Gydinia by express transports and from Gydinia by waterway.

Assault gun formation 563 will embark together with the 563rd Grenadier Division for sea transportation. Start of embarkation presumably midnight on the 1 Sep.

b. The Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command passed information concerning report Naval Command East about message Naval Liaison Officer to the 20th Mountaineer Army Command that the difficulties were known which were caused to preparations and the carrying out of operation "Birke" especially in Southern Finland to the 20th Mountaineer Army Command:

"The absolute secrecy of operation "Birke" demands that also in future only thoroughly periodical preparations should be made. Three officers especially experienced in transportation and evacuation questions and one naval officer, expert in sea transportation, will be attached to the Staff of the 20th Mountaineer Army Corps to ease task and will be employed mainly for the periodical preparations of operation "Birke" and by relevant information to the German General attached to the Finnish Commander in Chief, will be attached to his staff as thoroughly acquainted experts of operation "Birke". The officers will be instructed by the High Command, Navy, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch about their special duties before taking up post with the 20th Mountaineer Army Corps.

Relevant directions were issued by the Naval Staff, Operations Division to the Naval Command East and to the Admiral Eastern Baltic.

c. Concerning "Birke" and "Tanne" the Naval Staff reports to Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command:

30 Aug. 1944

"A" 1. Prize commands were ready to be recalled. Tasks cannot be attended to without sufficient support of the army in all ports in question, even if transfer of prize commands was possible in time as these were too weak to complete task alone to ensure success in the face of resistance. (Special reference to Turku, in which a strong Finnish garrison was stationed against only a weak German base of at present ten men.)

2. According to judgement at this place it is necessary for the forces in Finland to take over the task of occupying Finnish tonnage and protecting it from scuttling and destruction as long as transfer to German sphere of influence is guaranteed by navy or if this possibility is not given, destruction is carried out. Therefore the Naval Staff believes it necessary, as already reported, to appoint Commander in Chief, Armed Forces Southern Finland as well as preparation of bridgeheads. Both applications were till now not accepted owing to political respectively military reason.

"B" 1. The opportune presence of sufficient naval forces in front of the harbors depends on the progress of operation "Tanne" and besides to attitude of Finlanders, Soviets and especially Swedes. (According to Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command Nr. 771124/44 Chefs. dated 8 Apr. is the focal point situated on operation "Tanne".) For the execution of operation "Tanne" the Naval Staff intends to bring up all forces, in fighting trim and action ready formations of the training formation fleet and commander of destroyers as well, if the position permits, destroyers at present in the Skagerrak.

2. The military best results would be obtained by stationing submarines with prize commands in due time off the harbors of the Bothnian Sea. For Turku and Hangoe if the situation in the Finnish Bay permits, operation of PT boats with prize commands might be possible under certain conditions.

"C" to A: and B 2: The transfer of prize commands to harbors of the Bothnian Sea as well as entering the Bothnian Sea already during time of tension with naval vessels (submarines) is unobserved impossible. Serious sensation must be expected. Owing to political importance it is therefore planned to carry out operation first after receiving instructions from the Armed Forces High Command. With this, attention was drawn to the fact that the Finlanders and Swedes will be warned in due time by which an endangering of operation "Tanne" might be instigated."

30 Aug. 1944

III. Concerns Position West Area:

Commander in Chief, Naval Group West reports: At present about 15,000 men were marching back in direction to Lorraine from the Atlantic and about 7,000 naval soldiers were on their way from the Southern French coast. At present the enemy situation does not allow calculations if all these troops will get back or only parts. The soon arrival of the spearheads in Eastern France makes it necessary to decide how these troops should be employed. Retreating units were of different combat value. Naval artillery units and harbor companies will be suitable to take over defensive and simple combat tasks. Other units will be unfit for combat tasks but will be fit for entrenching. Therefore I believe it necessary to check, to reinforce and probably also to provide these units with uniforms and arms.

Proposal:

1. Complete units with sufficient armament will be attached collectively to retreating divisions fully under the command of the army in new defense fronts to be constructed.

2. All men belonging to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West and submarines will be transferred to the Reich for further employment with sea-going navy. By it submarine personnel should be transferred directly on to submarine-cadre formations according to instructions from Commanding Admiral Submarines and personnel belonging to Commander Destroyers will return to cadre formation Swinemuende. For members belonging to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West it is believed opportune to concentrate them in a troop training base in Southern Germany. There Admiral Breubing will be employed with his staff attending to personnel. Reorganization of personnel and departure in groups according to instruction 2.

3. All other personnel of land-offices, staffs, shipyard workers: sorting out and transportation of officers required by Naval Department of Personnel, of valuable experts and men unfit for combat. Reorganization of remaining men into units under the command of remaining officers. Placing at disposal of these units for constructing positions in the west, also for group 3 the troop training base in Southern Germany is believed necessary. Vice-Admiral Scheurlen was appointed to direct and carry through these measures. Soon decision demanded.

30 Aug. 1944

The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch will further work on subject.

For release to the homeland from the 2nd Escort Division the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West reported at the time available: the complete 38th Minesweeper Flotilla with five fishing steamers of which two were not combat ready, 15 drifters, of which five were not combat ready, and 13 armed fishing vessels of which four were not combat ready. The complete 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla with three submarine chasers of which one was not ready for action, 16 armed fishing vessels of which four were not ready for action and the complete 8th Gun Carrier Flotilla with seven artillery ferry barges of which one was not ready for combat.

The Naval Staff placed the 38th Minesweeper Flotilla under the command of the Naval Command East, 16 armed fishing vessels of the 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla under Commanding Admiral, Defenses North and three submarine chasers of the 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla as well as the 8th Gun Carrier Flotilla under Naval Command Norway. The Staff of the 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla will transfer for the present to Cuxhaven.

IV. With regard to the development of situation the German Naval Command Italy and by copy Group West received directives from the Naval Staff that the German Naval Command Italy would take charge of the positional survey in the Western Mediterranean and Gibraltar area effective midnight 31 Aug.

V. The short statement demanded by Commander in Chief, Navy concerning the importance of the Skagerrak and Danish area to the German Warfare was drawn up by the 1/Skl. I b 2658/44 Gkdos. Chfs. and transmitted to the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, Armed Forces High Command, Naval Command East, Naval Command Norway, General Staff Army, Naval Liaison Office and Operations Officer, Naval Liaison, High Command Air Force. Copy check 8 in War Diary, Part C, Volume III.

VI. Taking into consideration the war situation the Commander in Chief, Navy decided to proposal of Fleet Command that the planned dockyard period of Destroyer Z "30" should be postponed at present for two months to use the boat for operational tasks in the Baltic, should the need arise. For a short period the boat is out of action to complete the most urgent repairs. A short-dated war readiness is guaranteed.

30 Aug. 1944

Till further notice the Naval Staff placed destroyer Z "30" at the disposal of Naval Command East for operations in the Baltic.

VII. The records concerning interview with Japanese Military Commission with Chief of Naval Staff on the 29th August were filed under 1/Skl. I E 26858/44 Gkdoq. in War Diary, Part C, Volume XV. Rear Admiral Kojima mentioned in this that besides "Foehre" and "Kiefer" also "Marco Polo 2" was lost and that the Japanese were not in the position at present to send transport submarines to Europe, as these were not in the position to reach their destination owing to shortage in orientational equipment, and through other technical imperfections. The Chief of Naval Staff confirmed that it was planned by the German side to continue Warfare with submarines in the Indian Ocean with the present capacity.

---

Situation on the 30 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area.

Enemy Situation:

Thirty-nine planes in action were detected by 19th Group. According to radio monitoring a British vessel reported a torpedo carrier at 1555 in AM 5623.

Fourteen freighters, 14 LST and three escorting vessels were sighted at 1555 on the 29th northwesterly of Cherbourg steering 180° and in the same area four transporters were sighted at 1800 from Alderney.

Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

One submarine each were escorted leaving St. Nazaire and La Pallice. One harbor defense vessel shot down one four-engined enemy plane above the outer Loire.

The tanker Broesen arrived in Passajes on the evening of the 28th, as well as the tanker Frisia during the night in Bilbao.

