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No. 1

Wehrmacht High Command. War Diary of the Wehrmacht

Operations Staff/National Defense Branch

Copies of Excerpts covering the Period from 1 August 1940

to 24 March 1941.

The War Diary was kept by Ministerialrat (Civil Service Rank equivalent to the Rank of a Colonel) Helmuth Greiner.

Prefatory Notes:

1) In the following excerpts, only those passages are quoted

which refer to entries relating

directly

a) ~~immediately~~ to the operation "Seelowe" and the "Air

Battle of Britain", and

b) being of general political and military interest in connec-

- tion with the topic of the study concerned.

those

2) Only ~~the~~ dates are quoted under which the entries contained

in the excerpts had been made.



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War Diary of the Wehrmacht High Command/Wehr-

macht Operations Staff/Branch of National

Defense, 1 August 1940

1 August 1940

The Chief of the National Defense Branch ~~EFKHM~~, Generalmajor Warli-  
 mont, hands over <sup>the desired</sup> ~~his~~ report evaluating the overall situation to the Chief  
 of the Wehrmacht Operations Office, General der Artillery Jodl, and  
 suggests to the latter that the new directive in preparation for the  
 overall warfare be confined to general guiding principles, since a de-  
 tailed directive cannot be drawn up until the studies, in particular  
 those of the Army, are available for evaluation. The Chief of the Wehr-  
 macht Operations Office accepts this suggestion. Then he reports on the  
 the conferences of the Fuehrer with the Commanders in Chief of the Navy  
 and the Army held on 31 July:

The Commander in Chief of the Navy reported that the prepara-  
 tions for the providing of shipping space for the operation "Seelowe"  
 (sea lion) could be completed by .....(date not entered in the  
 original copy). The other preparations, especially the mine sweeping and  
 mine laying, could not be completed until 13 September. The mine swee-  
 ping and mine laying could be completed by that date only ~~if~~ in the case  
 of favorable weather conditions and friendly air supremacy. At this occa-  
 sion, the Commander in Chief of the Navy again pointed out urgently the  
 the effects which would be brought about by the intended measures on the

- 9 -

German inland navigation which would suffer a reduction of 30 per cent. In addition, all fishing steamers would also have to be employed in this action. In conclusion, he termed the fall as the season generally less favorable than the spring for the conduct of such a landing operation. He did not have a chance to express his opinion on the strategic sea situation.

The Fuehrer decided that the preparations for the landing operation should, for the time being, be based on 15 September as target date.

During the further discussion the Commander in Chief of the Navy pointed out that the views of the Army and the Navy were controversial in respect to a number of essential points, such as:

- 1.) The organization of the chain of command during the crossing operation,
- 2.) the expansion of the landing sector,
- 3.) the time-schedule for the consecutive landing of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th waves, and
- 4.) the selection of the hour at which the landing of the 1st wave should be carried out.

Finally, the Fuehrer approved the submarine program also for the year 1942.

As a result of the verbal report of the Commander in Chief of

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the Army on the progress of the preparations for the operation "Seelowe" (sea lion) the Fuehrer decided that the planning for a landing on a broad front were to be continued. Reductions of the scale of the landing which might become necessary could be ordered in the course of the operation.

For further statements of the Fuehrer made during the conference with the Commander in Chief of the Army see the notes of the Chief of the National Defense Branch ~~of 1 August~~ under the date of 1 August. These notes are not attached.

During the verbal report of the Chief of the National Defense Branch to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Office, the Chief of the Group I (Luftwaffe), Major Freiherr von Falkenstein, reported on his communication with the Luftwaffe on 31 July at "Kurfuerst" (code name for the headquarters of the Luftwaffe Operations Staff in Wildpark near Potsdam) on the intentions of the Luftwaffe regarding the time and conduct of the intensified air warfare against England (see Directive No. 17). He commented on the reasons for the postponement of the air war against England as follows: The Luftwaffe ~~was~~ had been prepared ~~for quite a~~ for quite a long time for the intensified air war against England as far as the operational condition of its units and its supply situation was concerned. However, the controversial suggestions of the air fleet commanders for a new tactical method to be employed in the operations against

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England could not be reconciled to each other so far since the Reichsmarschall had not made any decision on this question. The latter had thought, owing to remarks made by Hitler, that ~~known~~ the intensified air war against England would not begin until about 8 days later. After the Reichsmarschall had decided on 31 July that, at first, a large-scale<sup>air</sup> attack against London was to be simulated during which the British fighter defenses were to be severely hit by the commitment of strong fighter forces, further 5 to 6 days would be needed to familiarize the crews with the new tactics in detailed discussions with the commanders down to group level and in map games.

The following directives were issued as a result of the information released by the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Office:

- 1.) The decisions made by the Fuehrer will be summarized in a directive of the Wehrmacht High Command under the date of 1 August.
- 2.) Directive No. 17 for the intensified sea and air war against England.
- 3.) Compilation of the controversial points in the views of the Army and the Navy in respect to the operation "Seelowe" (sea lion).
- 4.) Order for deception measures in connection with the operation "Seelowe" (sea lion). Suggestion on such measures submitted by the Army High Command.
- 5.) Guiding principles for propaganda activities in connection with the operation "Seelowe" (sea lion).
- 6.) List of the measures to be taken for the warfare against England

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during the winter months in case the operation "Seelowe" should be carried out this year. In such case, the following measures are planned:

- a) According to suggestions submitted by the National Defense Branch and the Commander in Chief of the Army the detachment of armored units for supporting the Italian ~~XXXXX~~ advance toward Egypt and the support of Italy by the Luftwaffe in the capture of Gibraltar and during operations against Alexandria.
- b) Measures in Syria and against the Arabian countries.
- c) Use of Japanese support for the sea war.
- 7.) Order for concealment of the build-up in the East.
- 8.) Compilation of material for use ~~XXXXXX~~ in the outline of an order for preparations<sup>v</sup> conducted on a long-range basis (subject: preparations for a campaign against the Soviet Union).

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High Command/Wehr-  
 -----  
 macht Operations Staff/ National Defense Branch  
 -----  
 2 August 1940  
 -----

2 August 1940

The Chief of the National Defense Branch submits to the Chief  
 -----  
 of the Wehrmacht High Command (Generalfeldmarschall Keitel) the Direc-  
 -----  
 tive No. 17 and the compilation of the decisions taken by the Fuehrer  
 as a result of the verbal reports of the ~~Commander~~in Chief of the

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Navy and the Army. The former is signed by the Fuehrer, the latter by the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command.

Moreover, the Chief of the National Defense Branch submits to the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command the directive on deception measures in connection with the operation "Seelowe" (sea lion) and the outline of an order for the build-up in the East. The latter is approved on principle and will <sup>then</sup> be further developed.

(.....)

In the afternoon, the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command confers with the Chief of the Economic and Armament Office in the presence of the Chief of the National Defense Branch on the preparation of new decisions to be made by the Fuehrer regarding the arms and ammunition program in accordance with the ~~now planned~~ <sup>now planned</sup> strength of the wartime army and with the other conversions (stepping-up of the antiaircraft artillery production, approval of the submarine program for the year 1942).

(.....)

For the preparation of the work leave which is to be granted, if possible, on a large scale <sup>by the Army</sup> during the winter of 1941/1942, the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command ordered that this leave be granted, on principle, immediately after a negative decision which ~~might~~ <sup>might</sup> be taken by the Fuehrer regarding the operation "Seelowe" (sea lion). All forces available should be used and the home leave not be used for work should be reduced.

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The Chief of the National Defense Branch sends a directive drawn up by himself and regarding the "buildup in the East" to the Chiefs of the Groups IH(Army), IK (Navy), ~~and~~ IL (Luftwaffe), II, and IV, as well as to the liaison officer of the Economic and Armament Office requesting their opinion and, if under circumstances, their ~~suggestions~~ suggestions for complementation.

This outline says that the Fuehrer had decided not to create an independent state in the remaining territory of Poland but to annex the occupied eastern areas to the Greater German Reich. Consequently, the Wehrmacht would have to build up all necessary defenses in this newly gained eastern territory. An additional factor to be considered ~~was~~ is in the West that the air threat which would increase in the course ~~of~~ of the war will, to an increasing extent, necessitate the military exploitation of the safe eastern territories.

The following guiding principles should be adhered to in this action: (.....)

5 August 1940

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Office summons, in the absence of the Chief of the National Defense Branch, the group chiefs of Group I for a conference to be held in the Reich's Chancellery in the morning and make the following statements:

During the conference with the Fuehrer on 31 July (see 1 August) ~~-----~~  
 the Commander in Chief of the Navy suggested, as already known, that the ~~-----~~

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preparations for the operation "Seelowe" (sea lion) be based on a ~~plan~~ plan for a crossing on the small sector Ostend - Deal/Somme Estuary-East Burne. The Commander in Chief who also attended the conference did not contradict ~~in~~ this suggestion and the Fuehrer noted it without any comment. From this, the Commander in Chief of the Navy got the impression that the Fuehrer and the Commander in Chief of the Army concurred in his opinion and the Naval Operations Staff continued its work on the basis of this assumption.

The fact was, however, that the Commander in Chief of the Army voiced, after the Commander in Chief of the Navy had left, considerable misgivings to the Fuehrer about the crossing on this small basis upon which the Fuehrer ordered to carry on the preparations on the basis of a plan for a crossing in the broad sector Ostend - Margate/Cherbourg - Lyme Bay. The ~~possible conduct of~~ definite decision whether the operation ~~should~~ be conducted on the small or the broad basis, however should be reserved.

In the meantime, the Chief of the Naval Staff declared again in letters sent to the Army General Staff and the Luftwaffe Operations Staff that the transportation of the troops could be insured only in and on both sides of the Strait of Dover which was limited by the lines Ostend - North Foreland and Etaples - Beachy Head as long as ports were not yet available and the Channel was not yet cleared of the enemy by naval forces by measures taken by the Luftwaffe and Navy.



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In this narrow sector, the crossing will now - in contrast to the crossing in several waves as hitherto planned - be possible in the form of a steady flow of transport units. During this operation, the ports located on the eastern and western sides and the waterways along the continental coast which are covered by coast artillery will also be used. In addition, a more effective protection of the flanks of this narrow crossing sector by mines and other naval action (employment of submarines, motor torpedo boats, artillery cover) seemed to be possible.

To reconcile the controversial views on the expansion of the landing sector which are shown again in this letter, a conference will be held this morning between the Commanders in Chief of the Army and Navy. He, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Office, has not yet been informed on the result of this conference.

A telephone inquiry of the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command with the Commander in Chief of the Navy revealed that the latter reached an agreement with the Commander in Chief of the Army to the effect that still today the Chief of the Naval Staff ~~should be sent~~ with staff officers specialized in the fields concerned should be sent to the headquarters of the Army High Command in Fontainebleau to work out a solution of the controversial problem. At the same time, the Commander in Chief of the Navy assures the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command that the preparations for a crossing on the broad basis are continued for the time being.

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As a result of this information, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Office issues, to supplement the Directive No.17, some other orders for the support ~~of~~ the imminent large-scale commitment of the Luftwaffe against England.

The Army is to commit machine-gun battalions and anti-aircraft machine-gun units to provide additional protection for the ground installations of the Luftwaffe in the endangered areas. The Navy is to employ all <sup>suitable</sup> naval craft to reinforce the sea rescue service in <sup>the</sup> limited outpost area <sup>in</sup> of the Channel during the large-scale operation to an extent possible in view of the preparations for the landing. Another mission of the Navy ~~xxx~~ <sup>is</sup> to provide for the possibility that the enemy recognizes the commitment of the Luftwaffe as a preparation for a landing and, consequently, employs stronger naval forces in the Channel area, by committing submarines and by other combat action to an extent permitted by the <sup>siege</sup> "situation" of England which is to be maintained also during this period of time.

The Chief of the Group I (Army) of the National Defense Branch suggests that use ~~should~~ be made of the large-scale commitment of the Luftwaffe for the adjustment fire of the batteries (K 5 and K 12) which are located at the Channel coast and have a range reaching up to England. However, a limited amount of ammunition only is to be fired in view of the support to be provided for a later landing operation. The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Office approves this suggestion.

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A corresponding directive will be issued on the same day to the high commands of the branches of the Wehrmacht (Wehrmacht High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Office/National Defense Branch 33199/40 Restricted Top Secret of 5 August).

(.....)

6 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/

National Defense Branch

5 August 1940

(.....)

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Office forwards a letter of the Army High Command (Commander in Chief of the Army - Army General Staff - Chief of Supply and Administration 0183/40 Restricted Top Secret of 30 July) which was received by the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command on 4 August. This letter contains a request for approval of the intention of the Army High Command to have the administration of the British territory to be occupied conducted ~~by~~, in general by military authorities available (such as the Commander of the Rear Army Area, the regional or garrison administration headquarters) for the purpose of the full exploitation of the auxiliary resources of the country ~~for~~ to cover the needs of the troops, and to delegate the executive power to the headquarters of the field armies which pursue a uniform policy laid down by the Army High Command are to ~~be exercised~~ (Army General Staff/Chief of Supply and Administration).



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By these operations, the enemy should be forced to employ strong fighter forces. An exact plan has been prepared for the first day of subsequent this air action, the operations should be conducted according to the situation. The exact date for the beginning of the attacks has not yet been established. The decisive factor for this date is the weather situation which is still unfavorable at the moment.

The prospects for success can be considered as absolutely favorable. The only difficulty which may be expected consists in the possibility that the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe might deem it necessary to discontinue the offensive action prematurely if the friendly losses during the first days should be considerable, as may be expected, and, on the other hand, only inadequate information is obtained on the successes of the attacks and the enemy losses.

~~The~~  
The Chief of the Group H (Army) of the National Defense Branch reports to the Chief of the National Defense Branch on the result of the conference of ~~the~~ Captain Fett who had returned from Fontainebleau on 6 August with the Operations Officer of the Operations Branch of the Army General Staff, Colonel Heusinger, on 3 August.

The conference is said to have been a mere exchange of views ~~between~~ Colonel ~~von~~ Lossberg and Colonel Heusinger ~~on~~ the controversial opinions of the Commanders in Chief of the Army and Navy regarding the conduct of the operation "Seelowe" which had become evident during the conference with the Fuehrer on 31 July.

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At first, Captain Fett informed Colonel Heusinger on the Directive No. 17 issued on 2 August and the directive simultaneously issued by the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command which stipulated that the strategic preparations for the operation "Seelowe" should be continued on the broad basis hitherto planned. Colonel Heusinger had already received the letter dated 2 August and directed by the Naval Operations Staff to the Army General Staff and the Luftwaffe Operations Staff. In this letter it was ~~made~~ made clear that the transportation of the forces could be insured only within the sector in and on both sides of the Strait of Dover.

Regarding the date of the landing, Colonel Heusinger said that according to reports ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> the Navy the weather conditions on the first half of October ~~was~~ <sup>were</sup> mostly good in the Channel. As regards the time required for the accomplishment of the crossing, ~~such a~~ <sup>the</sup> long period of ~~time~~ <sup>14 days</sup> calculated by the Navy as necessary for the crossing operation ~~which was the amount~~ of ~~14 days for the transportation of~~ 13 infantry, 6 armored, and 3 motorized divisions <sup>and</sup> which could be delayed for several days owing to enemy action and bad weather, was sharply rejected by the Army which argued that in such case the overall operation would be unfeasible.