30 Aug. 1944

Land Situation:Brest:

Enemy attacks which were continued during the whole day of the 29th were concentrating on Plougastel, Plouzane and Gouesnu. Base Corsen was lost. All attacks were to the largest part repulsed in the forelying country of the fortress with effective artillery support causing the enemy heavy casualties. Penetrations were cut-off respectively mopped-up in counter attacks. Two hundred and forty six prisoners were taken. Contact with the 811th Naval Anti-aircraft Artillery formation ceased. The garrison strength amounted to a total of 37,058 men on the 27th according to report from the fortress commander. Provision sufficient for fifty days, and bread for thirty-five days. Water supply is guaranteed. From 871 guns of all calibres to caliber 7.5 cm still 130 were ready for action. Ammunition will be enough for 12 days if the enemy continued his large scale attacks. We were short of machine gun and mortar ammunition as well as Panzer Feruste. (Tr.n. recoilless anti-tank grenade discharger)

Lorient:

The enemy who was feeling his way ahead in the eastern section on the 29th was repulsed. Attacks were renewed at the same spot with anti-aircraft artillery and anti-tank guns on the 30th and were still under way. Own reinforcements were brought up. The total garrison of Lorient amounts to 24,700 soldiers of which 6,300 men belong to the army. Twelve hundred men in Air Force, 12,200 men marine formations, 1600 men naval formations, 2200 eastern troops and 1200 men of other formations and alarm units.

St. Nazaire:

Terrorist attacks against the eastern front were repulsed on the night of the 28th. The strength of fortress garrison amounts to 29,900 soldiers of which 11,200 men belonged to the army, 2000 men air force, 8900 men marine, 2500 men navy, 2500 men eastern troops and 2800 men to other formations and alarm units.

La Pallice:

The submarine bunker was considered beforehand as last defense base. The torpedo heads were prepared for blasting the bunker and locks. On request of the Naval Staff the Operational

30 Aug. 1944

Staff, Commander in Chief, High Command Air placed six He 111 long range planes at disposal for supplying the Atlantic fortress with anti-tank weapons.

### Sea Area Channel

Nine minesweepers, six gun boats, one drifter, one armed fishing vessel, one submarine chaser and one tug under the command of Commander 14th Minesweeper Flotilla transferred from Fecamp to Dieppe on the night of the 29th. The formation had an engagement with four or five destroyers northeasterly of Fecamp at 2215, appearing in two groups. The leading destroyer of one group was covered up by the concentrated fire of all arms from our formation at a distance of 1000 meters. After receiving two serious hits two detonations occurred developing large mushrooms of smoke which came out of sight in a fog bank. Probably more hits were scored on other destroyers. Two of our minesweepers were slightly damaged by splinters. A group of the 8th PT Boat Flotilla interfered in engagement and observed scoring a torpedo hit on a destroyer. The target was lost out of sight after heavy detonation developing black smoke. A little later two other heavy detonations were observed with fire (see above).

Group B of the 38th Minesweeper Flotilla transferred with six boats from Boulogne to Calais on the same night. The remaining PT boats transferred from Le Havre to Dieppe according to plan on the night of the 29th, after mining the harbor entrance. Owing to weather conditions, the Brest vessels, PT boats S "145" and S "112" called off their mission to the Channel Islands and returned again to Brest.

Group West ordered the blocking and blasting of the harbor of Le Havre and gave permission for the destruction of Fecamp and Dieppe. With the above mentioned departure of the naval forces Le Havre and Fecamp were finally evacuated. No communications existed more with Fecamp since 0500 on the 30th. The destruction of the harbor of Dieppe, which had started, was postponed as positive instructions from the Commanding Admiral Channel Coast state that they should only be carried out under the pressure of the enemy. The harbor company and the harbor defense troops from Le Havre were attached as a complete company to an infantry regiment. Special naval personnel was withdrawn to Boulogne.

30 Aug. 1944

Net barrage group Le Havre moved to Bruegge. Blocking and blasting was completed in Rouen. Only restricted traffic is continued with one ferry. The 2nd and 3rd battery 1253 marched off to the east after destruction of guns and taking along light anti-aircraft artillery weapons. Formation 1254 handed over two 15 cm guns to the army. Battery 4 /1254 will stay on position with formation staff until further notice. The other batteries will withdraw to the east taking along the guns. Meanwhile the Port Command will transfer to Ghent.

Cecembre reported enemy destruction bombardment at 0830 but did not report new sorties. Battery Mirus on Guernsey shelled an enemy convoy northwesterly of Guernsey which turned off on this to the southwest. One torpedo boat was shelled by Alderney northeasterly of the island.

Long range reconnaissance is planned for three vessels of the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla on the night of the 30th. as protection for the convoy belonging to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West. The 10th PT Boat Flotilla is ready for operation at Boulogne for diverting attack. The 8th PT Boat Flotilla will transfer with the 2nd Group of the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla from Boulogne to Ostende. The 2nd Group of the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla will proceed with S "701"-PT Boat to Rotterdam.

The Commanding Admiral, Defenses West transferred ten minesweepers, one submarine chaser and six gun carrier as well as all other vessels from Dieppe to Boulogne. Again normal patrolling of the off-shore waters and defensive service was started easterly of Boulogne.

Operations of the 261st Small Battle Unit were postponed for 24 hours owing to launching difficulties. Through bombs and low flying planes the flotilla suffered casualties on its trip to Fecamp. Nine men were killed, three Biber and six transportation gears were destroyed.

The 374th Small Battle Unit is on its way from Tournay to Genoa.

The 60th and 65th Naval Replacement Company blasted successfully battery Vasoug on the night of the 25th. All guns and ammunition stores were destroyed.

The Operations Staff, Group West took over command in the area Markrele from alternative post Messaney at 1600 on the 29th.

30 Aug. 1944

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

The air attack in the Elbe estuary reported on the 29th was carried out by about 30 planes with torpedoes, rockets and gun fire. Besides the reported losses in vessels seven men were reported dead, ten were missing and 45 were wounded.

Strong enemy bomber formations protected by fighters entered the Heligoland Bight at noon. A part of them attacked Bremen. No serious military damage was caused to naval installations. The entering formations were shelled by heavy naval anti-aircraft artillery in different sections. Reports concerning successes were not received.

Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Twenty-three planes in action were detected by 18th Group. In addition two planes were detected in the Iceland area. Reconnaissance activity was observed during day in the area of the 16th Group above the Northern North Sea to the Southern Norwegian Coastal area.

Own Situation:

The air attack against the TIRPITZ was carried out by about 50 to 60 planes of the Spitfire, Martlett, Corsair and Barracuda type in four waves from 1702 to 1727. The planes approached for a concentrated attack from the north, west and south. The bombs partly dropped in the near surroundings of the ship. Also low level attacks were carried out during the dive bombing. One ammunition lift was put out of action on the TIRPITZ, two-barrel premature also happened to the light anti-aircraft artillery. Numerous gun hits were reported on destroyer Z "34" and "31". Six men were slightly hurt on the TIRPITZ through splinters and burns and three men were poisoned by fumes. Three men were killed, 18 were badly and eight slightly wounded on board of the destroyers. The TIRPITZ practiced barrage respectively target firing in the recognized direction of approach by employing all calibers. In addition the complete land anti-aircraft artillery was employed. Owing to changing wind conditions smoke screen was variable. Several of times the smoke screen ceiling was torn open so that target firing was sometimes possible. The preliminary warning of 14 minutes was sufficient to establish water-tight conditions. The dropping of mines was observed in the St. Jernsund and in the

30 Aug. 1944

Altafjord near Talvi. From the Tirpitz the shooting down of five planes was observed. One naval landing craft reported shooting down three planes and a patrol boat reported one plane. The total number of planes shot down was mentioned as about 13.

Convoy traffic between Bodo and Hammerfest as well as between Maløey and Loedingen was cancelled owing to the carrier danger. Four Russian mines were swept southerly of spot black 68.

Seven enemy planes were reported from the area of Kristiansand - Sued on the night of the 29th. It is believed that agents were provisioned. The same applies to four planes observed in the district of Oslofjord.

Seventeen ships were escorted to the north and nine ships to the south.

The military office of the Reich Security Head Office reports, that operation "Schneehuhn" was completed on the 29th. Enemy occupation of Spitsbergen was scouted, the anti-aircraft artillery position in the Advent Fjord in Cap Revneset of the air defense, scouted in advance, was captured by shock troops against enemy resistance. Two anti-aircraft artillery guns as well as ammunition and supply depot were blasted on the 19th. Accommodations were burnt down.

---

### III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

#### Enemy Situation:

Two enemy minesweeper divisions and 39 naval vessels were detected by radio monitoring in the Finnish Bay on the 29th.

Increased troop transports to the north were observed according to reports from agents from Northern England and Scotland. According to Allied and neutral ordnance attaché circles in London these reports were connected with transfer of parts of the Fusag (Tr.n. Russian Minesweepers) as well as strengthened air attacks against German Baltic ports and day raids against Jutland with the intention to smash the railway system there. Ceasing of Swedish shipping traffic to German North Sea and Baltic ports is based at the same time on this and on the other

30 Aug. 1944

hand intensity of ship and especially transportation tonnage in northwestern English and Scottish harbors. According to these reports operations were not expected in Northern and Central Norway from England, but landings in Denmark and Southern Norway.

Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Owing to weather conditions and patrolling of the Jutlandic coast was limited to the Hanstholm minefield gap. Operations of minesweeping forces were cancelled for patrolling routes of declared zone. Reports concerning successes were not received yet with the exception of one mine, swept in the Sam Soeybelt.

Escort vessels VS "909" shot down two enemy four-engined planes in the Aalborg Bay on the 29th.

Western and Central Baltic:

Concerning enemy air activity on the night of the 29th with attacks against Koenigsberg and Stettin the mining of the sea-area Bay of Danzig to Memel was reported. In addition it was suspected that groups of agents were landed in the Danzig area.

Thirty to 40 more enemy planes entered the Bay of Mecklenburg on the same night where the dropping of mines was observed. In the night raid against Stettin a large scale fire was reported from the Vulcan dockyard and a fire from the Gollnow dockyard in the dockyard area. Four naval landing craft, one light gun carrier, minesweeper M "552", escort boat VS "268", Aerial Warfare Training School "Herm. Vollmers" and four steamers were damaged by fire and partly burned out. Other midget vessels were damaged or sunk. Fire damage was reported on buildings and barracks of the submarine base.

Two hundred to 250 bombers with fighter protection entered in the afternoon to attack Kiel. Carpet bombing and incendiary bombs were dropped on the eastern bank as well as on the southern and northern town sections. Bridges and locks staid undamaged. Germania dockyard and Deutsche Werke were heavily damaged by high-explosive bombs, but only unimportantly damaged was caused by incendiaries.

30 Aug. 1944

The nautical school, hospital "Wik" and clothing depot were hit by high-explosive bombs. Accommodation ship ST. LOUIS was set afire by three direct hits. Salvaging of ship is questioned. The dropping of several mines was observed in the Bay of Kiel. Numerous routes had to be barred in the total Baltic area between Kiel and Memel. According to present reports four mines were swept in the Kiel Bay and one in the Pommeranian Bay.

Six Boston planes and four fighters attacked with torpedoes and gun fire our convoy southwesterly of Libau at 1445. A few casualties were caused on the steamer "ISAR" otherwise no damage worth mentioning was reported.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

The minesweeping work of the 1st Minesweeper Flotilla was not continued in the Narva Bay owing to weather conditions. Due to same reason the boats of the Narva patrol staid on day position.

After loading, two PT boats transferred with four other vessels further to the east for operation against the wreck of submarine U "250".

On Lake Peipus the commander of the 4th Gun Carrier Flotilla was killed in action near Dorpat. By orders of Army Group North the 4th Gun Carrier Flotilla was placed directly under the command of the II Army Corps.

Navy Artillery Barge MAL "18" and "24" burned out after air raid near Hanna Pungeria on forenoon of the 30th.

Troop and special transports sailed in the area according to plan.

Three thousand and seventy nine tons of supplies for Army Group North were transferred to Riga on the 29th and 2437 tons to Reval.

---

IV. Submarine Warfare:

One submarine each sailed from St. Nazaire and La Pallice. Both vessels will proceed to EB 30 for operations before returning to Norway. Then six boats more will be in the western harbors.

30 Aug. 1944

According to radio monitoring one tanker was torpedoed in AM 5623 at 1555. In question is submarine U "482".

In northern waters, submarine U "995" reports at 1107 four destroyers in AC 5157. Submarine U "394" sighted convoy traffic in AB 61. Returning formation is expected, on southwest course. Three boats received permission to attack suspected formation.

The submarines U "956", "969", "992", "636" and "425" were at present on mining operation in the Barent sea. Submarines U "344" and U "354" operating against the last PQu-convoy were declared overdue.

From this convoy, submarine U "344" sank a cruiser of the "Dido" class and submarine U "354" an auxiliary aircraft carrier.

In the Indian Ocean, submarine U "859" sank most probably a tanker of 10,000 BRT in M Qu 4104 on the 27 Aug. and a freighter of the "CLAN MACAULY" type in M Qu 1891 on the 25 Aug. During the eleven days lasting operation in the Gulf of Aden the boat sighted only one freighter. Boat started now return voyage to Penang.

In the Mediterranean, submarine U "407" entered Salamis for a brief completion and exchange of torpedoes.

---

V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Strong enemy formations raided in Belgium and Northern France especially the area of the Schelde estuary during daytime. Three hundred and forty enemy planes were reported attacking road targets and gun positions in the Southern French area. Forty enemy planes were above Belgium on the night of the 30th of which no raiding activities were reported.

No reports were received today concerning our own operations in the Western Area.

Reich Territory:

30 Aug. 1944

About 70 to 80 planes from the south entered during the day the Hungarian Area easterly of Budapest and destroyed 21 planes on the ground.

Kiel and Bremen were raided in the afternoon from the west. For further particulars of attack about which was already reported, see "Daily Report".

No report was received about enemy air activity above the Reich area on the night of the 30th.

Mediterranean Theater:

Enemy operations were on the usual scale in the Italian/Greek area.

Our own planes carried out reconnaissance flights between the Southern French coast and Corsica on the night of the 30th.

Eastern Area:

Five hundred and seventy-four of our own and 1520 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front on the 29th, in which we lost four and shot down 15 planes.

About 200 enemy planes were reported in the coastal area of Egersund - Stavanger dropping bombs on fishing cutters and probably planting mines.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

1. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Twenty to 30 vessels were observed by our own air reconnaissance in the sea area between Southern France and Corsica on the night of the 29th. In addition three groups of boats were located on different courses in a distance of 30 to 35 miles southerly of Nice.

Enemy ships were patrolling the coast southeasterly of Tropez and southerly of Nice during forenoon.

30 Aug. 1944

Own Situation:

According to a report from the Commanding Admiral, Southern French Coast the Operations Staff was 15 km southerly of Lyon at 0800. The Quartermaster Staff was dispatched to Zabern in motor-columns via Dijon, Belfort on the evening of the 29th. The 19th Army Command is in Vienne. Vessels of the Rhone-Flotilla were put out of action through enemy operations respectively self-annihilation. The motor park column suffered moderate casualties through low flying planes. According to a British broadcast the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Toulon Area Rear-Admiral Ruhfus was taken prisoner.

Eleven two-men and one one-man assault boats were operating from Monaco against the invasion area on the night of the 29th. The picket line of five gun boats off the area of Ville Franche was penetrated unobserved, but other targets were not found. Nine of the boats arrived in Mentone, one after an air raid in San Remo and one in Monaco. The 13th Boat ran aground near Cap Martin, salvage is under way.

Nice and Ville Franche were evacuated and blasted early on the 29th. Radar equipment Cap Ferrat, naval signal station and naval liaison officer were taken along with equipment. Buildings and foundations were blasted. The harbor of Monaco was mined according to plan. The destruction and evacuation via Reggio was ordered.

2. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

According to photographic reconnaissance of Bari at noon on the 29th, 25 smaller naval vessels, five LCT, one LCM, 125 auxiliary landing craft, 40 smaller boats, 19 freighters and others were in port.

This indicates no essential change compared with the 23 Aug. Also no essential alterations were noticeable in vessels in port at Brindisi. Invasion preparations were not noticed at this port.