The views of the Army and the Luftwaffe on the commitment of parachute and air landing forces were controversial. The Luftwaffe planned to commit these forces as late as after the establishment of a bridgehead as mobile reserves. According to the statement of Colonel Heusinger, the Army rejected this idea and called for the participation of these forces in the

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efforts to establish the bridgehead. If the Luftwaffe had not at its disposal <sup>a</sup> sufficient ~~parachute~~ <sup>number of parachute</sup> ~~personnel~~ personnel, the Army would be ready at any time to transfer <sup>qualified</sup> ~~suitable~~ men to the Luftwaffe for parachute training. The ideal case would be the availability of at least 7000 paratroopers. The employment of air landing forces in the establishment of the bridgehead should not be taken into consideration because of the considerable preparedness of the British for defensive action. Utmost importance was attached by the Army High Command to the consideration of its desire that the command authority regarding the measures to be taken in the ~~areas~~ areas near the coast be reserved to the field commanders. The time ~~table~~ schedule of the Army High Command provided only for the concentration of the first echelon of the first wave during the period up to 3 August. A warning order about 12 days prior to the landing would be needed for the conduct of the concentration of the second echelon of the first wave and of the entire second wave. The order for the embarkation of the equipment should be issued 2 days prior to the take-off and ~~should be expressed by~~ the embarkation of the troops ~~should~~ should be carried out a day before.

A tight control should be exercised by the Wehrmacht High Command ~~and the~~ over the measures to be taken for deception purposes.

Finally, the data on England submitted by Major von Necker and the instruction film on the contours of the British southern coast were handed over to Colonel Heusinger.

(.....)

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8 August 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense Branch, 7 August 1940

In the afternoon, the Chief of the National Defense Branch reports to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff on the result effected through of the exchange of views ~~made possible by~~ the mediation of Captain Fett. The exchange of views had taken place between the Chief of the Group I Army, Lieutenant Colonel von Lossberg and the Operations Officer of the Operations Branch of the Army General Staff, Colonel Heusinger (See under 7 August).

The Chief of the National Defense Branch jointly with the Chief of the Group I Luftwaffe then pointed out that, upon orders by ~~Stark~~ the Reichsmarschall, the Luftwaffe has not yet taken any preparatory measures for the landing operation "Seelowe" planned according to Directive No. 16. For this reason, the Wehrmacht High Command must now tighten its reins of command in respect to these preparations. ~~and~~ The controversial views of the Army and Navy on the conduct of the operation on a small or broad basis caused the Luftwaffe to direct again air attacks against ports in West and South England.

the  
The problem of the employment of parachute forces during the operation "Seelowe" should be clarified, too, since, as the report of Captain Fett revealed, the views ~~on this question~~ of the Army and Luftwaffe on this question were controversial.



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The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Office declares that he  
 -----  
~~will~~  
 will contact the Chief of the Luftwaffe General Staff directly on this  
 question.

According to the directive ~~of~~ the Chief of the Wehrmacht High  
 Command, the Chief of the National Defense Branch submits to the Chief  
 -----  
 of the Wehrmacht Operations Office a letter directed to the Army High  
 Command (Chief of Supply and Administration) (Wehrmacht High Command -  
 Wehrmacht Operations Office - National Defense Branch IV 33200/40  
 Restricted Top Secret, dated 7 August). By this letter it is communica-  
 ted to the Army High Command that the form of administration planned by  
 the Army High Command for those areas of England to be occupied conforms  
 to the directive expected to be issued by the Fuehrer after the decision  
 on the conduct of the operation "Seelowe" and that, therefore, the  
 preparatory  
 necessary ~~preliminary~~ measures may be taken by the Army High Command  
 on this basis.

Subsequently, the Chief of the Group I Luftwaffe of the National  
 -----  
 Defense Branch reports verbally to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operatio<sup>S</sup>  
 -----  
 Office on the planned conduct of the intensified air war against Eng-  
 land and on the prospects for success of these operations. (See under  
 7 August).  
 (.....)

The Chief of the National Defense Branch asks the Chief of the  
 -----  
 -----  
 Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence for information on the present Russian  
 -----

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war potential and for an examination to establish which ~~spots~~  
spots of the British Empire except Gibraltar and Egypt can be attacked  
with a good prospect for success in case the operation "Seelowe"  
should  
~~be postponed~~ be postponed until next spring.

(.....)

At the present time, the following numbers of aircraft are available to  
the German Luftwaffe:

949 bomber aircraft in operational condition,  
336 dive-bomber aircraft in operational condition,  
869 fighter-aircraft in operational condition, and  
268 twin-engine fighter aircraft in operational condition.

add up  
These figures ~~amount~~ to a total number of  
2422 aircraft.

The Wehrmacht Operations Office is renamed Wehrmacht Operations Staff  
as of this date.

9 August 1940  
-----

The Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Schniewind, returned  
from Fontainebleau on 8 August without having reached an agreement with  
the Chief of the Army General Staff during the conference in the eve-  
ning of 7 August on the crossing sector to be selected for the opera-  
tion "Seelowe".

As is revealed by the notes of the Chief of the Operations  
Branch of the Naval Staff, Admiral Fricke, who attended the conference,

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The Chief of the Army General Staff had declared that he could by no means accept the idea of concentrating the landing within the area Folkestone - Beachy Head, since this ~~area~~ area would be too small and the terrain too unsuitable for the employment of "wedge tactics" to break through the considerably superior enemy defenses. An additional factor to be considered ~~is~~ is, according to the opinion of the Naval Staff that owing to the peculiar character of the transportation of the landing forces any tactical surprise of the enemy cannot be expected.

On the other hand, the Chief of the Naval Staff made it clear again that a landing ~~in a single sector~~ on a broad front would not be possible for technical as well as military reasons. The same would be true of a simultaneous landing at Deal.

In a conference with the group chiefs of Group I the Chief of the National Defense Branch points out that in view of these controversial views of the Army and the Navy it must be the mission of the Wehrmacht High Command to prepare a decision to be made by the Fuehrer. For this purpose he directs that a memorandum be prepared in which the reasons for the controversial views of both high commands be presented in outlines. Data of the Navy are already on hand for this memorandum while the opinion of the Army cannot be clarified until the Colonel von Witzleben has ~~returned~~ arrived from Fontainebleau. On the basis of these data a suggestion for the decision of the Fuehrer ~~should~~ is to be prepared which should be largely in conformance with what the Fuehrer Commanders had ordered as a result of the verbal reports of the ~~Commanders~~ in Chief

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of the Navy and Army on 31 July. The then order of the Fuehrer provided for the continuation of the preparations for the launching and the disembarkation ~~of~~ the first echelon of the first wave on the broad basis hitherto planned. Any reduction of the extension of this basis which might become necessary should not be effected until later.

The results of the consideration of the suggestion of the Army High Command that the planned Italian move against Egypt be supported by German armored forces are ~~indicated~~ noted down for the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command and the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff. In ~~this~~ this note the suggestion submitted by the National Defense Branch in the "Evaluation of the overall Situation" , dated 30 July, that armored forces should be offered to the Italians for their ~~attack~~ offensive action against the Suez-Canal in ~~the~~ case the operation "Seeloe" would be called off is renewed and reasons for it are given. The reason given is the fact that armored forces will be dispensable up to the spring of 1941 and the detachment of an armored corps will be worth while particularly if at the same time an operation against Gibraltar is prepared. In such case there would be a good prospect for crushing the British position in the Mediterranean in the winter months, (.....).

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On the basis of the reconnaissance results provided by the reconnaissance staff of the Admiral Canaris in respect to Gibraltar, the National Defense Branch <sup>conducts</sup> ~~xxxxxxxx~~ studies in which the operational possibilities for action against Gibraltar and the political prerequisites regarding Spain are examined. The result of these studies is outlined in a note to be used in a verbal report to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff. This note suggests that, in case the operation "Seelowe" will not be carried out during this fall, not only the port be destroyed and the British fleet be routed but that Gibraltar be captured. (.....).

10 August 1940

The Chief of the National Defense Branch discusses with the group chiefs of Group I and with the Chief of Group III, Major von Tippelskirch, the problem of organizing the provision and transportation of supplies during the operation "Seelowe". Particular attention was devoted to the question whether a special organization would have to be established for this purpose.

The following three solutions are taken into consideration:

- 1.) The entire provision and transportation of the supplies will be directed by a central Wehrmacht transportation and Supply Authority established especially for this purpose. This authority will decide on the urgency of the various supplies and on the order of succession of the supply transports by sea and by air.

2.) The provision and transportation of the supplies for the individual branches of the Wehrmacht will be the responsibility of the individual branches of the Wehrmacht. In this case, the required means of transportation would have to be made available to each branch of the Wehrmacht and special ports would have to be assigned to each branch.

3.) The branches of the Wehrmacht <sup>will</sup> report the necessary sea transports to the Navy and the required air transports to the Luftwaffe. The Navy and the Luftwaffe will then decide on the order of succession of the transportation.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch decides that no new organization should be established but that the branches of the Wehrmacht are to regulate their supply activities independently according to the principle of ~~the~~ decentralization. The uniform control of the transport operations, however, should ~~be~~, as far as necessary, be exercised by the Chief of ~~the~~ Wehrmacht Transportation.

During his verbal report in the afternoon, the Chief of the National Defense Branch made a corresponding suggestion to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff. The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff approves the principle of decentralization. However, ~~the~~ he thinks it necessary that the armies to be committed in the landing operations be assigned the mission of independently ~~conducting~~ providing and transporting the supplies for their own forces as well as for the Luftwaffe elements employed in their sectors.

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For this purpose, the sea transport authorities of the Navy should be closely connected with the respective armies and liaison officers of the Army and Luftwaffe should be detailed to these transport authorities.

On the basis of these directives, the Chief of Group III of the National Defense Branch contacts the Navy on 12 August and prepares a corresponding order.

(.....)

12 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/ Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch, 10 August

1940

(.....)

In the afternoon, the liaison officer of the Army High Command with the Naval Operations Staff, Colonel von Witzleben, calls on the Chief of the National Defense Branch in the train "Atlas" and hands over to him a letter directed by the Commander in Chief of the Army to the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command. In this letter, the controversial views of the Army and Navy High Commands on the conduct of the operations "Seelowe" are again set forth in detail and it is requested that the definite decision of the Wehrmacht High Command be taken soon.

The Army High Command rejects in this letter the view taken by the Navy High Command that a landing operation could be conducted

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only within the area limited by the lines Dunkirk - Folkestone and Boulogne - Beachy Head. The following reasons are given for this rejection: The landed troops would encounter considerably superior forces. The marshy terrain of the coastal area which is interspersed with innumerable streams is extremely unfavorable for the employment of the armament of the friendly forces, <sup>this applies</sup> especially to the mobile forces. For ~~the~~ enemy defensive action, however, this type of terrain is ideal. The hills surrounding the entire landing front in ~~the form of~~ a semi-circular form provide favorable positions for the enemy, the long time required for the crossing operation - 6 days for the 6 landing divisions of the first wave including certain GHQ-troops, further 7 days for further 6 divisions with GHQ-troops and anti-aircraft artillery units - offers to the enemy the possibility of establishing such a strong defense front that ~~any~~ <sup>the</sup> prospect for any breakthrough would no longer exist, which would mean that an important factor for a quick success in England would be eliminated.

Therefore, the Army High Command demands that simultaneously another landing be carried out at and west of Brighton where the terrain is especially favorable for the employment of mobile units. Furthermore, the Army wants that forces be landed at Deal very early, which is necessary for the <sup>occupation</sup> rapid ~~expansion~~ of the hills north of Dover and that within 4 days the first waves of a total strength of 10 divisions with the corresponding equipment be landed on the



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coast of England between Ramsgate and west of Brighton. ~~On 10/8/44~~  
~~landing would be possible~~ A prospect for reaching the first objective of  
 the operations (Thames Estuary - Southampton) in due time, would  
 exist only if forces of adequate strength and provided with a rapid  
 flow of supplies would be employed simultaneously on this broad  
 front.

During the ensuing discussion Colonel von Witzleben points  
 at  
 out that ~~in~~ the conference of the Chief of the Army General Staff  
 with the Chief of the Naval Staff in Fontainebleau on 7 August  
 (See under 9 August) no possibility presented itself for a reconcili-  
 ation of the conflicting views. Both high commands now considered  
 a decision of the Fuehrer as necessary. No more time should be was-  
 ted.

The further examination of this  
~~During the conference of the Chief of the Army General Staff~~ problem conducted by the Chief  
 of the National Defense Branch together with the Chiefs of Groups  
 I Army and I Navy in the presence of Colonel von Witzleben seems  
 to offer a possibility of a partial fulfilment of the demands rai-  
 sed by the Army. It should be established whether the landing of  
 a combat team of adequate strength and consisting of various types  
 of arms would be feasible in the Bay of Brighton by using only  
 small motor boats or air transportation. Colonel von Witzleben  
 Holds that these forces should contain at least 4 reinforced regi-  
 mental combat groups. For this purpose, about 500 motor boats with

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a capacity of 6 to 20 men ~~xxxx~~ with light infantry armament each are available.

At 16:00 hours, the Chief of the National Defense Branch  
communicates this suggestion by telephone to the Chief of the  
Wehrmacht Operations Staff and says that corresponding data in  
writing will be submitted. He points out in particular that a verbal report of the Commander in Chief of the Navy to the Fuehrer on the attitude taken by the Naval Operations Staff on this suggestion would have no prospect for success until these data have been submitted.

A memorandum prepared by the National Defense Branch which provides a presentation of the conflicting views of the Army and Navy High Commands on the question of the lateral extension of the area in which the landing operation is to take place is submitted to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff in the same evening for use as a basis for the decision of the Fuehrer (See 13 August).

As regards the problem of the support of the warfare against England to be provided by Italian naval and air forces (See verbal report of the Commander in Chief of the Navy to the Fuehrer on 25 July), the Fuehrer approved the idea of having Italian submarines participate in the German naval warfare in the Atlantic and of having Italian air forces participate in the air war against the British homeland.

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Moreover, the Fuehrer has agreed to the following intentions of  
-----  
the Commanders in Chief of the Navy and Luftwaffe regarding this ques-  
tion:

The uniform planning for x combined submarine operations in the  
Atlantic is to be insured by a German liaison staff detailed to the  
commander of the Italian submarine forces. A port at the Atlantic coast  
of South France which is suitable for use as a naval base will be pla-  
ced at the disposal of the Italians. Providing supplies for this base  
and for the Italian submarines will be the responsibility of the Ita-  
lians, while the protection to be provided by antiaircraft artillery  
will be the responsibility of the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe.

The Italian units taking part in the air operations against the  
British homeland will be organized in a division which should be as  
independent as possible also in respect to its ground organization.