Battery Lopud 3 shelled enemy PT boats off Mljet from 0020 to 0645 on the 28th without observing effect.

According to army reports, one torpedo boat with two planes were on northwest course eleven miles westerly of Cap Ploca at 1514 on the 30th.

30 Aug. 1944

The steamer GUILIO CESARE (21,900 BRT) sank in the Bay of Saule near Triest in an enemy air raid made on the afternoon of the 29th. The 7th PT Boat Flotilla carried out escorting duties according to plan and arrived with four boats in SPLIT on the night of the 29th. Three Siebel-ferries planted 90 more coastal mines type "A" near Corellazza. The laying of coastal mine type "A" minefield with pontoon off Umini had to be postponed owing to weather conditions.

b. Aegean:

Submarines were several of times sighted off the harbor Santorin on the night of the 29th. Enemy commando landed at about midnight near radar equipment site Santorin. Three explosions were reported up to now, but no fighting.

The fore-ship of steamer LOLA was damaged by explosive charge in Piraeus on the 29th.

c. Black Sea:

After consuming all fuel stores and after completing last operations in which no contact with the enemy was made, the 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla scuttled itself at forenoon off Varna with the exception of one heavily damaged boat and not suitable for operations which brought the crews back to port. The crews with group Kemmler were on their way to Sofia.

d. Danube Situation:

The minesweeper group lower Danube consisting of three artillery carriers, nine naval landing craft, thirteen sweeper tugs and one barge were at 2100 on the 29th near km 881.

Formation Zieb was at 2300 on the 30th near Vidin-Kalafat. If break-through past Romanian monitors on position further up the stream, is successful during the night time, it might be possible that formation Zieb reached Prahovo on the 31st where at present group Bauer is stationed. Operations of the army will start in Prahovo to clear the cataract extent. The inspector for mine-sweeping intends to send the Danube Flotilla down the river through the Iron Gate to meet formation Zieb. Report from the 30th, concerning meeting of group Seetra-Braila with formation Zieb was not confirmed.

30 Aug. 1944

VII. Situation East Asia:

No special reports were received.

---

31 Aug. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

In the first minister conference on the 29 Aug. the new Hungarian Prime Minister summed up the program of the government in the following sentences: Continuation of the war as protection of the Hungarian frontiers, preserve interior order and peace under all conditions as well as support and if possible increase present state of production.

A Romanian delegation arrived in Moscow to negotiate about conclusion of armistice.

The "Prawda" published a declaration on the 30 Aug. in which Turkey was accused of maintaining further friendly connections with Germany.

---

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1125.

I. In connection with the air situation report:

a. The Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command authorized the High Command Air Force to supply the isolated fortresses and defense areas of the west, cut off from the land defense, with mail and necessary materiels. The Naval Staff reported to inquiry of the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command that submarine operations were not possible, as march Norway, Western France required about six weeks and the approaching routes were no more controlled by us.

b. From enemy situation survey, Operations Staff, Air Force, Foreign Affairs Section dated 29 Aug:

"In consequence of continuous absent radio monitoring the following perceptions rely mainly on German Intelligence reports which need confirmation in spite of so far reliable origin.

It can be assumed that British and American twin-engined bomber formations transferred to the continent. How far twin and four-engined formations on a large scale were considered beforehand for initial assembly in the French area depends on the Allied supply situation in the Western Area.

31 Aug. 1944

Air defense of Great Britain will be taken care of by the 13th Fighter Division, transferred to southeastern England, while according to German Intelligence reports the total "Air defense of Great Britain" will be in the main used for close combat. According to the report from a very highly valued intelligence authority the Allied air landing army still at disposal in Great Britain was placed partly (three air landing divisions) operationally under the command of General Brereton of the 1st American Army Group in Southeastern England which were at present trained again for new tasks in English troop training centres.

In connection with the continuous carrier thrusts against Norwegian coastal waters (at present three large carrier in one battle formation and two auxiliary carrier in a PQ - convoy) attention must be drawn to the fact that no changes took place on Iceland or in Northern Scotland in connection with initial assembly of the air force.

Strange seems to be a certain concentration of combat forces against the Sleswig - Holstein - Oldenburg area (attacks against Kiel and Bremen as well as against Hindenburgdamm and air bases) which might be connected with operations planned against German Baltic ports as well as with a renewed offensive against German submarine yards. Concrete facts were missing yet, if these attacks could be valued as preparation indicating new operational plans of the enemy in this area.

In the Southern Area the air force command Balkan was at present strengthened by the arrival of a further fighter group to 350 single, 200 twin and 100 four-engined planes. Perhaps the initial assembly in lower and central Italy might be connected with the lively sea supervision noticeable since a short time at the western coast between Crete and Corfu while the existing strong reconnaissance activity ceased in the Aegean.

Allied air force activity in Italy, concentrated on the area of Rimini - Padua - Bologna shifted in connection with present and probable imminent enemy operations against this section. The attacks deserve further attention, made on three successive days (26th to 28 Aug.) by four-engined planes against bridges between Trient and Bozen as well as in the larger area of Udine. According to German Intelligence reports the imminent landing operations with air landings in the area of the peninsula Istria and westerly Triest were not indicated clearly up to now in warfare.

31 Aug. 1944

Based on the new situation in the southeastern area attacks of American four-engined bomber formations started a new chapter of Allied warfare against German positions and air bases in Romania on the 26 Aug., according to interpretation of German Air Force Command Southeast which will in future especially concentrate on German road and railway movements as well as on operating air bases."

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

a. The Operations Staff issued the following direction to the Commander in Chief, Southeast, to the Air Force Command Southeast and to the Inspectorate of Minesweeping Service Danube:

"The shipping situation on the Danube demands a forced break-through of the ship group situated now on the lower Danube through the cataract section on the "Iron Gate".

The Commander in Chief, Southeast has to guarantee central cooperation and operation of all available forces of the Commander in Chief, Southeast, Air Force Command, Southeast and Inspectorate of Minesweeping Service, Danube. To accomplish this he should appoint energetic officers with a small operational staff and necessary communication means. Report plans."

The General of the combat engineers Bazing was authorized to command the forced break-through operation through the cataract section.

b. To directions concerning warfare in the southeast, Group South reports after agreement with Army Group E and F the following collective plans:

"1. a.) Evacuation of the Pelopones step by step in direction to the Canal of Corinth, Naval Shore Command Pelopones will follow the evacuation movement of the army with the same speed, attached to the land front. It should be strived for to salvage as many guns as possible of all calibers, among which the 15 cm batteries should be transferred by water way. The Naval Shore Commander in person is under consideration as Commander of the Sea Defenses, Canal of Corinth and Nauplia-Bay which should be strengthened as far as possible by available artillery. Evacuated bases will be occupied by Greek national volunteers. Monemvasia will be held at present till the troops from Crete land there, as far as necessary.

31 Aug. 1944

b. Besides this, troop-movements across the sea as follows:

1. One strengthened battalion from (223)D from Crete to the continent to protect area Piraeus - Athen. Personnel will arrive by air transportation, equipment by ship.
2. Withdrawal of one battalion from Lemnos to Saloniki.
3. Continuation of operation "Thunfisch" from Patras to Prevesa against Zervas.

Solution of transportation tasks were promised in the demanded speed as a further supplying of islands was renounced as demanded by Army Group E.

2. Piraeus will be held so long till evacuation and supplying of island is finished in which special attention is drawn to the fact that evacuation is equal with abandonment of submarine base.

3. Preparations for destruction will be quickened. The size of operation will be left at the decision of Army Group E, who will have to take into consideration the special circumstances in the Greek area and effect of destructions on supply position and political results.

Appendix: "Thunfisch" concerns transfer of about 1700 soldiers from Pelopones to Prevesa to fight Zervas - partisans."

Relevant report from the Naval Staff to Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command was made in decree 1/Skl. I op 2681/44 Gkdos. Chefs. Copy in War Diary, Part C, Volume XIV.

III. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff: reports about directives of the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command to Commander in Chief West about crossing of frontier of returning troops from the western area. These had to deliver half of the weapons and motor cars at the frontier to equip new formations. Naval Group West classified the returning columns of naval soldiers in three groups. Particulars were arranged by Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff, Organization and Mobilization Branch.