Chief of the  
A corresponding directive of the Wehrmacht High Command will be  
-----  
issued to the commanders in chief of the branches of the Wehrmacht  
on 12 August.

Bomber and dive-bomber units of the Third and Second Air Fleets  
protected by strong twin-engine and single-engine fighter forces, at-  
tacked the harbor installations of Portland and Weymouth as well as  
several convoys off the coast of South and East England on 11 August.

During these operations, air combat with enemy fighter aircraft  
developed at several occasions in the afternoon during which the enemy  
suffered heavy losses.

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Among other targets, the harbor installations of Bristol, Cardiff and Middlesbrough were attacked in the night of 11 to 12 August. A total force of 230 bomber and 620 twin-engine and single-engine fighter aircraft was committed. The enemy losses amounted to 90 aircraft and 8 barrage balloons while the losses of the friendly forces amounted to 28 aircraft.

Towards 17:00 hours, the Luftwaffe Operations Staff serves notice that the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe has decided to launch ----- the intensified air war against England on 13 August, since the prospects for favorable weather conditions during the next days are good.

(The Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe reported to the Fuehrer on 11 August that it was his intention to launch the intensified air war against England as soon as there would be a prospect for good weather lasting three days. The Fuehrer agreed to this intention.)

( ..... )

13 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

-----  
High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense  
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Branch, 13 August 1940

and during the night of 12 to 13  
On 12 August ~~by bomber units of the Luftwaffe~~ August, bomber units of the Luftwaffe successfully raided the harbor installations of Portsmouth, Ramsgate, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, and Shields; moreover, they attacked industrial installations, radio stations, airfield ~~XXXX~~ and water-borne targets.

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A total force of 300 bomber and 1160 twin-engine and single-engine fighter aircraft was committed. The enemy losses amounted to 86, the friendly losses to 25 aircraft.

According to a report of the Luftwaffe Operations Staff the Third Air Fleet carried out an attack against the area north of Portsmouth at 07:00 hours ~~in the morning~~. The attack of the Second Air Fleet planned to be carried out simultaneously had to be broken off owing to weather conditions. The Reichsmarschall reserved to himself the right to decide on further attacks to be conducted by both these air fleets until 14:00 hours.

At about noontime the Fuehrer returns from the Berghof to Berlin.

At 17:30 hours, he receives the Commander in Chief of the Navy together with the Chief of the Naval Operations Staff for verbal report and consultation. This conference is also attended by the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff, and Commander von Puttkamer.

During this conference, the Commander in Chief of the Navy requests an early decision whether the operation "Seelowe" is to be carried out on the broad or the small basis since otherwise the preparations would suffer delays. He comments on the memorandum of the Commander in Chief of the Army, dated 10 August and submitted by Colonel von Witzleben (See under 12 August), as follows:

The Naval Operations Staff recognizes the necessity of the demands raised by the Army High Command but does not see any possibility

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to meet them on the part of the Navy. A simultaneous landing in the Bay of Brighton and at Deal would be unfeasible. The prospects for success in respect to the initial landing and, in particular, to the moving up of reinforcements are so slight that the conduct of such operations would be irresponsible. Further means of transportation in excess of the figures submitted on 2 August can neither be made available nor be accommodated in the launching bases. Consequently, the demand raised by the Army High Command that a total force of 10 divisions with the corresponding equipment be landed on the coast between Ramsgate and west of Brighton would be unfeasible. A rapid transportation of reinforcements and supplies would be impossible on the same grounds. These demands of the Army make it even more difficult to make available additional shipping space for a landing in the Bay of Lyme.

To summarize, it can be said that, in view of the limited naval combat and transport forces, the conduct of the operation "Seeloe-<sup>repeatedly</sup>we" could be only the "ultima ratio" as has been pointed out ~~frankly~~ by the Navy High Command. Such an operation should be conducted only if all the other efforts to make England ready for peace should fail.

The Fuehrer fully shares this opinion. A failure of the landing operation would considerably increase British prestige. The effects of the intensified air war should be waited for. He (the Fuehrer) will make the decision on 14 August after consultation with the Commander in Chief of the Army.

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The Fuehrer then broaches the question of the growing tensions  
 -----  
 between Finland and the Soviet Union. In view of these tensions, he wants  
 a stronger fortification of the area of North Norway, especially of the  
 fjords located in that area. Mainly the road crossing points should be  
 fortified so that Russian attacks in that area would have no prospect  
 for success and a basis for the occupation of Petsamo would be establi-  
 shed. In this connection, the appointment of a Navy Commander in this  
 area should be taken into consideration.

/ ..... /

In the evening, the National Defense Branch submits its sugges-  
 -----  
 tion on a landing at Brighton to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations  
 -----  
 Staff. The latter had ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> by telephone informed on 12 August at 16:00 hours that  
 -----  
 such a suggestion would be submitted.

While the view taken by the Navy that the wide Channel sector  
 at Brighton cannot be defended against the British Navy and that the  
 surf of the Atlantic would frustrate the approach of loaded barges,  
 is recognized, it is suggested that two regimental combat groups each  
~~2100 men strong~~ with a strength of 2100 men ( 3 battalions, one half of  
 an infantry gun company and one half of an antitank company, and 1 sig-  
 nal, 1 engineer, 1 bicycle platoon each) be shipped to the Bay of Brigh-  
 ton in 500 motor boats with a capacity of 10 men with equipment each.  
 At the same time, two regimental combat groups (with a total strength of  
 about 5000 men) of the 7th Air Division should be dropped with parachu-  
 tes over the southern ~~part of~~ downs. The latter should be assigned the

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mission of covering their northern steep slopes against British reserves and of supporting the landing of the motor boats. Artillery, further reinforcements, and supplies would have to be moved in by air from the shore as soon as a ~~big~~ beachhead ~~was established~~ would have been established.

It would be the mission of the Luftwaffe during the initial phase to ~~replace~~ ~~the~~ artillery and to destroy forces approaching across the line Southampton-London. In this connection, a reckless air attack on London if possible on the day preceding landing may be especially effective, since such an attack would certainly cause innumerable inhabitants ~~of the city~~ in to leave the city in all directions which would result in the blocking of the roads and, moreover, in a demoralization of the population.

( ..... )

14 August 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense Branch/, 14 August1940

The large-scale attack of the ~~air fleet~~ Second and Third Air Fleet scheduled to start on 13 August began according to plan. The Third Air conducted its operations successfully over the area north of Portsmouth while the Second Air Fleet had to break off their operations immediately after take-off owing to bad weather. Only one bomber wing of the Second Air Fleet which was no more reached by the order for breaking off



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the operations attacked the ~~enemy~~ ground organization at East-church east of London.

At 11:00 hours, the Reichsmarschall ordered again both air  
 -----  
 fleets to attack the area south-east of London and the area of Bour-nemouth in the course of the afternoon. However, he reserved to him-self the right to decide on the definite conduct of the attacks un-til 14:00 hours because of the weather situation. The attack which was launched at 17:00 hours had to be broken off prematurely by the Second Air Fleet owing to unfavorable weather conditions.

At 19:12 hours, the following warning order of the ~~Reichsmarschall~~  
 Reichsmarschall for the 14 August was issued:  
 -----

The principal mission ~~will~~ will be the further destruction of the enemy fighter forces in the territory of South England. For this purpose, the Second and Third Air Fleets should raid, during their first attack, British fighter units in the air as well as the enemy ground organization east and south of London or in the area at and east of Southampton and ~~west~~ north-east of Plymouth. The attempt ~~should~~ should be made to carry out the attacks ~~at 09:00 hours~~ simultaneously flying across the British coast at 09:00 hours. No attacks should be directed against naval ports and warships because of <sup>their</sup> ~~the~~ great defensive power during the approach and return flight. If weather conditions would not permit flying across the coast until 10:00 hours, a new time schedule for the attacks would be established by the Com-mander in Chief of the Luftwaffe

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The prepared operation "Lichtermeer" (sea of lights) is to be conducted as the second attack (attack against the area surrounding London). The order for this operation will be issued by the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe by 13:00 hours at the latest.

At 22:10 hours, the Reichsmarschall issued the following directive to the Second, Third, and Fifth Air Fleets:

It is still planned to commit the Second and Third Air Fleet simultaneously for striking a common blow. Only in case the weather situation would not permit the ~~xxxxx~~ conduct of such an operation, <sup>independently</sup> the ordered targets of the air fleets would be free to raid the enemy ground organization in their operational sector whenever weather conditions would permit such operations. Extremely strong fighter forces should be committed to cover these attacks. The main objective should be, for the time being, to inflict considerable damage on the enemy fighter arm. In case the weather situation should not permit the commitment of strong units protected by single-engine and twin-engine fighter forces, both air fleets would have to commit extremely small units and single aircraft in their operational sectors for <sup>surprise</sup> attacks against the targets of the enemy aircraft industry and ground organization. Fighter forces for providing escort cover could not be committed owing to weather conditions.

Warships should be attacked only in cases when the presence of heavy units has been reported and weather conditions permit the

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provision of extremely strong fighter protection. The Reichsmarschall approved the request of the Third Air Fleet to direct its first attack again against the area north and north-west of Southampton. This attack is scheduled to be conducted on 14 August.

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff sends the Chief of the National Defense Branch an evaluation of the situation prepared by the former and based on the views of the Army and Navy High Commands on the feasibility of a landing in England.

In this evaluation of the situation the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff makes the following statements:

The planned landing operation should by no means fail, since such a failure could have political consequences far exceeding the military ones.

To take all measures humanly possible to prevent a failure, he, like the Army High Command, ~~is~~ thinks it necessary to gain a footing ~~simultaneously~~ on the coast from Folkestone to Brighton simultaneously. It would be necessary to land 10 divisions in this sector within 4 days and to have at least 3 divisions with full equipment follow up within 4 more days through the Strait of Dover even if the motion of the sea would not permit the use of barges. The troops landed further to the West should, in such case, be reinforced by the air especially ~~in~~ Portsmouth's landing forces. Furthermore, the coast of South England should be cleared of all British ~~aircraft~~ naval craft and any counteraction

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by the British air forces should be almost neutralized or it should at least be possible to neutralize such counteraction.

He thinks it possible for the Luftwaffe to accomplish both latter missions. If, however, the Navy would not be able to meet the first three demands, which must be clarified now, he would consider the landing a desperate act which must be attempted in a desperate situation. At present, however, there is no reason for Germany to conduct such a landing operation at all.

There are other ways to force England down to her knees. For such purpose, however, a cooperation of the Axis-powers considerably close than hitherto would be required. The objective could be achieved by the following measures:

- 1.) The continuation of the air war until the war economy of South England is destroyed. For this mission, all Italian air forces not in action at the present time would also have to be committed.
- 2.) The intensification of the submarine warfare from the French base by employing half of the Italian submarine force.
- 3.) The capture of ~~The exclusive of~~ Egypt, if necessary with German support.
- 4.) The capture of Gibraltar after having reached an agreement with Italy and Spain.
- 5.) The avoidance of operations not necessary for ~~the~~ gaining the victory over England but which ~~are~~ only ~~desirable~~ aim at objectives which are just desirable and could be easily achieved after

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the victory over England (Yugoslavia).

The efforts should not be made to achieve objectives<sup>but</sup> to gain the victory. England's will to resist should be broken by next Spring. Unless this could be achieved by a landing, all other means available should be employed. During the decisive stage of the warfare against England which is beginning now all forces should be concentrated ~~at~~ for the decisive ~~point~~ effort which is the air and submarine war against the British homeland. The Italians have shown a certain readiness to cooperate in these efforts since they had ~~recognized~~ realized that they could employ only a part of their forces in their own theater of war. This right concept should be energetically put to practical use. By discussing this problem with the Duce it will be insured that in the final stage the operations will not be conducted separately but side by side.

During the verbal report of the Chief of the National Defense Branch the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff ~~mentions that~~ mentions that ~~when~~ when in the morning the marshal batons were given to the ~~newly promoted~~ field marshals promoted to that rank on 19 July the Fuehrer briefly talked to the Commander in Chief of the Army about the preparations for the operation "Seelowe" and confirmed again that these preparations should be continued and ~~and~~ completed by the established target date. The Fuehrer reserved to himself the right to decide on the conduct of the operation pending the further clarification of the overall situation.

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Moreover the Fuehrer ordered that the preparations for a landing in the Lyme Bay be discontinued on account of the lack of possibilities to provide adequate cover. However, ~~it was decided~~ <sup>the plans were</sup> to provide for a launching of the operation from the coastal sector <sup>reaching</sup> from Ostend to Le Havre to avoid any concentration of shipping space in a few ports near the enemy coast and to conceal the point of main effort of the landing operation. If a crossing of the Channel from this coastal sector on the full scale cannot be protected by the Navy in the form hitherto planned, the possibilities of a single crossing ~~operation~~ of forces of adequate strength without heavy equipment carried out by utilizing makeshift equipment of the Navy should be examined. In such case, the Luftwaffe might be assigned the additional mission to support the landing by parachute and air landing troops, ~~The~~ main effort of the commitment of the latter should be directed to the western sector of the area of attack (~~near~~ at and west of Brighton).

These directives of the Fuehrer were to be sent to the commanders in chief of the three branches of the Wehrmacht to render a opinion.

Regarding the question of the combined German-Italian sea warfare against England the Chief of the National Defense Branch reports that the Italian Air Force has planned the commitment of two bomber and two fighter wings with a total strength of 80 aircraft against the British homeland. As regards the combined sea warfare, the Italian Navy selected Bordeaux as submarine base and served notice that initially 10 submarines would be committed in about two weeks.

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The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff then mentions that  
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 the Fuehrer declared himself in favor of the great solution (capture  
 -----  
 of Gibraltar), see under 9 August) as a result of the study on possi-  
 bilities for operations against Gibraltar submitted to him by the Na-  
 tional Defense Branch on 10 August. The Fuehrer made this decision, ~~and~~  
 since Spain could be interested only in this solution. Accordingly,  
 the National Defense Branch is to submit now a detailed operational  
 study which, after being approved by the Fuehrer, should above all  
 meet with the approval of General Franco.

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff relates further that  
 -----  
 the Fuehrer summoned the Commander in Chief of the Group XXI, General-  
 -----  
 oberst von Falkenhorst, for a conference and discussed with him the  
 stronger protection to be provided for North Norway (see under 13 Au-  
 gust). During this conference, Generaloberst von Falkenhorst suggested  
 to ~~Hilber~~ the Fuehrer the transfer of the entire mountain corps into  
 the area Narvik - Kirkenes. This suggestion was approved by the Fueh-  
 rer. The National Defense Branch now is to submit a corresponding  
 directive, which must ~~make~~ <sup>for</sup> make allowance ~~to~~ the desires of the  
 Fuehrer voiced to the Commander in Chief of the Navy on 13 August,  
 and a directive to the Luftwaffe for the preparation of a base in  
 North Norway ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> the Fuehrer <sup>had</sup> already discussed with the Commander in  
 Chief of the Luftwaffe.

(.....)

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15 August 1940War Diary of the WehrmachtHigh Command/Wehrmacht Opera-tions Staff/National DefenseBranch, 15 August 1940

Owing to bad weather the Second and Third Air Fleets did not carry out their operations scheduled to be conducted in the morning.

The Reichsmarschall decided at 12:00 hours that the air fleets were to commit, according to weather conditions, their units in a concentrated effort protected by strong fighter forces or in missions flown by single aircraft. Therefore, the Second Air Fleet conducted concentrated attacks carried out by units of <sup>about</sup> group strength against the airfields of Dover and Manston in the afternoon, while the Third Air Fleet ~~was~~ committed single aircraft to attack airfields, port, industrial, and radio transmitting installations as well as ~~power~~ public utilities and camps in its area of attack. At 19:00 hours, the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe issued a directive to the effect that on 15 August attacks should be carried out by single aircraft or by whole units according to weather conditions. The attacking units should be protected by strong fighter forces. The Reichsmarschall will order the simultaneous commitment of both air fleets provided the weather conditions will permit such an operation. <sup>In the afternoon of 15 August,</sup> The Fifth Air Fleet was given permission to commit its forces operationally. ~~in the afternoon of 15x~~



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A total force of 91 bomber and 398 single and twin-engine fighter aircraft was committed on 14 August and during the night of 14/15 August. The enemy losses amounted to 18 aircraft and 7 barrage balloons, while the friendly forces lost 16 aircraft.

The Armistice Commission submits a compilation of ~~the reports~~ <sup>information</sup> on the aspirations of the French General de Gaulle. The information gives the following picture:

After certain initial success resulting from intensive British propaganda the action of ~~the~~ General de Gaulle seemed to have lost a lot of popular appeal. His influence in the French colonies is negligible at the present time. No politicians of high standing have placed themselves at his disposal ~~joined his movement so far~~ so far. He admittedly has under his command weak ground forces (2000 to 3000 men in England and small forces defected from Syria to Palestine according to a report of the German Embassy in Madrid), moreover weak naval forces (consisting of the obsolete battleships "Paris" and "Courbet" and some modern light units the exact number of which is not exactly known) and negligible air forces (the number of aircraft and pilots is not known), but these forces are too weak to be considered as a considerable reinforcement of the British war effort.

The Armistice Commission gives two reasons for the negligible successes achieved by the movement of de Gaulle:

On one hand the great war fatigue and the loss of self-confidence

of the French armed forces also outside the homeland, on the other hand the prestige of ~~the~~ Marshal Pétain and General Weygand. It could be possible that de Gaulle's ~~popularity~~ popularity might be greater with the nationalist French circles had ~~it~~ his aspirations not been identified as treason towards ~~the~~ these French military leaders who were so high in public esteem.

( ..... )

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff communicates to  
 -----  
 the Chief of the National Defense Branch the following decision  
 -----  
 taken by the Fuehrer today:

- 1.) The orders issued by the Fuehrer yesterday in respect to operation "Seelowe" should be summarized in an outline for a directive (see 14 August).
- 2.) As regards the Italian desires in respect to an attack on Yugoslavia, (see under 14 August), the Fuehrer is not interested in such an operation. He wants quietness at the southern frontier of Germany and warns against giving the British any opportunity to establish themselves in Yugoslavia with their air forces. For this reason, German-Italian General Staff conferences would be superfluous. The data on the Yugoslavian fortifications at the German frontier which had been submitted by the Army High Command should not be handed over to the Italians.

3.) The air war against England must not be broken off but should be continued utilizing weather conditions.

4.) (.....)

5.) (.....)

The Chief of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence is informed of the decision of the Fuehrer regarding Yugoslavia (.....). The order of the Fuehrer for the continuation of the air war is forwarded by Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch to the Luftwaffe Operations Staff.

17 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff National Defense Branch, 17 August 1940

At 09:00 hours, the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command holds a conference with the Chief of the Economic and Armament Office, the Chief of Commander of the Staff of the ~~Replacement~~ Replacement Army, and the Chief of Group II of the National Defense Branch, Lieutenant Colonel Muench, on the adjustment of the armament to the strength of 180 divisions<sup>up</sup> to which the wartime army is to be brought. The results of the conference are contained in the notes of the Chief of Group II of the National Defense Branch, dated 18 August. The most important results are that:

1.) in the field of ammunitions production the ~~consumption~~<sup>expenditure</sup> of ammunitions

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during the period from 10 May to 20 June plus 10 per cent of that amount to cover production shortcomings that might occur should be established as monthly wartime capacity and that an amount of twelve times the expenditure plus <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ first issue should be kept as reserve stock,

- 2.) the production of antiaircraft ammunition for the Luftwaffe is to be increased from 400 000 to 1 000 000 ~~ammunition~~ shells per month,
- 3.) the submarine program ~~U-boat program~~ <sup>scheduled to terminate on 31 December 1940</sup> is to be continued without any limitation by a target date,
- 4.) top priority in the overall program should be given to <sup>a</sup> very small group of ~~the most important~~ <sup>the most important</sup> branches ~~of production~~ <sup>such as</sup> submarine construction, <sup>the construction of</sup> torpedo tubes, the construction of those aircraft types which suffered most losses, and the construction of Mark III and Mark IV tanks including guns.

The Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command approved the production  
-----  
of arms and military equipment, especially tanks - not including ammunition, however, - in Holland, Belgium, and in the occupied territory of France. However, the production should be limited to the manufacture of individual parts as far as possible.

According to a directive of the Wehrmacht High Command/General Army Office (2763/40g) of 17 August the following classes of ~~personnel~~ <sup>from 1 October 1940 on,</sup> personnel will be called up for active duty ~~beginning on 1 October 1940~~ <sup>beginning on 1 October 1940</sup> for a term of two years:

- 2 -

- 1.) The replacement reserves of Class I of the age classes 1919 (last third) and 1920 (about 90 000 plus 417 000 men).
- 2.) The replacement reserves of Class I of the age classes 1914 to 1919 (first and second thirds) available on 1 October.
- 3.) Wartime volunteers and long-term soldiers who had volunteered for service of the age classes mentioned first and of younger age classes.

20 August 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/ Wehrmacht OperationsStaff/National Defense Branch,20 August 1940

The Chief of the National Defense Branch submits to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff the operational plan drawn up by the National Defense Branch for the attack on Gibraltar. This plan is to be used as basic material ~~xxxxxxx~~ for

- 1.) Military agreements with Spain, and for
- 2.) use by the German commander who is to command the Gibraltar forces and is to be committed after a clear basis for action has been established by ~~xxxxxxxx~~ <sup>an</sup> agreement with Spain.

According to the attached note prepared for the verbal report the Chief of the National Defense Branch places particular emphasis on the following facts: During the German-Spanish conferences ~~he~~

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conducted so far the Spanish appeared to ~~have indicated~~ favor the idea of being pushed into the war by Germany. The Spanish intended to react on a German air attack against Gibraltar initially with a formal protest which, however, was to be followed by <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ combined offensive action.

Such a solution would not correspond to the German interests. Germany would thus deliver cheap propaganda material to her enemies ~~and~~ including the United States and appear in the role of a peace breaker even in the eyes of wide circles of the Spanish people. On this ground, it should be demanded that Spain would overtly side with Germany from the very outset of the operation.

Moreover, the attempt should be made to have Spain ~~rather~~ deepen its relations with Portugal to such an extent that the British would not obtain any naval base in that country after the loss of Gibraltar and that Portugal would, if necessary call for Spanish help.

Material from captured French equipment could be offered to the Spanish as an immediate German compensation.

Italy whose participation in the action cannot be avoided because of her important position in the Mediterranean must <sup>already</sup> be invited to take part <sup>in</sup> the preliminary political talks. This is especially so whenever the Spanish war objectives in North <sup>should be</sup> Africa ~~are~~ discussed.

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( ..... )

Defense

Moreover, the Chief of the National ~~Defense~~ Branch submits to  
 -----  
 the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff a map showing the ~~map~~  
 -----  
 location of the coastal battery position at the Channel coast. He  
 suggests the participation of these batteries in the action against  
 England whenever the air operations against England have reached a  
 at home and abroad,  
 climax and the propagandistic exploitation of the psychological effect  
 which can be expected of such participation. The Chief of the Wehr-  
 -----  
 macht Operations Staff agrees to this suggestion.

In this connection, the Chief of the National Defense Branch  
 -----  
 points out that the ~~anti~~ anti-British propaganda still raises exces-  
 sive hope in public by ~~repeatedly~~ mentioning a retaliatory battle over  
 and over again. Instead, the air operations conducted at the present  
 time should be identified as this retaliatory action by the propaganda.  
 As regards this question, the Chief of the National Defense Branch  
 declares that he will submit a written ~~suggestion~~ report containing,  
 in addition, further suggestions in the field of propaganda.

21 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High Command

Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National De-

fense Branch, 21 August 1940

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff communicates to  
 -----  
 the Chief of the National Defense Branch ~~views~~ ideas expressed by the  
 -----

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Fuehrer on 20 August. These ideas are to be communicated to the  
 -----  
 Commander in Chief of the Army who is to give his opinion on them  
 during his verbal report scheduled to take place <sup>one</sup> ~~some~~ of these  
 days.

1.) The Fuehrer wants to have a mountain division again be ~~xxx~~  
 transferred into the area of Drontheim to take the place of the  
 2nd Mountain Division. It had been reported to him that trans-  
 port space for such a transfer would be available only if the  
 operation "Seelowe" would be called off.

2.) The Fuehrer thinks it necessary <sup>that, regarding the</sup> ~~to be considered~~  
 of  
 x German support ~~to be provided for~~ an Italian offensive against  
 the provision of  
 the Suez-Canal, ~~to be provided for~~ a mixed armored  
 brigade (not an armored corps) should be considered. This ar-  
<sup>arms.</sup>  
 mored brigade should be equipped with all modern ~~armament~~  
 Prior to discussing this question with the Italians; the Com-  
 mander in Chief of the Army should submit a suggestion regard-  
 ing the composition, equipment, and supply of such unit.  
 This suggestion should make allowance for the allocation of  
 modern types of offensive and antitank armament and ~~specify~~  
 give the date by which ~~the unit could~~ the armored unit could  
 be detached.

3.) The Fuehrer pointed out that arming the Baltic Sea coast <sup>with batteries</sup> was  
 urgent already now. The Navy is requested to submit an opinion  
 on the date and extent of such measure.



4.) For political reasons the Fuehrer is in favor of the transfer of an armored unit to East Prussia already at the present time.

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff points out the necessity

to lift the limitations hitherto imposed on the air and naval operations against England after the total blockade of the British Isles was announced on 17 August. He ~~directs~~ <sup>orders</sup> that a corresponding directive be submitted

(.....)

According to ~~the~~ report of the Military Attache in Rom dated 16 August

(No. 136/40 Top Military Secret) ~~is~~ forwarded by the Foreign Group/

the achievement of the Counter Intelligence the primary war objective of Italy is ~~achieved~~

with the achievement of the mastery of the Mediterranean. Her territorial claims ~~are~~

respect to <sup>pertain</sup> ~~concern~~ France ~~refer~~ to Nice, Corse, Tunisia, a part of Algeria with

its ore deposits <sup>at Constantine</sup> and French Somaliland. In addition, the predominant

position in the Near East is desired. Further Italian war objectives

pertain to the Balkans. In the future, the Adriatic Sea should be ruled

entirely by Italy and the Italian sphere of influence in the Balkans

should be expanded. For this purpose, the destruction of Yugoslavia,

the ~~possible~~ creation of an independent Croatia subjected to Italian in-

fluence, <sup>and</sup> the extension of Albania by annexation of ~~some~~ South Yugosl-

lavian areas inhabited by Albanians as well as of such areas hitherto

belonging to Greece and of Corfu and of perhaps some of the Ionic is-

lands <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ considered necessary.

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The situation at the Yugoslavian frontier has been so tense for several weeks that border incidents even of a grave nature can occur at any time. Greece is ~~blamed for~~ reproached with providing support to British war and merchant ships. Such reproaches are absolutely baseless. Now, ~~terror~~ terror acts against irredentists are manufactured and Greek consuls are expelled from Italy. In brief, an atmosphere is created which can be brought to an explosion before long. No military preparations directed against Greece have been observed yet. On the other hand, the Duce demanded that preparatory measures for military action against Yugoslavia be rapidly taken, so that he would not have to miss <sup>again</sup> a good political opportunity as had been the case in June at the French front.

22 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Opera-

tions Staff/National Defense

Branch, 21 August 1940

In the morning, the Chief of the Operations Branch of the Army General Staff, Generalmajor von Greiffenberg, calls on the Chief of the National Defense Branch in the train "Atlas" and requests the decision of the Wehrmacht High Command on the transport space to be provided by the Navy during the operation "Seelewe" for the "green movement" (landing operation in the Bay of Brighton launched from Le Havre).

For this purpose, the Navy has planned to provide 25 Steamers in addition to the 200 motor boats and 100 coastal motor-sailing vessels by means of which the two regimental combat groups were to be transported. However, the Army would need 70 steamers for the transportation of the four divisions (8th, 28th, 6th Mountain Divisions, and 30th Division) stationed in the area ~~of~~ around Le Havre. The Navy bluntly rejected this demand claiming that adequate protection of such a strong transportation movement could not be provided and the loss of the steamships would endanger the overall movement.

On the other hand, it would be impossible for the Army to ship the major part of the divisions stationed in the area around Le Havre to the Dutch ports as planned by the Navy, since such action would involve further major transport movements and it would in such case be impossible to exercise operational control over these divisions on this as well as on the other side of the Channel.

A <sup>with the</sup> ~~The~~ conference ~~with~~ Chief of the Operations Branch of the Luftwaffe General Staff on the participation of the Luftwaffe in the operation resulted in the decision that the Luftwaffe will in the initial stage of the operation play the role of the artillery by raiding ~~the~~ British positions and the British communications in the rear. In addition, the Luftwaffe will commit the parachute forces of the 7th Air Division. Small elements of these forces will be committed on the hills north of Dover while the major part of them will operate in the area of Brighton.

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The details of the parachute jumping action still have to be examined. It would be the mission of the parachute forces to facilitate the landing of the ground forces at the previously mentioned points. In the area of Dover, the right flank of the overall operation would have to be protected while in the area of Brighton the forces would have to push forward to the North in coordinated action with the landed Army forces.

After the discussions about the operation "Seelowe" the Chief of the National Defense Branch confers with General von Greiffenberg on the regrouping of the Army forces in Norway and on the desires of the Fuehrer <sup>forwarded</sup> ~~submitted~~ by the Chief of <sup>Wehrmacht</sup> ~~the High Command~~ Operations Staff on 21 August. Only those desires regarding the Army were discussed, (see letter of the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff of 21 August, items 1, 2, and 4). Moreover, he lets him know that the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command has permitted the Army High Command ~~to have the long-range artillery stationed at the Channel coast fire whenever the air operations against England have reached a climax.~~

Following his conference with General von Greiffenberg the Chief of the National Defense Branch makes a new attempt to mediate between the controversial views of the Army and Navy High Commands on the problem of the transport space to be provided by the Navy for the "green movement".