Conference Restricted to a Limited Circle.

IV. Army Situation:

31 Aug. 1944

Western Front:

The enemy pushed into our withdrawal movement between Paris and the coast and occupied Gournay and Beauvais. The safe operation of further withdrawal movement into the line Dieppe - Compiègne is questionable through the strong enemy pressure.

The enemy pushed ahead with strong forces across the Aisne between Soissons and Fismes and captured Laon. The own attack of the armoured groups from the area northerly of Compiègne to the east was unsuccessful.

In the area of the 1st Army the enemy continued his thrust to the northeast with three tank corps. According to intercepted radio messages the enemy corps takes the following thrust direction: From Chalons to Commercy on the Maas, from Reims to Verdun and from Fismes to Rethel - St. Quentin.

The 1st Army had the intentions of rebuilding a defense behind the Aisne and Marne canal to Vitry Le Francois. This was of no success with the small amount of troops available belonging to all branches of the Armed Forces, confusedly mixed up without sufficient anti-tank weapons, without artillery or air force support in spite of the will of the leaders. The enemy captured Rethel and is standing at Serre near Montcornet and Marle. Enemy tank formations also arrived at Suippes.

Our own divisions were attacking between Revigny and St. Dizier, with the intention of attacking and defeating the enemy, advancing in easterly direction between Chalons and Vitry.

In the Rhone Valley so far the break-through of the 338th and 198th Infantry Division on the Drome was unsuccessful. Strongest enemy artillery fire caused the heaviest losses especially in materiel so that the loss of the bulk of the equipment must be expected.

Along the coast our troops crossed Monaco to the east.

Italian Front:

Large scale fighting in full strength blazed up along the Adriatic coast. Beside in Pesaro the enemy was also successful in penetrating the green line further to the west. Fighting is in full

31 Aug. 1944

swing. Directly along the coast the attacks were supported by continuous operations of ground attacking planes and fire from a heavy and from a light cruiser as well as from six torpedo boats.

Eastern Front:

Army Group Southern Ukraine:

The enemy captured the oil area of Ploesti and arrived in the area 30 km northeasterly of Bukarest. Nothing is known from the strong German forces at last situated southerly of Buzau. Annihilation is possible.

We were successful in establishing a blocking in the mountains northerly of Ploesti. Enemy attacks were repulsed northerly of Kronstadt. Fighting was going on in Transylvania, especially in the Odozpass. Our mountaineer troops were only successful in occupying little ground in heavy fighting.

Army Group Northern Ukraine and Central:

Enemy thrusts were repulsed southeasterly of the Lysa Gora. Our local attacks were successful in occupying ground. The 1st Ski-Chasseur Division launched an attack against the Russian bridgehead near Annapol.

Fighting is continued at Warsaw, more streets were captured.

The harshness of the battle between Vistula and Narev easterly of Scharfenwiese decreased. Only heavy fighting developed around Radzymin. Destroying 24 enemy tanks, the place was lost.

Only local fights occurred along the eastern Prussian frontier near Wolfsburg as well as in the Baltic area northwesterly of Schaulen.

Army Group North:

Weaker Russian attacks were repulsed northerly of the Dvina. Between Lake Wirz and Lake Peipus the Russians were thrown back across the Embach and Karevere was re-captured. Also northerly of Dorpat our own attack made headway. The naval bases Mustvee and Ranna - Pungerja were heavily raided by the enemy air force.

31 Aug. 1944

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

According to information received from the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters reports were received from Greece stating that preparations were made for a general revolt under British leadership. The measures announced in Bulgaria indicate an unfriendly behaviour of the Bulgarian government. In direction to the Dobrudscha only weaker parts of two divisions were approaching and not as promised, four. Partly the arrival of German supplies were prevented.

In Hungary the attitude of the government became again questionable. According to the unconfirmed report from an agent it is said that again secret negotiations were going on with the Allies. On the 30 Aug. General Guderian travelled to Budapest.

Serious development of situation was reported from Slovakia caused by the flaring up of partisan activity and insurrection movement in numerous area. Slovakian troops were unreliable and deserted frequently to the partisans.

Again the Fuehrer declared the attitude of battery Cecembre as unparalleled. Group West was informed of this acknowledgement by the Naval Staff, Operations Division.

---

Special Items.

I. Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command transmitted alteration to the directive of the Fuehrer concerning reconstructions along the Heligoland Bight which were made on proposal of the Chief of the Party Chancery. Copy according to 1/Skl. 2674/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in War Diary, Part C, Volume II a.

II. Concerns Defense of the Jutlandic Area:

a. Naval Command East, North and Norway received the following directives from the Naval Staff concerning Defense of the Jutlandic area:

"1. Development of situation, especially in the west, combined with the continuous preparedness of enemy forces in the

31 Aug. 1944

southeastern part of the British Islands appear to indicate, that the Jutlandic area is especially endangered by invasion in increased proportion. If invasion is successful, deciding consequences must be expected to the own warfare. Therefore Jutland is a repaying target of attack to the enemy.

As the western coast of Jutland will not be suitable for landing in the coming season the eastern coast and the Danish Islands must be looked upon as especially endangered.

2. These demand at once the urgent strengthening of defenses with all available combat means. Focal points inner Jutlandic coastal area.

3. In detail the following measures were planned:

a. Reconstruction of coastal defenses through installing at once available medium and light batteries in first line twelve - 12.7 cm. destroyer guns and twenty - 7.5 cm anti-tank guns (naval landing craft delivery) as well as creating operational bases for "Spinnen".

b. Strengthening of minefields in the Skagerrak and Danish Waters.

c. The placing at disposal of Small Battle Units in the northern Jutlandic area.

d. Prepare "Dackel" operations in connection with the local operational conditions as far as promising success.

e. Strengthen the land defense forces by bringing up training units (Manning Divisions) from other areas.

4. Single instructions for preparations and carrying out of measures according to Nr. 3.) will be made at a different place.

Attention is drawn to the special importance." Quartermaster General, Naval Staff is taking part. Copy of decree 1/Skl. I North 2666/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in War Diary Part C, Volume III.

b. The Naval Command East received order to examine and to

31 Aug. 1944

report, if a transfer of the battleships SCHLESSEN and SCHLESWIG - HOLSTEIN into the Baltic Sea Entrances as floating batteries in case of an actual invasion danger would be advisable.

c. The Naval Command East and by copy the Naval Command North Sea, Norway, Admiral Skagerrak and Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament, Underwater Obstacles Branch received orders from l/Skl. I E 2670/44 Gkdos. Chfs. about strengthening of minefields in the area of Jutland. Copy of order, which was made on account of report of Naval Staff, Operations Division, Mine Warfare Section and Anti-Submarine Section to Commander in Chief, Navy on the 30 Aug. is filed in War Diary, Part C, Volume III.

d. The Naval Command East reports that plans will soon be presented to strengthen the declared zone of the Skagerrak and to lay new minefields between Skagen and Paternoster which will also be effective against surface forces of all sizes and which were instigated by the promise of increased delivery of minefield materiel. The Naval Command East proposes to prepare the EMDEN and the LEIPZIG as mine-carriers. The Naval Command asked to place one minesweeper flotilla at his disposal to recheck new minefield courses in the Skagerrak declared zone. In addition six to eight motor-coasters were proposed as mine-carriers.

The Naval Staff agreed to the cruiser employment. At present it is not possible to grant a minesweeper flotilla from another area.

The proposal concerning motor coasters will be taken care of by Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff, Shipping and Transport Branch. After all it is referred to directive according to Nr. c.

III. The Naval Staff draws the attention of the 1st Task Force and by copy the Naval Command, Norway and Fleet to the fact, that in the last large-scale attacks against Kiel the area of the harbor was at the same time successfully mined in spite of complete smoke screen and darkness and that the same possibility must be expected also in the attack against the Kaafjord.

#### IV. Concerns Eastern Baltic:

As completion of report to Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command concerning operation "Birke" (see War Diary 30 Aug.)