This mediation attempt is based on the basic idea that, according to the will of the Fuehrer, the operation "Seelowe" is to be carried out only if especially favorable conditions right before the beginning of the operation would offer a safe prospect for success. If such conditions exist, the risk run by the Navy during the "green movement" can be considered as reduced. Under such circumstances, the Navy should be able to provide sufficient shipping space at and near Le Havre for the transportation of combat-efficient units from there to the Bay of Brighton. The forward echelons of the four divisions stationed in the area around Le Havre are primarily taken into consideration in this connection. The rear echelons of these divisions and further divisions which might be employed, however, would have to be transferred to more suitable jump-off bases either as early as during the period of preparation or after the beginning of the operation as soon as a clear picture can be formed of the situation.

On the basis of this concept, the Navy can, by continual conferences in the course of the day, be made to concede that 50 steamships should be employed at Le Havre. 25 of them are to move directly towards the British coast in the framework of the landing operation of the motor-boats, provided weather conditions permit such action, while the remaining 25 steamers are to move initially off the French coast in north-eastern direction. Later, they are

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~~they~~ to move at the left wing of the "blue movement" (transport movement from Dunkirk - Boulogne to Folkestone - Beachy Head).

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch, Lieutenant Commander Junge, and the Liaison Officer of the Army High Command with the Naval Operations Staff, Colonel von Witzleben, <sup>late</sup> report jointly, in the afternoon of 22 August, the previously quoted result of their conferences with the Naval Operations Staff as a mutual agreement which, however, is still subject to the approval by the Commander in Chief of the Navy.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch thereupon <sup>reports</sup> ~~communicates~~ ~~by~~ telephone ~~the report~~ to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff on this mediation attempt and at the same time on the agreements arrived at by the Army and the Luftwaffe.

23 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense

Branch, 23 August 1940

In the morning, the Chief of the Naval Staff, Konter- admiral Fricke, reports by telephone to the Chief of the National Defense Branch that the Navy ~~will~~ will now continue its preparations for the operation "Seelowe" on the basis agreed upon by the Liaison Officer of the Army and the Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch in the afternoon of 22 August and which was approved by the Commander in Chief of the Navy.

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the National Defense

In the course of the day, the Chief of ~~Naval Operations~~ Branch

repeatedly attempted to find out whether the Commander in Chief of the

Army had definitely ~~approved~~ <sup>approved this</sup> agreement and the measures to be taken

by the Army accordingly. His attempts, however, brought no results,

since the Chief of the Operations Branch of the Army General Staff,

General von Greiffenberg, had not yet arrived at Fontainebleau again.

24 August 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht OperationsStaff/National Defense Branch,23 August 1940

After the vain telephone calls the Chief of the National

Defense Branch

~~was~~ made yesterday, the Chief of the Operations Branch of the Army Ge-

neral Staff serves notice by telephone in the afternoon that the new

suggestions made by the Commander in Chief of the Navy for the conduct

of the "green movement" of the operation "Seelowe" have not met the

approval of the Commander in Chief of the Army. On the contrary, the

Army High Command ~~maintains~~ <sup>maintains its</sup> demand that the major part of the four

divisions concentrated around Le Havre would also have to be shipped

across the Channel from this area. For this reason, General von Greif-

enberg requests again the decision of the Wehrmacht High Command and

serves notice that the Commander in Chief of the Army intends to cla-

rify this question during his verbal report to the Fuehrer on 26 Au-

gust.

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The Chief of the National Defense Branch points out again the  
 -----  
 the general prerequisites for the conduct of the operation "Seelowe"  
 which also the Army has to take into account in its demands. The inter-  
 ference of the British Navy, however, would have to be expected even  
 in the most favorable situation. If the 70 steamships demanded by the  
 for the transportation  
 Army ~~was exposed~~ of the forces from Le havre were exposed to this  
 danger, these ships would be missing later during the decisive "blue  
 movement" and the subsequent supply operations. The overall operation  
 would thus be jeopardized. Therefore, he himself is of the opinion  
 that any further reinforcement of the shipping space to be made avail-  
 able at Le Havre would be absolutely unadvisable. He is going to ad-  
 vise the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command accordingly.

The Chief of the Group I Army of the National Defense Branch sub-  
 -----  
 mits a study on a landing in the Isle of Wight. In this study, the  
 conclusion is drawn that a single operation with this objective should  
 not be taken into consideration and that the capture of this island  
 preliminary  
 as a ~~first~~ step of the operation "Seelowe" would be unfeasible becau-  
 se such action cannot be included in the time-schedule any more.

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff serves notice that the  
 -----  
 Fuehrer has approved the study on the capture of Gibraltar and that  
 expressed intention  
 General Franco ~~expressed~~ the ~~opinion~~ in political discussions with the  
 German ambassador in Madrid, Mr. Stohrer, to enter the war provided  
 Germany will give military support and supply fuel as well as grain.



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25 August 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht Operations StaffNational Defense Branch, 25 August1940

In the morning, the Chief of the Naval Staff communicates by telephone to the Chief of the National Defense Branch that he has also been informed on the disapproval of the latest suggestions of the Navy by the Army High Command. These suggestions were made in relation to the shipping space to be provided for the "green movement". He urgently requests the decision of the Wehrmacht High Command.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch replies that the Navy should continue its preparations on the basis of the agreement arrived at on 22 August and that it can be expected that the Fuehrer will make a decision in this sense at the occasion of the verbal report of the Commander in Chief of the Army on 26 August. The Navy High Command will be informed on the decision of the Fuehrer immediately.

26 August 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense Branch, 25 August1940

Following the verbal report of the Commander in Chief of the Army the Fuehrer takes the following decision:

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During the operation "Seelowe", the operations conducted by the Army ~~would~~ will have to be adjusted to the existing facts in respect to the shipping space available and to the possibilities of providing cover for the embarkation and the crossing action. Therefore, the ~~Army~~ Army forces intended for the crossing including the antiaircraft artillery units provided by the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe must be regrouped in such a manner that the embarkation can be carried out at Rotterdam and ~~Antwerp~~ <sup>the</sup> Antwerp on a scale planned by the Navy and that only 25 steamers, in addition to motor-boats and coastal motor-sailing vessels, would ~~be~~ be needed for a single direct trip from Le Havre to Landing Area E (Bay of Brighton), for which an especially favorable enemy situation would be the prerequisite. Further 25 steamships, also loaded at Le Havre, will be directed along the French coast into the area south of Boulogne and from there into the Landing Area D (Hastings - Eastbourne). The sea situation permitting, these 25 steamers should then move along the British coast also into the Landing Area E.

The Army High Command is to prepare a survey of the planned disposition of forces on the basis of this decision. This survey is to present a picture of the course of the movements and the objectives of the landing operation in respect to the different units, sectors, and to the time-schedule. The Fuehrer will not yet decide on the time when the operation "Seelowe" is to be launched.

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Moreover, the Fuehrer issues the following directives:

- 1.) Since, according to a report of the Commander in Chief of the Army no mountain division is at present available for ~~x~~ transfer into the area around Trondheim (see 21 August), the Army High Command is to examine whether, by applying the same method used in activating new units in the zone of the interior, a further division could be organized from the divisions stationed in Norway and could be provided with mountain equipment.
- 2.) The forces stationed at present in the Government General will be further reinforced immediately. For this purpose, about 10 ~~more~~ divisions are to be transferred to the East without considerably impairing the ~~business~~ transportation activities ~~if~~ necessary for the economy. In addition, about two armored divisions should be transferred to the south-eastern sector of the Government General after their equipment has been reconditioned in the zone of the interior. These new forces to be moved in are to be accommodated in a manner insuring that, if necessary, the forces can rapidly act to protect the oil area of Rumania.

These decisions and directives of the Fuehrer will be communicated in ~~writing~~ writing to the Commanders in Chief of the three branches of the Wehrmacht on 27 August.

( ..... )

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The Chief of the National Defense Branch submits to the Chief  
 -----  
 of the Wehrmacht High Command a note to be used for a verbal report.  
 -----  
 In this note, the differences between the <sup>preparations</sup> ~~practicalities~~ of the Army and  
 the Navy for the operation "Seelowe" are clearly pointed out and  
 the necessity of early decisions is emphasized. It is suggested that  
 the measures to be taken by the Army be adjusted to the potentialities  
 of the Navy in respect to the crossing operation. In addition,  
 the Chief of the National Defense Branch submits to the Chief of the  
 -----  
 Wehrmacht High Command documentary material for the planned activation  
 -----  
 of <sup>new</sup> divisions to bring the Army to a total strength of 180 divisions.

During the subsequent verbal report of the Commander in Chief of  
 -----  
 the Army to the Fuehrer the latter takes his decision regarding the  
 -----  
 operation "Seelowe" <sup>according to</sup> ~~in accordance with~~ the suggestion submitted by the  
 Wehrmacht High Command (see Directive of 26 August, ~~Para~~ Paragraph  
 I). By and large, the Fuehrer approves the organizational plan of  
 the Army. A written summary of the directives will not be issued until  
 later.

( ..... )

29 August 1940  
-----War Diary of the Wehrmacht  
-----High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense  
-----Branch, 26 August 1940  
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( ..... )

At noon, the ~~xxx~~ negotiations of the Reich's Foreign Minister and Count Ciano with the Hungarian and Rumanian delegations begin in Vienna.

( ..... )

On 28 August and during the night of 28/29 August the Luftwaffe committed a total strength of 400 bomber and 576 fighter aircraft against England. Among other raids, 722 demolition and 6840 incendiary bombs were dropped on Liverpool and Birkenhead during the night. The score of hits could ~~not~~ be exactly observed owing to ~~bad visibility.~~ <sup>bad visibility.</sup> ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~. The losses of the friendly forces amounted to 12 those of the enemy to about 43 aircraft. During the night of 28/29 August, British bomber aircraft raided Greater Berlin for the first time. 8 demolition <sup>great</sup> and a number of incendiary bombs were dropped. The major part of these bombs was dropped on residential areas near the Goerlitz-railroad station. 8 civilians were killed, 21 were heavily and 7 were slightly wounded.

As a result of the air raid on Greater Berlin, the Fuehrer decides to return to Berlin immediately.

The train "Atlas" leaves Salzburg at 20:45 hours and arrives at the station of Grunewald on 30 August at about 10:00 hours.

( ..... )

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30 August 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht Operations StaffNational Defense Branch/ 30 Au-gust 1940

( ..... )

After the conference, the Chief of the National Defense Branch reports to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff that according to information obtained so far the decision on the conduct of the operation "Seelowe" ~~xxx~~ will have to be taken by the Fuehrer about 8 to 10 days prior to the beginning of the operation. The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff orders to prepare a time-schedule on this basis. He adds that in view of the present conditions in the air war against England the Fuehrer does not yet feel that the prerequisites for ~~xxx~~ the operation "Seelowe" (Gaining of the air supremacy) have been brought about. He expressed the intention not to decide on the conduct of the operation until about 19 September.

In this connection, Colonel Heusinger points out again the view taken by the Chief of the Army General Staff that an operation of the Army on the scale planned originally would not be feasible on the small basis now ordered. The only objective to be reached be to strike the coup de grace to an enemy battered down by the air war. Any failure of the operation must be ruled out, since the former would entail an unacceptable setback in respect to the overall success achieved in the war so far.

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The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff fully agrees to this

view which he has taken himself and calls the attention to the other means ~~which~~ which might be used to achieve the same objective, the defeat of England.

( ..... )

After the conclusion of the conferences with Colonel Heusinger the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff notifies the Chief of the National Defense Branch ~~upon the latter's inquiry~~ upon the latter's inquiry about the further intentions in respect to the continuation of the air war against England that the Fuehrer now wants to have ~~concentrated~~ retaliatory attacks carried out by concentrated against London whenever weather conditions permit such action.

( ..... )

2 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense Branch, 2 September 1940

The report of the Army High Command (Operations Branch of the Army General Staff) which was requested by the directive of the Wehrmacht High Command of 27 August arrives at this headquarters. This report covers the intended organization of the forces which are to cross the Channel during the operation "Seeloe" and the probable time-schedule of the crossing operation.

According to this report, 5 corps staffs with 10 divisions

sions

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including rear echelons and corps troops could be landed in full strength by the evening of S-day plus 16 days and about 16 ~~more~~ divisions could be shipped across the Channel in the course of four weeks.

In the afternoon, the Chief of the National Defense Branch <sup>discusses</sup> ~~revises~~ with ~~the~~ the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff the report of the Army High Command (see above) which arrived today. He <sup>submits to</sup> ~~gives~~ the latter a request of the Army High Command to extend the theater of operations in the West to include the Dutch provinces of Zeeland, Zuid-Holland, and Noord-Brabant west and including the railroad line Neerpelt - Geldermalsen. The extension should be effected in view of the operation "Seelowe".

( ..... )

Moreover, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff serves notice that the Fuehrer agrees to the opinion expressed by the Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch in his note of 26 August on the ratio of strength between the German-Italian and the British fleets and on the possibilities of a combined German-Italian naval warfare.

Before this concept can be realized, the planned operations against Gibraltar and Egypt have to be carried out. These operations thus gain in importance.



The economic demands Spain raised as a condition for her entry into the war should be no obstacle to the conduct of the attack on Gibraltar. They would best be fulfilled by a <sup>military</sup> victory. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~  
~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ( ..... )

From 3 September to 4 September 1940 War Diary of the Wehr-  
macht High Command/  
Wehrmacht Operations  
Staff/National Defense  
Branch, 3 and 4 Sep-  
tember 1940

( ..... )

The Chief of the National Defense Branch submits to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff suggestions for the ~~inforce~~ instruction of the German military ~~attaches~~ and air attachés in Washington on the air war against and the landing in England to enable them to counteract the American propaganda.

( ..... )

5 September 1940 War Diary of the Wehrmacht High  
Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/  
National Defense Branch, 5 Septembe  
1940

( ..... )

On 6 September, the Commander in Chief of the Navy informs

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the Fuehrer on the progress sofar made in the preparation for the operation "Seeloewe" and reports to him that the preparations are conducted according to plan as far as the Navy is concerned. At this occasion, he explains again that the Navy will most probably be able to accomplish the missions assigned to it, provided the air supremacy will have been gained.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch submits to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff an outline of a time-schedule which is now forwarded to the high commands of the branches of the Wehrmacht for consideration and completion. In this connection, the Chief of the National Defense Branch particularly points out the necessity of combining the Fuehrer Headquarters and the headquarters of the commanders in Chief of the branches of the Wehrmacht as soon as the warning order has been issued. According to a statement of the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff, "Muehle" (Ziegenberg) and "Gisela" (Gliesen) are to be taken into consideration for this purpose as it has been planned sofar.

Furthermore, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff serves notice that the Fuehrer expressed, in a conference with the Commander in Chief of the Navy, the intention to restore the situation in the Mediterranean during the winter in case the operation "Seeloewe" would have to be called off. The Fuehrer mentioned, for the first time that also the Azores, the Canary, and the Cape Verde Islands would have to be captured in time by German-Italian forces

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to prevent the British and later also the Americans from establishing themselves on these islands. The National Defense Branch is to compile the data necessary for such action.

( ..... )

The Chief of the National Defense Branch submits to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff a new outline of a consummate order of the Wehrmacht High Command for the expansion of the wartime Army to a strength of 180 divisions. This ~~expansion order~~ order was previously approved by the General Army Office.

6 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch, 6 September

ber 1940

( ..... )

reference  
With ~~regard~~ to the directive of the Wehrmacht High Command (Wehrmacht Operations Staff, National Defense Branch, Group IIIa 2119/40, Secret, dated 24 August) according to which the distribution of the recruits to be drafted and belonging to the age classes 1919 (last third and 1920 among the three branches of the Wehrmacht and the Armed SS is to be based on the strength of the wartime Wehrmacht of 1 May 1941, the General Army Office (2883/40, Secret, dated 3 September) submits a note designed for use in a verbal report on the induction of the recruits into the Wehrmacht in the autumn of 1940. This note is to be

forwarded to the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command.

As of 1 May 1941, the <sup>wartime</sup> Wehrmacht will have a total strength of 6 763 000 men. The Army will have a strength of 4 900 000 men which is 72,5 per cent, the Navy 298 000 men which is 4,4 per cent, the Luftwaffe 1 485 000 men which is 22 per cent, and the Armed SS 80 000 men which is 1,1 percent.

( ..... )

10 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Branch  
Staff/National Defense Staff,

10 September 1940

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff informs the

Chief of the National Defense Branch at the occasion of the latter's

verbal report in the afternoon that, as a result of the verbal report of the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command, the Fuehrer decided in

the morning ~~xxxx~~ <sup>issue the beginning of the</sup> not to order the operation "Seelowe" ~~xxxxxx~~  
<sub>for</sub>

at the earliest possible date (11 September), since the results of the intensified air war against England cannot yet be adequately assessed

The most favorable <sup>day (24 September)</sup> ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ rather than the earliest possible

day (21 September) should be taken into consideration for the landing

A postponement of the warning order would not have as grave consequences as the postponement of the final order on S-day minus 3 days.

Any postponement of the latter would offer the enemy time for clearing

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the obstacles laid by the Navy at the flanks in the exits of the Channel from S-day minus 10 days on. Any postponement of the issuance of the final order would adversely affect the mine-laying operations in the waters used <sup>for</sup> ~~in~~ the crossing and the Luftwaffe operations, ~~since~~ since from S-day minus 10 days on the anti-aircraft artillery provided for the operation would have to move out of its present positions and would thus be unable to serve also other purposes.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch hands the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff the basic directive ~~prepared~~ for the operation "Seelowe" prepared by the National Defense Branch in cooperation with the high commands of the branches of the Wehrmacht (No. 18). This directive is to be issued on S-day minus 10 days. Now, however, this directive is merely received by the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff because of the postponement of the warning order.

Subsequently, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff discusses with the Chief of the National Defense Branch and the Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch the question of the commitment and the control of the air reconnaissance units of the Commander in Chief of the Navy. This discussion takes place as a result of a letter of the Naval Staff which was submitted to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff by the Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch today.

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In this letter, the Naval Staff, referring to the preparation and conduct of the operation "Seelowe" and the planned diversion operations "Hipper" and "Herbstreise" (autumn trip), raises the following demands regarding the commitment and the control of the air reconnaissance units of the Commander in Chief of the Navy:

- 1.) To have the reconnaissance operations over the North Sea, the Arctic Ocean, and the North Atlantic up to a line including the Orkney Islands and leading along the east coast of England, at a distance of 60 sea miles from the coast, up to the 53rd latitudinal degree conducted by the Navy Group Command North which is to employ the reconnaissance forces of the Commander of the Air Forces. The 506th Coast Air Group should be reassigned to the latter for this purpose. This group had been assigned to the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe, subject to recall, at the occasion of the "Weser" maneuver.
- 2.) To have the reconnaissance operations over the sea area south of the line Cape Clear - Lahn's End, over the Bay of Biscay and the sea area west of the latter conducted by the Navy Group Command West and to reinforce, for this purpose, the 606th Coast Air Group stationed at Brest by the Long-Range Reconnaissance Squadron 2/106 at present committed in sea rescue operations in the Channel area.
- 3.) To have the reconnaissance operations over the naval bases at the

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north and west coast of England, over the 60-sea-mile strip along the east coast as well as over the sea areas of the Saint George's Channel, the Irish Sea, and the North Channel conducted by the reconnaissance forces of the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe.

The reasons given by the Naval Staff for these demands are ----- that the reconnaissance over the previously mentioned sea areas is of particular importance for the conduct of the planned diversion operations and, on the other hand, for the operations conducted ~~from~~ by submarines and naval surface forces from bases in West France against the enemy merchant marine and that the conduct and control of these reconnaissance operations must be assigned to those groups responsible for the sea warfare in these areas.

In contrast to this view, the Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch upholds the view of the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe who claims that the intensified air war against England necessitates the concentration of all air units available for this purpose under the command of the Luftwaffe High Command to have these units committed according to a uniform plan. In particular the air reconnaissance over England and the ~~surrounding~~ surrounding sea areas should be directed by the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe to avoid that

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the reconnaissance missions overlap each other and efficient reconnaissance forces lay idle.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch suggests ~~that the~~ <sup>that the</sup> ~~present~~ <sup>present</sup> system of assigning air reconnaissance units to the Commander in Chief of the Navy be ~~adhered~~ <sup>adhered</sup> to on principle. The over-all air reconnaissance should ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> be placed under the control of the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe once for all, however the assignment of the units should be governed by the respective circumstances.

( ..... )

14 September 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht Operations §Staff/National Defense Branch,14 September 1940

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff ~~informs~~ <sup>informs</sup> the Chief of the National Defense Branch during the verbal report given by the latter in the afternoon that the Fuehrer took, during the conference with the commanders in chief of the branches of the Wehrmacht today, the decision to further postpone the beginning of the operation "Seelowe". A new decision will be taken on 17 September. The preparations will be continued.

Moreover, the Fuehrer ordered the Luftwaffe to operate against the British long-range batteries firing at the French



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coast  
~~east~~. These operations of the Luftwaffe should be started as soon as the necessary preparations are complete. The air attacks against London are to be further directed primarily against ~~xxxx~~ targets important for the war effort and vital to the large city including the railroad stations. The areas of attack will be extended. Terror attacks against pure residential areas should be reserved as a last means of pressure and not yet be conducted.

Upon the inquiry of the Chief of the National Defense  
Branch about the probable further development the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff declares that the Fuehrer seemed to have taken, as early as on 13 September, the decision to call off entirely the operation "Seelowe" but then made up his mind to postpone the operation. This means in no way that the Fuehrer intends to force the operation ~~xxxx~~ unless the prerequisite for its conduct, the air supremacy, has been achieved. On the contrary any crossing of the Channel should be taken into consideration ~~xx~~ only to strike the coup de grâçe at England already heavily battered by air attacks. Apart from this possibility, however, the moral pressure on the British should be further intensified by the continuation of the preparations. On the other hand, the withdrawal even of small elements of the shipping space concentrated in the Channel ports cannot be concealed and would thus reduce the psychological effect of the air war.

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A far more important secondary result of the concentration of forces for the operation "Seelowe" is the fact that the British air forces are attracted by this concentration to the Channel ports and would thus be exposed to attacks by friendly fighter aircraft under conditions favorable for the latter. After all, the commitment of the bomber units against the Channel ports necessarily reduce the enemy night operations over Germany, which will have a favorable effect on the moral of the German population.

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff cautions that shipping space that might no longer be needed must soon be placed at the disposal of the Group XXI to reinforce the supply of Norway and that use <sup>ample</sup> should be made of the transport space <sup>provided by</sup> ~~of~~ the ships returning from the Channel ports.

As a result of a suggestion made by the Chief of the National Defense Branch, the stipulation that the measures necessary for counter espionage and deception purposes are to be intensified, is included in the outline of an order which was prepared by the Wehrmacht Operations Staff and is to make known the new decisions of the Fuehrer to the branches of the Wehrmacht.

( ..... )

19 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

19 September 1940

The Fuehrer has ordered:  
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- 1.) The concentration movements of the transport fleet which have not yet been completed will be stopped.
- 2.) The concentrations of ships in the launching ports will be dispersed to reduce losses of shipping space due to enemy air attacks to a minimum. This dispersion will be effected in a manner insuring that the period of 3-day minus 10 days will remain sufficient for re-concentrating the shipping space in due time in the launching bases provided weather conditions are favorable for such action.
- 3.) The 10 steamships of the Norway route intended for employment in the operation "Herbstreise" (autumn trip) will be reassigned their usual missions until further orders and 6 further steamships intended for employment in the operation "Seelowe" will be withdrawn in phases and inconspicuously and will be employed to speed up the supply of the Group XXI until further notice.
- 4.) The antiaircraft defenses in the launching bases will be strengthened to the utmost possible extent.

The high commands of the branches of the Wehrmacht will be informed correspondingly by a directive of the Chief of the Wehrmacht High  
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Command.

( ..... )

23 September 1940  
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War Diary of the Wehrmacht High  
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Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff  
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National Defense Branch, 23

September 1940

The Chief of the National Defense Branch submits to the Chief of  
 the Wehrmacht High Command and the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations  
 Staff  
~~xxxxxx~~ a report on the trip he took from 18 to 21 September to the  
 Netherlands, Belgium, and North France.

It was the purpose of the trip to get an immediate impression of  
 the progress of the preparations for the operation "Seelowe" and of  
 the success of the air war. He visited the Wehrmacht Commander Neth-  
 erlands in Den Haag, the Sixteenth Army Headquarters in Tourcoing,  
 the command post of the Second Air Fleet near Calais, as well as the  
 Ninth Army Headquarters in Limesy north of Rouen and inspected the  
 ports of Rotterdam, Antwerp, Calais, Boulogne, and Le Havre.

The preparations for the operation "Seelowe" have not yet been  
 completed which applies also to those measures not impaired by enemy  
 interference. This is the consequence of belated decisions on nume-  
 touching the three  
 open questions ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ branches of the Wehrmacht. The Army High  
 Command has put up with the restrictions imposed on its original  
 plan. The Sixteenth and Ninth Armies conduct intensive training and  
 exercises in preparation for the operation "Seelowe" in the course  
 of which, however, the training in various landing maneuvers was  
 sometimes still in its initial stage. The staffs of both armies in the  
 zone of the interior have been established in the planned form.

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inspected

In the ports, there were heavy concentrations of ships and barges. Sometimes, ships and barges were accommodated in sections of the ports which were not covered against observation and sabotage by the local inhabitants. In nearby warehouses, large quantities of ammunition and other Wehrmacht equipment were often stored. Only parts of this material was actually intended for use in the operation "Seelowe". To avoid further losses it would be necessary to disperse these concentrations which would be possible in most of the ports.

If the conduct of the operation is still actually taken into consideration, the further preparations for the transportation of the material and the troops should be adjusted to the dispersed anchorages, since any reconcentration of the shipping space for embarkation purposes would involve the same danger for the ships as well as for the troops and the equipment. The time-schedule hitherto planned for embarkation, beginning of the movements, and readiness for immediate action should be reconsidered, since in Antwerp, for instance, the beginning of the embarkation had been ~~was~~, because of the small number of tow-boats available as well as of the sluice and navigable water conditions, scheduled to take place as early as 8 days prior to S-day and the ~~beginning of the embarkation~~ date at which the ships should be put out to sea had been set ~~at~~ <sup>for</sup> 4 days prior to S-day. The population of the harbor cities suffers from the air raids provoked by the concentrations of shipping space even though the antiaircraft artillery ~~fire~~ defenses were designated as sufficient by the commands staffs.

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It had not been until 19 September, which had been only two days before the earliest possible target date for the landing, that the Second Air Fleet had held basic conferences on the commitment of the VIII Air Corps and on numerous other questions. These conferences had been held with the Sixteenth Army and the 7th Air Division. The VIII Air Corps can support only both the corps of the Sixteenth Army at the front. Owing to the large extension of the front, which amounted to 30 kilometers, this air support can be provided only on a small scale. The neutralization of the flanks at Dover and Dungeness as well as the missions deep over enemy territory would have to be accomplished by other units.

In connection with this question, the Commanding General of the VIII Air Corps suggested that, if possible, only one army corps be shipped across the Channel in the initial stage to make it possible to provide stronger air support for this corps. The Chief of the Luftwaffe General Staff who attended this conference agreed to this suggestion. He (The Chief of the <sup>National Defense Branch</sup> ~~Luftwaffe General Staff~~), however, pointed out that forces as strong as possible should be shipped with the first wave in view of the enemy fleet and the notion of the sea which cannot be foreseen and that the intervals necessarily caused by the commitment of the Luftwaffe would necessitate the shipping of combat-efficient Army elements across the Channel <sup>from the very outset of the</sup> ~~as early as in the first~~ operation.

~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~

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After that, the suggestion made by General von Richthofen was not considered any more.

Furthermore, it was decided after a lengthy discussion that the smoke effect produced by air forces should be foregone in favor of an explosive effect. Excluded from this decision should be the reconnaissance squadrons which are to produce smoke screens over the Channel.

The major part of the 7th Air Division is to be committed ahead of the right wing of the Sixteenth Army on S-day at dawn in order to take the Downs. The remaining elements should be committed in the area of Folkestone on S-day plus 1 day.

The mission of providing close support to the Ninth Army would be assigned to the I Air Corps.

As regards the intensified air war against England, the airfields in the coastal area are excellently fitted out and camouflaged. The Commander in Chief of the Second Air Fleet and his Chief of Staff ~~expressed~~ complained about the continuously bad weather which again and again necessitated the postponement of the commitment of strong units. Even now, difficulties seem to be encountered in the coordinated action of fighter and bomber units.

The Chief of Staff, Generalleutnant Speidel, made the following comment on the course the operations ~~have~~ had taken so far:

The outstanding feature of the initial phase was the destruction

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of the enemy fighter force the strength and striking power of ~~which~~ which was more and more reduced. When the air fleet intended to go over to a large-scale attack on London, ~~the permission for~~ the permission for ~~such~~ such action could at first not be obtained but was given only after repeated urgent requests. Then, however, weather conditions remained good for only one more day so that the attack could not be carried out in the planned form. This respite offered the British ~~a chance to draw personnel~~ and matériel ~~fighter~~ fighter a chance to draw personnel from all schools and aircraft not yet completely painted from the industry for operational employment. Consequently, the enemy fighter defenses were gradually reinforced again in the course of the following days. During this effort, the British recklessly committed fighter squadrons with poorly trained crews against the German bomber units. During these operations the enemy fighter aircraft repeatedly ranned the German ~~bomber~~ bomber aircraft as an ultimate ~~method~~ method of combat. The German fighter aircraft ~~however,~~ however, were mostly attacked only by well-trained British fighters.

This development made it necessary to resume the combat operations against the enemy fighter aircraft a few days ~~ago~~ ago, so that now, in the third phase of the air war, strong bomber units, even though mostly at night, and strong fighter forces are committed simultaneously. The friendly forces continued to feel considerably superior to the enemy and there was full confidence that the air



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war could be further conducted with good success.