31 Aug. 1944

the Naval Staff transmitted information from Naval Command East about strength of offices of the three branches of the Armed Forces in the single Finnish ports which might be relied upon at once to secure the Finnish tonnage. Copy of teletype 1/Skl. I op 2669/44 Gkdos. Chfs. in War Diary, Part C, Volume III.

V. Concerns Balkan Situation:

Group South reports at 1330 that orders were issued to Commander in Chief Southeast on the 30 Aug. to destroy property of the German Armed Forces which no more could be transferred back. To this the Group reports:

"1. According to the existing order the remains of the naval stores Varna were handed over relevantly to Bulgarians before receiving destruction orders. No German units were more in Varna therefore destruction not possible.

2. Other naval stores in Bulgaria were retransported with the exception of four weeks supplies, which will be carried along as supplies when troops withdraw.

3. Sofia is further on listening in on wave Violet 5 and submarine wave. The communication equipment necessary for this purpose can first be dismantled after Commander in Chief, Group South transferred from the area of Sofia. Other communication equipment is being dismantled."

Group South reports at 2110 about political situation in Bulgaria:

"On orders from the Commander in Chief Southeast the Chief of the Military Mission in Bulgaria informed the Foreign Minister, that German Armed Forces would not leave Bulgaria, before civilians, internees and armed-forces-property were evacuated. Ultimative demands of Bulgarians should be rejected and the last consequences will be accepted. The Military Mission expects rejection and armed interference. Our own troops in fighting trim will not be withdrawn."

Concerning our own movements Group South reports, that Group Steinbach and Grattenauer were interned near Sofia. The Commanding Admiral Black Sea arrived at about midnight in Sofia with 400 men. The crews of the minesweeper flotilla and Group Remmler were approaching Sofia in express transports respectively by motor trucks.

VI. The Commanding Admiral Adriatic stated attitude against the

31 Aug. 1944

2nd Tank Army Command in intercepted radio message concerning question of choosing battle headquarters for Admiral Adriatic. Laibach is mentioned as best solution as present situation might cause the possibility of danger to Istria and with that endanger the base of the total naval warfare in the Adriatic. Energetic command in the northern area and especially close cooperation with commander of Adriatic Coastal Area is necessary. For the purpose of closer cooperation also with the 2nd Tank Army Command the Admiral Adriatic intends to place there a permanent representative, Naval Shore Commander of Albania, Captain Loyke.

The Naval Staff instructed Admiral Adriatic and by copy the German Naval Command Italy and Group South, that the Armed Forces High Command agreed to proposal from the Naval Staff, Operations Division dated 11 Aug. based on certain principles concerning strengthening of minefields in the Gulf of Fiume and Trieste and accepting the weakening of minefield plans in the open sea area and promised relevant directives.

Group South and Admiral Adriatic received order to examine and to report if the placing at disposal of batteries is possible from the batteries granted by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division on the 20 Aug.

To harmonize opinions premeditations were again transmitted as follows:

"a. Resolute invasion of western Istria can presumably not be prevented owing to condition of coast. Mines and coastal batteries mean to the enemy only delay and difficulties and need a larger display of forces.

b. After invasion on the western Istrian coast the fortress Pola will be cut-off from land communications. Compare with Cherbourg and Toulon.

c. Advance of the enemy, situated in Istria or easterly of Venice in direction of Trieste and Fiume should be combatted with promising success as long as sea reinforcements could be effectively bared. With this the naval operations should concentrate on the northern Adriatic: Safeguarding of Trieste and Fiume against penetrations from the sea.

d. The present minefields were not sufficient owing to the possibility to locate position and owing to the weak minefield protection considering important duties of the navy.

31 Aug. 1944

e. A more effective system, distributed in depth and reaching along both sides of the coast and in addition EMR/K mines with double chains and a heavy anchor seem to be the most suitable minefield defense possibility also for deceiving in, minefield gaps. In addition employment of LMB ground mines in larger spaces with fuzes, difficult to remove. Accept the restricted freedom of movement for our own vessels. Coastal traffic and training must be possible if effective minefield system is laid.

f. Effective blocking of the Gulf of Fiume is only possible in our opinion at the Faresina canal and on both sides of the island of Plaunig with relevant density of mines and battery defense.

g. The positions of batteries Tagliamento estuary and Cap Salvore will probably be in the course of the front and will be difficult to protect by the army. In our opinion Grado and Pirano on the northern coast and mounting of battery on the hight of Moschenizze on the southeastern coast is believed to answer the purpose. The latter would not only be suitable for the defense of the Faresina canal but would also be adopted to combat enemy forces which entered the Gulf of Fiume by the Veglia-Canal."

Plans according to e. and f. should be presented at once.

Copy according to decree from 1/Skl. I m 2628/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary Part C, Volume XIV.

---

Position on the 31 Aug. 1944

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Forty-eight planes in action were detected by 19th Group above the Bay of Biscay.

2. Own Situation:

Area Atlantic Coast:

Evacuation of Quessant was started. Transfer of remaining

31 Aug. 1944

garrison was planned for the 1 Sep. Destruction of naval harbor Brest has started. On the 31 Aug. fighter-bomber attacks were made against battery positions of Brest as well as harassing fire, enemy artillery and mortar fire were covering the total fore-lying area of the fortress. Our own artillery was shelling enemy concentrations with observed effect. The present enemy penetrations were mopped up in energetic counter attacks and partly by withdrawing the main line of resistance from the fore-lying area. One - 7.5 cm twin barrelled anti-aircraft artillery gun and one 10.5 cm gun dropped out of action. The commander of the 40th Minesweeper Flotilla was placed with his remaining naval forces under the command of the Naval Shore Command. Supplies were transferred to Le Ponquet by two armed fishing vessels. The vessels returned to Brest with wounded.

Inside of La Rochelle were on the evening of the 26th inclusive of islands in total 11,483 men of which 9,514 belonged to the combat troops, 440 were dockyard workers, and 1919 men belonged to the supply troops and floating formations. Supplies sufficient for 85 days. The most urgent water supplies were at disposal. All available transportation means were employed with filling up ammunition presumed assets. Evacuation of civilian population was arranged.

Seamarks were to the largest amount removed from the Gironde. Three steamers loaded with depth charges were destroyed in the Gironde fortress. With the exception of three, all beacons were rendered unserviceable.

Ile Noirmoutier was evacuated on the evening of the 30 Aug. Firmly installed weapons and bunker installations were destroyed, other weapons, ammunition and equipment was transferred. The remainders will be transferred by the 809th Naval Anti-aircraft artillery Formation following-up.

One mine was swept off La Pallice. One departing submarine was escorted.

Bordeaux was occupied by the enemy on the night of the 31 Aug. according to a British broadcast.

Sea Area Channel:

Destructional work was completed in Dieppe and Fecamp.

31 Aug. 1944

The harbors will not be serviceable for a long time. No communications exist with Treport.

The fortress of Le Havre is surrounded according to information from the army. Till now enemy influence on fortress was not established. Harbor destructions have started. The blocking of the mine fields is only proceeding slowly owing to weather conditions. At noon about 100 torpedoes more were in the fortress without war-head pistols etc.

Battery 4/1254 near Dieppe was destroyed. Battery 2,8,9/1252 moved off in direction Somme. Batteries 1,3,5 and 6/1245 from the area southerly of Etaples and 2/1244 near Dunkirk were withdrawn from their position on orders from Commander in Chief, West for operations on land in the area of Amiens.

Battery Cap de La Heve was attacked in the afternoon with bombs and gunfire. One plane was shot down.

Owing to the aggravation of situation it was ordered that Battery "Lindenmann" and "Todt" should consume the ammunition of the area Pas de Calais against towns on the English southern coast. The bombardment will start at 0100 on the 1 Sep.

Battery Cecembre reports that the last 19.4 cm gun was put out of action on the 29 Aug. in heavy land and sea bombardment. Four bomb-carpets and continuous destructional bombardment from land was covering battery at 1800 on the 30 Aug. Two cruisers were sighted in the northwest. Cecembre was shelled by a battleship at a distance of 25,000 meter from 1200 to 1230 and again from 1430 on the 31 Aug.