The number of enemy fighter aircraft is estimated at about 300.

This number is monthly increased by about 250 coming out of production. Regarding the number of the British bomber aircraft the opinions differ widely. The former air attaché in London, General Wenninger, estimates this number at about 800 and ~~he~~ holds that the British have so far limited the scope of their bomber action because they reserve the massed bomber commitment for the expected climax of the air war during a German landing. The Commander in Chief of the Second Air Fleet, however, doubts that such strong bomber forces actually exist.

The conferences with the Wehrmacht Commander Netherlands revealed that the cooperation with the Reich's Commissioner was satisfactory and that <sup>full</sup> mutual agreement existed in <sup>respect</sup> ~~regard~~ to decisive problems.

The accommodation of the units stationed in the Netherlands is unobjectionable, air raid protection for troops and airfields is insured.

The Dutch reconstruction service under the control of a special engineering staff of the Army is mainly employed for the <sup>dismantling</sup> ~~destruction~~ of the former fortification lines of the Ijssel and Grabbe Rivers. The new water line will be preserved for the time being. Attempts to use, by employing improvised means, fortresses with their fronts towards the West, have been unsuccessful. The traffic conditions on the canals are well regulated; the road and railway traffic, however,

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is still considerably impaired by the fact that <sup>about</sup> up to the end of November only one single North-South communication <sup>exists</sup> across the bridge of Moerdijk. The population complies with all orders and no organized opposition is observed.

Everywhere, the troops are fully occupied with exercises, guard duties, and other types of work. In conferences with line officers, the question of the privileges allegedly granted to the Armed SS and the problem of the grave consequences of the method employed in exempting individuals from military service are repeatedly broached. The officers of a third-wave division said it was incomprehensible that the SS-troops were equipped like a "wandering armory" while the divisions of the third wave were still lacking a lot of arms and were, for a great part, provided with old types of weapons. Furthermore, it had been pointed out unmistakably that SS-leaders who had never before served as a soldier and had not engaged in combat even for a single day wore insignia of rank of the Wehrmacht and ~~received~~ were given titles usually connected with assignments in the latter. The exemption from military service was considered the more <sup>urgently</sup> alarming the more young men were affected by it and the more ~~increased~~ the troops desired to be sent home owing to lack of combat action. For this reason, the suggestion that all young ~~men~~ age classes be sent to the front or be engaged in training activities should be repeated. The replacements for the industry should, on principle, be drawn from the older age classes.

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25 September 1940War Diary of the WehrmachtHigh Command/Wehrmacht Opera-tions Staff/National DefenseBranch, 25 September 1940

In the afternoon, ~~Springer~~ during his first verbal report after his return from his trip ~~and~~ to the occupied western territories and a subsequent illness the Chief of the National Defense Branch asks the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff for a general information on the military ~~situation~~ - political situation, particularly regarding the situation in the Mediterranean and in West Africa. The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff terms the overall situation unstable. In particular, the numerous diplomatic talks held last week have not yet brought definite results.

The conferences with the Spanish Minister of the Interior, Serrano Suñer had brought satisfactory results. These conferences, however, mainly dealt with general political questions <sup>which would</sup> ~~result~~ result from Spain's participation in the war. As far as he knew, questions directly related to the combined warfare were not yet discussed. Consequently, the basis for a close military cooperation with Spain and Italy in the Mediterranean does not yet exist.

The conferences of the Reich's Foreign Minister in Rome were exclusively or, at least, mainly concerned with the imminent conclusion of the German-Italian-Japanese military and friendship treaty.

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In addition, the questions of the warfare in the Mediterranean must, in view of the recent development, be considered in close connection with the events in West Africa (Dakar). He (the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff) has so far availed himself of every opportunity in ~~cooperation~~ <sup>concert</sup> with the Chief of the National Defense Branch to convince the Fuehrer of the far-reaching possibilities involved in the exploitation ~~which could result from~~ of the common German and French interests regarding the warfare against England which <sup>was</sup> the predominating ~~concern~~ concern. While the Fuehrer in his decision to release French forces for the repulsion of British attacks against Dakar excluded, following the advice of the Reich's Foreign Minister, the French naval forces stationed at Toulon thus expressing <sup>again</sup> his lack of faith in the French intentions, he now seems to begin to change his mind. It must be realized, however, that such a change of mind would involve a complete change of the the basic concepts on the further conduct and the objectives of the war. Above all, the difficulties should not be misjudged which would be caused by ~~by~~ Italy and Spain as the allied nations with the greatest interest in the detachment of the French possessions from France.

The engagement of France in the warfare against England, however, would doubtless involve new possibilities of considerable extent. At the same time, such an engagement would be the best countermeasure against the extension of the British influence to North Africa.

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Consequently, he (the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff) further deems it extremely important to influence the Fuehrer in this sense. Mention was already made of the Fuehrer's intention to confer with the former French ambassador in Berlin, François Poncet, and to hold a meeting with Marshal Pétain. Such a change of ~~opinion~~ policy, however, would doubtless be preceded by a conference with the Duce.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch declares that it is now no longer necessary for him to submit concepts and suggestions regarding the same objective. He already ordered to prepare a survey of the ~~French~~ disposition of the French forces and of the communication routes between North and West Africa to be used as first basic material. In addition, the study on the Atlantic Islands prepared by the Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch and submitted a few days ago will have to be supplemented from the angle of a cooperation with France.

( ..... )

1 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch, 1 October

1940

In the afternoon, the Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch reports to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff in the presence of the Chief of the National Defense Branch

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that the Naval Operations Staff does not agree to the suggestion made by the Luftwaffe Operations Staff on 28 September that the Squadron 1/106 (He-115) assigned to the Commander of the Air Forces Wilhelmshaven be exchanged, because of its longer range ~~mission~~, greater speed, and bomb-carrying capacity, for the Squadron 3/406 (Do-18) assigned to the 9th Air Division.

The naval air forces which have been weakened by transfers of elements to the Luftwaffe are fully needed in their present <sup>composition</sup> ~~strength~~. In particular, a further reduction of their He-115 strength would not be acceptable, since this type of aircraft is mainly used for the important mission of <sup>providing</sup> ~~the~~ "close escort cover" for ships putting out to sea or moving into coastal waters endangered by enemy submarines. The type "Do-18" cannot be employed in such missions, since its bomb-carrying capacity is very limited and ~~xxx~~ it is unable to carry water bombs.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch adds that since the ~~-----~~ Fuehrer's decision of 13 September the conditions in this field have not changed so that no further intervention of the Luftwaffe would be justified. The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff <sup>shares</sup> ~~agrees~~ this ~~-----~~ view. The Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command has not yet decided on ~~-----~~ this question.

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch explains ~~-----~~

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to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operation Staff the reasons for which the Naval Operations Staff attaches great importance to aerial-delivered amplest possible use of ~~axial~~ mines.

having developed a means for sweeping ~~axial~~ The British ~~had found countermeasures against~~ magnetic mines, a new type of ignition will be employed from now on which holds out a prospect a prospect for a great effect. For this reason aerial-delivered mines are to be employed on a large-scale before the enemy finds a new sweeping means ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ for this new type of ignition.

The Naval Operations Branch considers steadily intensified mine-laying operations an effective supplementation of the air war against the enemy ports and of the submarine warfare. For this reason, the Naval Operations Staff thinks it advisable to commit the comparatively small number of aircraft suitable for mine-laying operations with their specialist personnel (9th Air Division) only for this purpose and to assign the bombing missions to the major part of the bomber units. The Naval Operations Staff maintains its right to participate in the aerial-mining operations by advocating this type of commitment.

The effects produced by the aerial-delivered mines when used as bombs are impaired by the fact that the mines can be dropped only with parachutes. The latter is easily caught whenever the mine is dropped on build-up areas thus preventing the mine from detonating. The mine is thus found intact by the enemy; this happened already

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and is absolutely undesirable.

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff serves notice that the  
 -----  
 Fuehrer has hitherto planned to employ aerial-delivered mines at  
 -----  
 a later date. Now, however, he ordered the immediate employment  
 of such mines, since aerial-delivered mines with the new type of  
 fuze (Fab) were already dropped. It is to be ascertained whether  
 they were already dropped on London (the Naval Operations Staff  
 had urgently requested that they not be dropped on that city; the  
 Luftwaffe reports upon inquiry of the Chief of the Group I Navy of  
 the National Defense Branch that no such mines were dropped on  
 London).

( ..... )

Moreover, the Chief of the National Defense Branch submits a survey  
 -----  
 of the progress made in moving up transport space for the operation  
 "Seeloewe" prepared by the Chief of Group I Navy of the National  
 Defense Branch. At this occasion, he points out that the order for  
 the beginning of the operation could no more be issued on S-day  
 minus 10 days as provided for in the time-schedule but that the  
 readiness of the branches of the Wehrmacht for action has to be  
 restored first.

( ..... )



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In addition, the Chief of the Luftwaffe General Staff requested to counteract <sup>most</sup> energetically the rumors circulating in Berlin.

<sup>indicated</sup>  
These rumors ~~revealed~~ that the British would intensify their air warfare and extend the latter by the use of chemical warfare agents and that American heavy aircraft types would be employed before long.

( ..... )

Moreover, the Chief of the National Defense Branch mentions  
-----  
the British air raids against the Channel ports which had grave consequences. The effects of these attacks were considerably increased by hits in ammunition dumps and trains some of which contained captured enemy ammunition. The air raid protection at these places seems to be fully inadequate. The Chief of the Wehrmacht  
-----  
Operations Staff orders the submission of a directive to be issued  
-----  
by the Fuehrer. According to this directive, the branches of the Wehrmacht will have to take immediate measures to obviate such grave consequences of enemy air raids.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch then broaches again  
-----  
the question of the information of the American military attachés in Berlin. The decision just made by the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command in conformance with the views of the Army and Luftwaffe High Commands that these attachés should be occasionally informed on the military situation by qualified officers similar to the

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information of the German military attaché in Washington but should not be permitted ~~him~~ to visit the front would, in his ( Chief of the National Defense Branch) not be sufficient if any counter-propaganda conducted ~~action~~ should be ~~taken~~ against the reports sent to Washington by the American military attachés in London. Therefore, the Chief of the National Defense Branch suggests again that the attachés be given, by corresponding measures to be taken by the Luftwaffe, a chance to get an immediate impression of the air war at the Channel coast.

( ..... )

2 October 1940War Diary of the WehrmachtHigh Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National DefenseBranch, 2 October 1940

In a letter to the Wehrmacht High Command/National Defense Branch <sup>dated</sup> ~~30~~ 30 September (Operations Officer 562/40 Restricted Top Secret) the Army High Command (Army General Staff/Operations Branch) points out the consequences the maintenance of the present degree of readiness for action in the operation "Seelewe" over an extended period of time would have for the Army.

- 1.) The necessity to begin with the embarkation of the equipment immediately upon issuance of the code-word order after having received a warning order 10 days ~~ago~~ before requires the availability of considerable forces and equipment in the immediate vicinity of the ports.

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This leads to steady losses of personnel and matériel due to the continual British air raids against the coastal areas. Even ~~then~~ though these losses do not, at present, exceed an acceptable extent they would ~~constitute~~ <sup>in the long run</sup> inflict a tangible damage upon the troops.

- 2.) The organizational measures to be taken by the Army High Command in the course of the winter could not be carried out if the present degree of readiness for action in the operation "Seelowe" should be maintained by the units intended for commitment in this operation.

In the course of November, these units would have to detach one third of their strength for the activation of new units and would receive recruits instead. Their readiness for action would thus be impaired from November to February. If the detachment of these cadres would not be possible because the degree of readiness for action should be maintained for the operation "Seelowe" the activation of the divisions of the 12th, 13th, and 14th waves would not be feasible in the planned way.

Difficulties are encountered in

- 3.) The training of the troops made available for the operation "Seelowe" is ~~extremely difficult~~, since these troops must be ready for action at a short notice.

- 4.) Among those forces made available for commitment in the operation "Seelowe" there are troops (engineers etc.) which belong to

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those divisions transferred to the East and are urgently needed by these divisions. Owing to the present degree of readiness, however, their withdrawal from the planned commitment in the operation "Seelowe" and their replacement by other units would be impossible.

If it is intended to maintain the degree of readiness for action in the operation "Seelowe" during the winter so that the attack can be carried out ~~anytime~~ at any time after a previous warning order as a coup de grace for England as a nation in process of breaking down, the Army High Command would request that the ~~previous~~ warning order be issued three weeks before the beginning of the attack to provide the possibility of dispersing the troops, exchanging the units, and facilitating the training activities.

If, however, it is intended to maintain the readiness for action in the operation "Seelowe" during the winter as a ~~means~~ <sup>mere means</sup> of military and political pressure on England without actually carrying out the operation, the Army High Command would take appropriate measures to insure the military pressure on England. At the same time the units could be dispersed and exchanged, the possibilities for training improved, and the necessary organizational measures be taken to the full extent.

The Army High Command requests a decision to be made at the latest by the middle of October to be able to take the necessary measures in time.

At 17:30 hours, the Chief of the National Defense Branch reports  
 -----  
 to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff on the letter ~~xx~~ of  
 -----  
 the Army High Command and proposes  
 Yexcerpt of which was quoted above and ~~suggests~~ to abolish the 10-  
 day period for the issuance of the warning order and to inform the  
 Army High Command that ~~known~~, should the operation "Seelewe" be  
 carried out in the near future, he should be consulted early enough  
 about the period required for the initial phase of the operation  
 (about 15 days).

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff agrees to this sugges-  
 -----  
 tion and declares that the decision on the degree of readiness of  
 the units for action during the winter would be made by the middle  
 of October.

The Army High Command (Army General Staff/Operations Branch)  
 -----  
 will be correspondingly informed by teletype message.

( ..... )

8 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

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 Opera-  
 High Command/Wehrmacht ~~Branch~~

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 tions Staff/National Defense

( ..... )

-----  
 Branch, 8 October

of  
 In connection with the conferences ~~with~~ the Fuehrer with  
 the Duce at the Brenner pass the Chief of the National Defense  
 -----  
 Branch makes the following suggestion on the attitude to adopted  
 -----  
 towards France:

( ..... )

2.) The high commands of the branches of the Wehrmacht, in particular that of the Army, which <sup>at present,</sup> consider themselves as inadequately informed on the next intentions <sup>for</sup> ~~of the~~ the conduct of the war, should be provided with the necessary guiding principles.

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff agrees to these suggestions and thinks it advisable to connect a directive for the relaxation of the measures for the operation "Seelowe" with the information of the high commands of the branches of the Wehrmacht on the next intentions for the warfare, provided the Fuehrer would have taken a decision to that effect upon his return from the Obersalzberg on 9 October.

( ..... )

10 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht

Operations Staff/National

Defense Branch, 10 October

ber

The Chief of the German Liaison Staff with the Italian Air

Force, Generalleutnant Ritter von Pohl, reports ~~xx~~, by a teletype

message dated 9 October, on his conference with Marshal Badoglio

held on the same day as follows:

Marshal Badoglio stressed the necessity of a conference

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with Generalfeldmarschall Keitel at the earliest possible date to draw up the plans for the operations to be conducted in winter.