The Commander of the 14th Minesweeper Flotilla reports fighter-bomber attacks while transferring from Dieppe to Boulogne with ten minesweepers, one submarine chaser, six gun carrier vessels and two armed fishing vessels as well as one drifter and two tugs which only caused splinter damage on submarine chaser. After that contact was made with six motor gun boats southwesterly of Boulogne which turned off after being fired on and after receiving concentrated fire from submarine chaser and gun carrier vessel. Successes were not observed, our own casualties were small, for brief report of engagement see teletype 1100.

The PT boats of the Brest file re-entered port again as PT boat S "145" suffered engine damage after departure.

31 Aug. 1944

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

Owing to stormy weather conditions escort and minesweeping duties were postponed. Otherwise no special incidents.

Norway Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty-four planes in action were detected by 18th group.

2. Own Situation:

In full capacity convoy traffic was again reopened off the Arctic coast on the evening of the 30 Aug. Owing to danger from carriers, the route Røeruik - Maloe in the area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast was closed. Along the western coast about 150 enemy planes of different types and in several formations were reported from the sea area Stavanger between 1724 to 1754 on the 30th. Two formations of each 25 to 30 planes were at low altitude above the sea and dropped objects when fired upon. Owing to the suspicion of mines the shipping routes were closed between Eggeroe and Stavanger.

Seventeen ships were escorted to the north and eleven ships to the south.

---

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

Six minesweeper divisions and 33 naval vessels were detected by radio monitoring communicating with Headquarters in the Finnish Bay on the 30 Aug. At forenoon on the 31 Aug. eight vessels were sighted off the Narva estuary and two patrol boats northwesterly of Hungerburg, four midget vessels were sighted in the afternoon northerly of Hungerburg.

-----  
Page 845 missing in Document.  
-----

31 Aug. 1944

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Thirty vessels were employed with minesweeping duties in the Baltic Sea Entrances and off the western coast of Jutland. One mine was swept in the Samsøe - Belt.

The laying of the coastal mine type "A" minefield along the eastern coast of Jutland was planned for the 1 Sep.

Escort duties were carried out without incidents.

Western and Central Baltic:

In total 65 boats and twelve minesweeping planes were employed with minesweeping duties on the 30 Aug. The following minesweeping results were reported: Kiel Bay, four; near Darsserort, seven; off Swinemuende, one; in the Haff of Stettin, three; southerly of Hela and in the Koenigsberger sea-channel each one and off Pillau, five.

Armed fishing vessel KFK "512" sank in the Haff of Stettin after striking a mine, causing casualties. Prohibited routes were again partly reopened.

Fire was started on the steamer WELLHEIM (5,455 BRT) in Memel on the afternoon of the 30 Aug. caused most probably by flying sparks during welding work, sabotage unlikely. Fire is under control.

Escort and transportation duties were carried out without special incidents happening.

Nineteen enemy planes were reported from the sea area Memel - Libau on the afternoon of the 30th and four enemy planes were reported from the sea area Memel on the afternoon of the 31 Aug. Submarine U "1016" reported at 0900 from northerly of Hela the approach of Russian twin-engined planes. The boat scored one hit. Concerning the deficit of the yards in Kiel it was reported:

-----  
Page 846 - double - in document.  
-----

31 Aug. 1944

a. War important plants:

Naval Arsenal:	nearly completely destroyed.
Howaldt-Werke:	nearly all buildings were badly damaged: partly destroyed.
Deutsche Werke:	Section buildings were slightly damaged
Germania-Werft:	heavy to medium damage was caused in the remaining plant installations.

b. Deficit of repair possibilities:

Howaldt-Werke:	at present 100 %
Deutsche Werke:	at present 100 %, later the completing of plant will depend on current supply.

c. Submarine construction:

Naval Arsenal:	The re-opening of plant is very doubtful.
Deutsche Werke:	at present 100 %, parts to build within were destroyed.
Germania-Werft:	for the duration of eight days 100 %, re-opening of plant cannot be foreseen (current supply).
Howaldt-Werke:	Submarine pen ready as soon as current supply available, otherwise deficit at present 100 %.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

The Narva patrol was released by the Commander 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla.

One mine was swept in the roads of the Dvina estuary. Convoys and transports sailed according to plan. Two thousand eight hundred and fifty tons of supplies were transferred to Riga on the 30 Aug. for Army Group South.

On Lake Peipus three naval artillery barges and one ZPK vessel were put out of action in three air raids on the 30 Aug. at Ranna - Pungerja and Mustvee. Ready for action were still two naval artillery barges and ten patrol boats.

31 Aug. 1944

Our counter attacks at the front of the army were successful northwesterly and northerly of Dorpat.

---

#### IV. Submarine Warfare.

The 1st Submarine Flotilla reports from Brest that the peninsula Armdrique was occupied by the enemy. Two heavy cruisers were sighted in the afternoon northerly of Quessant.

Submarine U "871" left Drontheim for operations in the Atlantic.

From the Arctic Ocean enemy formation on reversed course were further-on confirmed through bearings of the escort telephone communication service. The position was calculated to be at 1600 in AB 6260. Three submarines were ordered to operate against this formation. Submarine U "957" is on return voyage from the Kara Sea and reports prisoners on board among them the communication officer from information principal Dickson. Owing to this report three submarines were placed as group "Greif" in base line from AS 1992 to 4331.

In the Baltic, submarine U "1000" hit a mine on its way from Pillau to Reval. The boat returned to Pillau.

The northern coast of Crete was assigned in the Mediterranean as new operational area to submarine U "565".

From the Black Sea, Submarine U "20" reports at 1533 the launching of a single torpedo and at 1544 a twin fan torpedo at three southerly steering convoy vessels in CL 1258. The torpedoes missed. Submarine U "23" attacked the harbor of Constanta with three T 3 torpedoes. Three detonations with large blastings and fire columns were observed at the berths after one minute and forty three seconds along-side of which were moored one destroyer and a merchant ship of 6000 BRT. A telescope mine was layed in front of the harbor.

---

#### V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

31 Aug. 1944

The enemy displayed a strong air activity in the areas of Reims and Amiens. The deep defense zone in the area of St. Omer was attacked. One hundred fighter-bombers, fighters and reconnaissance planes in total were in addition reported from the Rhone and Saone valley. Sixty enemy planes entered Belgium on the night of the 31 Aug., no raids were reported.

One hundred and twenty of our own planes were operating in the area of Reims, Laon, Verdun, St. Dizier and Chalon Sur Marne supporting the army. Six Ju 52 carried out re-transportations from Dijon without meeting any special incidents.

Reich Territory:

Essential air incursions were not reported during day. Twelve enemy planes raided air bases in Holland and northwestern Germany on the night of the 31 Aug. Seventy to eighty Mosquito planes attacked Cologne and Duesseldorf. Fifteen planes flew up the Rhine from Koblenz to Mannheim and returned via Pirmasens - Luxemburg - Metz.

Mediterranean Theater:

Eighty four-engined enemy planes raided the air bases Neusatz and Grossvardein in the Serbian area on the 30 Aug. Six hundred enemy planes were active in the rear Italian frontal area prevalent against thoroughfare Rimini - Mailand.

Forty-six enemy planes were reported on the night of the 30 Aug. supplying partisans along the Croatian/Albanian coast.

Eastern Area:

Five hundred and forty of our own and 1,467 enemy operations were reported from the eastern front on the 30 Aug. in which we lost one plane and shot down five planes.

---

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

1. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

31 Aug. 1944

The convoy, which entered the Mediterranean on the 29 Aug. and consisted of 51 freighters, ten tankers and eight escort vessels will arrive at forenoon on the 1 Sep. in the area easterly of Algiers according to dead reckoning.

Air reconnaissance located at 2355 on the 30 Aug. twelve miles West northwest of Ajaccio approaching convoy. Three departing convoys were detected after midnight 40 miles southerly to 86 miles southeasterly of St. Tropez, in total two troop transporters, two freighters, 24 LST and LCT, among which were five destroyers and eight escorting vessels.

Five groups of enemy vessels were in the area 30 miles southeasterly of Tropez on southeasterly courses betweel 2050 and 0400 according to radar equipment, presumably placed patrol protection for reinforcements.

In total three groups of boats were detected in the coastal area of St. Remo of which one was inside of our own mine fields six miles southwesterly of St. Remo presumably sweeping mines.

One boat group each, presumably PT boats, were located by radar between 2230 and 0330 patrolling up and down 40 miles southerly of Genoa, 15 miles southerly of Rapallo on eastern course and respectively 13 miles west southwest of the island of Tino.

Own Situation:

Four of our own torpedo boats on reconnaissance thrust were attacked by enemy planes with splinter-bombs at 0200 off Sestri Levante. One boat was dismissed off Spezia owing to rudder damage. The remaining three boats shelled the battle line southerly of the river Sachio from 0409 to 0416 and observed during bombardment two large fires. After that the boats entered Spezia.

Two battle ferries on coastal patrol out-maneuvered two torpedoes southerly of Cap Del Arma at 0355. The enemy was not sighted. The coastal patrol with three further battle ferries and four minesweepers sighted nothing.

The transfer of the assault boats to St. Remo was carried out according to plan. The one-man assault boat which ran aground near Cap Martin was towed to St. Remo. The Operations Staff transferred to St. Remo. Taking the equipment ashore after the

31 Aug. 1944

unsuccessful operations on the night of the 28th and 29 Aug., three two-men assault boats and one one-man assault boat were damaged by the effect of weapons, belonging to our own army and marines in our own coastal area. One operator was seriously wounded. One boat is missing and became a total loss most probably through the shelling of our own coastal defenses. Escort duties were carried out according to plan on the night of the 30 Aug. Two minesweepers and one patrol boat were five times attacked by planes with splinter-bombs when on the way from Porto Fino to Sestri Levante. The vessels were slightly damaged and suffered casualties. Destructive measures at Via Reggio as well as the transfer of batteries and stores were proceeding according to plan.

2. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic:

According to unconfirmed report from the army nine enemy vessels were observed on northerly course ten miles off Pesaro at 2030 on the 30 Aug. Two smaller landing vessels were tied up alongside of the break-water in Senegallia early on the 31 Aug. Active enemy boat traffic was observed between the harbors of Tumveli, Luka and Sali on the morning of the 30 Aug. Enemy fighter-bombers attacked the Ombla-Bay in the afternoon. One Armed coastal sailing vessel was damaged. One truck belonging to the Naval Motor Truck Company was shot afire by partisans 20 km southerly of Valona.

In addition it was reported that supply boats, coming from Lissa at 1800 on the 29 Aug. were shelled by our artillery near Dugi Rad. One of the targets ran aground.

Three 2 cm four-barrelled guns were mounted recently in the harbor of Triest and were reported ready for action.

b. Aegean:

A Ju 52 sighted an enemy submarine twelve miles northerly of Iraklion at 2057 on the 30 Aug. One enemy submarine was detected on the forenoon of this day northeasterly of Syra and unsuccessfully attacked with depth charges.

Submarine chaser "2171" was attacked by enemy submarine with artillery easterly of the island of Dia at 0225 on the 31 Aug. Later the run of a torpedo was sighted.

31 Aug. 1944

Two enemy air raids were made against the harbor of Zante on the night of the 30 Aug. which caused only little damage. Our mopping-up operation against partisans in the area of the Pelopones resulted in the destruction of 22 sailing vessels and several midget vessels between the 28th to the 30 Aug. Motor minesweeper R "178" ran aground in the Gulf of Euboea.

c. Black Sea:

Particulars concerning Balkan area were reported under "Special Items".

d. Danube Situation:

No reports were received from minesweeper group lower Danube and group Seetra Braila. No German naval vessels were more below Russe.

Formation Zieb landed 700 wounded as well as women and children in Swistow on the 29 Aug. The formation reports early on the 31 Aug. engagement with Romanians at km 736 without losses and continuation of hilly voyage. Six minesweeping successes were established in total on the 30 Aug. One motor tug and two tugs sank near km 1448.

According to report from the Inspector of the Minesweeping Service Danube, the minesweeping group of the lower Danube received order to support the break-through of formation Zieb near Kalafat and to carry coal and bread ahead to the formation at once. The formation is advancing with a speed of five km per hour and is heating boilers with wood and coal dust. Our own planes sighted the formation near km 781 at 1400 below Vidin.

According to report from an agent out of Belgrad Mihailowitsch cancelled the agreement with the German Armed Forces on the 29 Aug. and it is said that he issued orders to concentrate all Danube barges in Save where they have to be ready on the 5 Sep. for a special purpose.

Supported by Minesweeper Group Lower Danube the Commander in Chief Southeast will carry out in the next days operation "Wassernixe" from Prahove to mop-up the Danube from the Iron Gate to Orschova.

Air Force Command Southeast reported on the 30 Aug. that operations against the monitors were not more possible, as additional fuel tanks did not arrive.

31 Aug. 1944

One of our trains of barges was attacked by an enemy plane near km 1324 at 2220 on the 29 Aug. Apparently the enemy plane was shot down.

---

VII. Situation East Asia.

The Military Attaché of Bangkok transmitted the following information from the Japanese Military Attaché:

"1. China:

American formations in a strength of about 30,000 men were brought up by air via British India. They were employed as instructors for Chinese air-borne troops as well as to support the Chinese front.

Japanese operations along the Canton - Hankow railway line were advancing only slowly owing to bad weather, difficulties of ground and American reinforcements.

2. Burma, Japanese intentions:

Withdrawal from Minpur to base positions along the Chindwin river and support northern Burma front with released forces. At the end of the rain season the lasting interruption of the Ledo-Burma road is planned.

The presence of the 36th Indian Division was again established in combat against Japanese in Burma southwesterly of Mogaung. Air-borne troops (Chindits) were in the 3rd Indian Division. The attacks of the 1st Chinese Army were concentrating on the eastern flank beyond Myitkyina in direction to Bahmo. Heavy casualties on both sides, it is estimated that the casualties amounted to 30,000 men on each side during the Manipur-battles. Japanese casualties were high owing to Malaria and under-nourishment. Reinforcements were underway via Thailand. The main transportation route was the Bangkok-Moulmein-Railway which is at present interrupted at several places owing to rain damage. The transportation of one division through Thailand requires therefore more than a month. Sea-transportation is risky owing to the submarine danger. The new Commander in Chief of Burma, General Yamashita, is soon expected to arrive by air. General Kawabe will return to Japan.

31 Aug. 1944

3. Andaman and Nicobat Islands: were still under the command of the Japanese Navy. Defense installations and garrisons were strengthened. Enemy invasion is expected at the end of 1944.

4. Pacific:

The 3rd and 5th American Fleet is concentrated in the area northwesterly of New Guinea, the 9th Fleet southerly of the Aleutians. The main American thrust is expected across the northwestern corner of New Guinea - Halmahera in direction of Mindanao (Philippines).

CONFIDENTIAL

REMARK :

GLOSSARY :

AT - mine		
DM - mine		A mine equipped with a combined pressure unit and magnetic firing device.
E - mine		
EMC - mine		Standard mine type C. A combat mine against surface vessels.
EMF - mine		A German moored influence mine.
EMR/K - mine		
FAT - hit	some kind of torpedo.	Feder Apparat Torpedo. Circling Apparatus
FW - boat	type of Vessel	
G - boat	type of Vessel	
GA - boat	type of Vessel	Captured Greek Torpedo Boat.
GK - boat	type of Vessel	
H - boat	type of Vessel	
HS 293	type of bomb	
JMC - mine		
K.GF 2	some kind of office	
KF - boat	type of Vessel	
IBM - mine		German Aerial mine Type "B" Weight 975 kg.
LMF - mine		Fallschirm mine mit Magnet Zuendung am Ankertau.
LUT	type of torpedo	
MLB	type of Vessel	

R E M A R K :

G L O S S A R Y :

PA boat		
RO	type of Vessel	
RK	type of Vessel	
RMA - mine		Standard mine Type "A"
RMH - mine		Standard mine Type "H"
SBNO	A ship is calling Murmansk for SBNO	
SD 4 HL	type of bomb	
SG 3	type of boat	(Ex French Vessel used by the Germans - AVISOS.)
SM 244	type of boat	
T 3 D	type of torpedo	
T 3 fat		
ZG 26	type of boat	
II ZG 76	type of boat	
ZPK	type of boat	



**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**