He still considers a landing in England as necessary to bring the war quickly to an end. However, he does not think that such a landing operation can be carried out still in ~~this~~ <sup>the</sup> fall. During the winter, the main effort of the warfare will have to be shifted to the Mediterranean in addition to the continuation of the air and submarine operations against England. This should be done to oust the British from Egypt and Gibraltar.

Moreover, Marshal Badoglio declared that he would not have approved the dispatch of the Italian air corps to Belgium if he had been asked before, because this corps was not used to the bad weather conditions in that country and would therefore be doomed to inactivity during the winter months. ~~Now~~ On the other hand, however, the best possibilities for commitment would exist in the Mediterranean during this season. For this reason, he would welcome the participation of the German Luftwaffe in the operations against Egypt and then, in spring, make half of the Italian air forces available for participation in the operations against England.

( ..... )

Furthermore, Marshal Badoglio mentioned the inadequate use made of the 30 Italian submarines committed in the Atlantic. These submarines could not be effective due to lack of shipping traffic in

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the operational areas assigned to them.

14 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Opera-  
tions Staff/National Defense

Branch, 14 October 1940

The Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command directs the Ger-  
man General assigned to the Supreme Headquarters of the Italian  
Armed Forces, Generalmajor von Rintelen, to inform Marshal Badoglio that he fully agrees to the suggestion of the latter that the operational plans for the winter be drawn up at a common conference to be held at the earliest possible date and that a suggestion for the place and time of this conference will be made at the latest when the political talks will have brought about a basis for the future warfare.

22 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Opera-  
tions Staff/National Defense

Branch, 22 October 1940

According to a teletype message of the Luftwaffe Operations Staff dated 21 October ~~19~~ a lieutenant colonel of the Italian General Staff confidentially told the Chief of the German Liaison Staff with the Italian Air Force that the target date for the Italian offensive against Greece was set for ~~the~~ 25 or



was  
 26 October. The first objective ~~was~~ to be the islands of Corfu, Cephallonia, and Yannina. The second objective was to be Saloniki and the third objective was to be Athens which was to be reached by two columns. Bulgaria was allegedly supposed to occupy at the same time the coastal strip east of the peninsula of Khalkidike.

( ..... )

28 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High  
Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff  
National Defense Branch, 28 October  
1940

Discussion of the Situation

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense

Branch reports that 227 bomber and reconnaissance aircraft and 138 fighter aircraft were committed against England <sup>on 27 October</sup> and that 225 bomber aircraft were committed against England during the night of 27/28 October and dropped 52,8 tons of bombs on London in daytime and 126,7 tons of bombs and 40 BSK \* during the night. Moreover, the British night airfields were raided, apparently with good success. On 27 October, the losses of the friendly forces amounted to 9, those of the enemy to 29 aircraft. The IX Air Corps conducted mine-laying

Note: \* BSK:

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operations along the the coast of West and South England. Two ene-  
 my aircraft intruded into the Luftgau Holland on 27 October and  
 raided the airfield of Den Helder. ~~28 October 1940~~ 29 enemy air-  
 craft intruded into the Luftgau Holland during the night of 27/28  
 October. 12 enemy aircraft intruded ~~intruded~~ Belgium/North France  
 and 25 aircraft intruded into West France during the same night.  
 They dropped bombs on 14 places. 85 aircraft intruded <sup>into intruded</sup> the Reich's  
 Territory. 114 demolition bombs and more than 140 incendiary bombs  
 were dropped mainly on the Luftgaue VI, IV, and IX.

( ..... )

In conclusion, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff  
 -----  
 points out that in view of the intensified reconnaissance and  
 nuisance activities of the British against the shipping traffic  
 in Norwegian waters the execution of the directives issued on 22  
 October for the deception of the enemy might endanger the transpor-  
 tation activities in these waters.

29 October 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht Operations 7Staff/National Defense Branch,29 October 1940Discussion of the Situation

( ..... )

The Chief of the Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense

Branch then gives a survey of the German air attacks against England during the month of September. A total of 741 attacks were carried out of which 268 were directed against London. During these attacks, 6223,92 tons of demolition bombs and 8546 BSK \* were dropped on London and 1096,55 tons of demolition bombs and 1723 BSK \*\* were dropped on the rest of England.

( ..... )

30 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff  
tions ~~Branch~~/National Defense

Branch, 30 October 1940

Discussion of the Situation

( ..... )

Navy

The Chief of Group I ~~Luftwaffe~~ of the National Defense

Branch reports that the British give their losses of shipping space during the week from 20 to 27 October as 198 000 gross register tons. 8 to 10 German submarines are always engaged in combat operations

Notes: \* BSK :

\*\* BSK :

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( ..... )

As a result of the apprehension voiced by the Chief of the \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wehrmacht Operations Staff on 28 October and of the telephone con-  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 versation with the Chief of Staff of the Wehrmacht Commander Norway  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 which took place on the same day the Foreign Group/Counter Intelli-  
 gence/III is directed <sup>not</sup> to exploit, for the time being, the troop trans-  
~~portation~~ <sup>skilboording</sup> ~~movements~~ <sup>still running</sup> ~~to North Norway~~ at the present ~~in~~  
 time for deception purposes according to the new guiding principles  
 issued on 22 October. This ~~order~~ was directed in order not to endan-  
 ger these transportation movements. Information on the reinforcement  
 of the troops stationed in Norway should not be made leak through  
 to the enemy intelligence service ~~until~~ before these movements will  
 have been completed. Such information should be made leak through  
 to the enemy to make the latter believe that the Island of Britain  
 is threatened from the area of Norway and to relieve the offensive  
 action of the Navy in the Atlantic.

( ..... )

31 October 1940War Diary of the WehrmachtHigh Command/Wehrmacht Opera-tions Staff/National DefenseBranch, 31 October 1940Discussion of the Situation

The Chief of the Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense

Branch : ( ... )

( ..... ) Subsequently it was reported that bomber aircraft of the Italian air corps dropped 92 bombs (11 tons) on the harbor installations of Ramsgate in the afternoon of 29 October. ( ..... )

According to a report of the Economic and Armament Office  
the USA is said to have delivered 743 aircraft to England during the first year of the war. About 250 of this figure are said to have been delivered in August and more than 100 in July.

( ..... )

1 November 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

( ..... )

1 November 1940

Discussion of the Situation

( ..... )

The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch reports on a conference of the Military Attaché in Rom with Marshal Badoglio in the afternoon of 30 October. ( ..... )

At ~~that~~ occasion, Marshal Badoglio expressed his satisfaction at the great successes achieved by the submarines during the last days and declared ~~that~~ the best way to force England to surrender would be to cut off her supplies. ( ..... )

( ..... )

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Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff ( ..... ) He then gave

the following information:

The Fuehrer does not at all approve of the Italian action against Greece and considers the prospect of this action for success as negative in every respect. Consequently, he has lost any inclination for a close military cooperation with Italy. It is, therefore questionable whether the planned commitment of German troops in Libia will actually be realized. A decision on this question, however, will not be taken until after the Commander in Chief of the Army together with Generalmajor Ritter von Thoma reported to the Fuehrer on 2 November and after the planned conference between the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command and Marshal Badoglio has taken place. If it should be decided to desist from a commitment of German troops in Libia, this could, though only to a small extent, be compensated by launching a thrust from Bulgaria to the Aegean Sea. In addition, the Fuehrer now wants to carry out the attack against Gibraltar in coordinated action with Spain but, if possible, without participation of Italy. Furthermore, he contemplates the occupation of the Atlantic Islands and, if necessary, also that of Portugal.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch comments on these plans as follows:

The intentions for the continuation of the war during the

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winter are not satisfactory. The intensified air war against England is considerably impaired by the unfavorable weather conditions which are expected to last through the winter. In case it will be decided not to commit German Troops in Libya, the Italian offensive against Egypt will hardly lead to a decisive success nor will the much desired restoration of the situation in the Mediterranean be achieved. Thus, the Italian battle fleet will continue to be tied up in the Mediterranean and ~~will~~ its commitment in the Atlantic jointly with the German heavy naval forces against the British battleships will not be possible.

On the other hand, the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command declares that German air forces should be committed against Egypt as planned. In addition, the employment of aerial-delivered mines against Alexandria and the Suez-Canal is planned and the commitment of dive-bomber aircraft from Syria against the British Alexandria-Squadron is ~~under consideration~~. It is also expected that the fall of Gibraltar will have repercussions on the Eastern Mediterranean. The military cooperation with France was discussed only in broad outlines during the negotiations of the Fuehrer with Marshal Pétain and Foreign Minister Laval.

The further discussion of this question with the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff and the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command who just arrived reveals that in the future France will,





service until these transportation movements are completed. (See under 28 and 30 October.)

( ..... )

3 November 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Opera-

tions Staff/National Defense

Branch, 3 November 1940

Report on the Situation (No discussion of the situation)

( ..... The report of the Luftwaffe Operations Staff on the

situation, dated 3 November, reveals that 4 of the

bomber aircraft which operated against London at night

and were partially iced while flying through storms,

gusts, and rain showers have not returned to their

bases ..... )

( ..... ) According to press reports, the British Food Ministry

now stores food supplies all over London in churches, movie halls,

and other buildings to prevent famine in those districts cut off from

traffic as a result of the German air attacks.

( ..... )

4 November 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch, 4 Novem-

ber 1940

( ..... )

As a result of today's conference of the Fuehrer with the Commander  
in Chief of the Army and the Chief of the Army General Staff, the  
Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff issues the following orders  
for the directive to be prepared by the National Defense Branch  
for the  
~~Further~~ conduct of the war:

( ..... )

The preparations for the operation "Seelowe" will be conti-  
nued energetically, since ~~it~~ <sup>may be</sup> ~~is~~ possible or even necessary that  
this operation will be carried out in springtime.

( ..... )

Moreover, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff orders  
that a list be made of the questions to be discussed in the immed-  
iate conference of the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command with  
Marshal Badoglio. ( ..... ) ~~The questions to be discussed are:~~

The Italian air units committed at the Channel coast should be  
withdrawn to Italy for the winter. ( ..... )

5 November 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Opera-  
tions Staff/National Defense

( ..... )

Branch, 5 November 1940

The National Defense Branch submits the outline for  
Directive No. 18 prepared according to the guiding principles of  
the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff to the latter.

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The first point treated in this outline is the operation "Seelowe". This first passage reads: I adhere to the intention to carry out the landing during the first half of the year 1941 as soon as a situation favorable for such action ~~arises~~ develops. The three high commands will ~~make~~ efforts to improve the basis for the conduct of such an operation in every respect. Guiding principles for these efforts will be issued."

6 November 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch, 6 Novem-

ber 1940

Discussion of the Situation

( ..... )

The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch

reports that it is estimated that the number of divisions stationed in Great Britain amounts to 34 and a half compared to 39 divisions in August 1940. The lacking 4 and a half divisions have presumably been transferred to abroad, mainly to the Near East. 18 of these 34 and a half divisions probably belong to the Coastal Defense Force 12 and a half of these may belong to the Mobile Defence Force, 1 of them is ~~thought~~ probably stationed in North Ireland, and 2 of them are reported in the process of being activated. The whereabouts of 1 of these divisions ~~is~~<sup>are</sup> unknown.

( ..... )

When asked by the Chief of the National Defense Branch whether a decision has been taken ~~already~~ on the outline, <sup>b</sup> submitted yesterday, ~~XXXXX~~ of a new directive on the conduct of the war, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff declares that a considerable modification must be effected only in respect to the operation "Seelowe", since the priority given to this operation by the National Defense Branch ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ conforms to the opinion of the Army but does not meet with the approval of the Fuehrer.

Upon the remark of the Chief of the National Defense Branch that the operation "Seelowe" should still be regarded as being of decisive importance for the overall war effort the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff admits this fact but emphasizes that the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ for the sure ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the basis ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ success of this action must be created before the actual conduct of the operation can be taken into consideration.

This opinion has led to the formulation used by the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff for the passage covering the operation ~~XXXXXX~~ now "Seelowe" and ranking last in the directive. This passage now reads:

owing to "Since, ~~XXXXXX~~ changes in the overall situation, it may become possible or even necessary that in spring 1941 the operation "Seelowe" will be actually carried out, the three branches of the Wehrmacht should make

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serious efforts to improve the preconditions for such operation in every respect" (See the formulation of the National Defense Branch in the outline submitted on 5 November). The Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command approved this formulation.

7 November 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch, 7 Novem-

( ..... )

ber 1940

A new outline for the Directive No. 18 is submitted to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff. In this new outline, the changes effected by the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff in the old outline are taken into account. (See under 6 November).

The outline is approved by the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff and by the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command and forwarded to the high commands of the branches of the Wehrmacht even before ~~xxx~~ being signed by the Fuehrer. The outline is to be used, for the time being, as a basis for the planning of the Army and Luftwaffe General Staffs and of the Naval Operations Staff.

( ..... )

The Reich's Minister for Arms and Ammunition, Dr. Todt, is notified

by a letter of the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command that the Fuehrer desires that bomb-proof shelters for submarines be quickly built by the Organization Todt in the submarine bases in the occupied western areas.

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( ..... )

8 November 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht OperationsStaff/National Defense Branch,8 NovemberDiscussion of the Situation

( ..... ) In the afternoon of 7 November, a dive-bomber unit of 20 aircraft escorted by strong fighter forces attacked a  
 ships and 1  
 convoy of 14 ~~auxiliary~~ ~~cruiser~~ ~~ships~~ in Thames Estuary. 1 steamer  
 of 4 to 5000 gross register  
~~tons~~ tons was sunk and 2 further steamers and the **cruiser** were  
 damaged.

( ..... )

In the Atlantic 23 Italian submarines are operating at present. Some of them are stationed at Bordeaux. Two submarines on their way to this port were attacked by British destroyers with water bombs in the Strait of Gibraltar. They had to touch at the port of Tangiers to repair the damages incurred during this attack. The armored cruiser "Admiral Scheer" unexpectedly encountered ~~xxx~~ a British convoy in the North Atlantic and sunk a number of steamships with a total ~~of~~ tonnage of 85 000 gross register tons.

( ..... )

9 November 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht Operations

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Staff/National Defense Branch,  
-----

( ..... )

9 November 1940  
-----

According to the data on losses and expenditures compiled by the Group I M 2 of the National Defense Branch for the period from 10 May to 31 October 1940 the personnel losses of the flying units of the Luftwaffe committed at the front amounted, in October, to 36 officers and 111 enlisted men killed, 14 officers and 94 enlisted men wounded, and 93 officers and 293 enlisted men missing.

operational  
The losses of aircraft including those employed in the zone of the interior amounted to 578 aircraft of which 371 were ~~totally~~ completely lost. 984 new aircraft were put into service. The situation concerning personnel replacements is satisfactory. A shortage exists in respect to Ju-88 and twin-engine fighter crews.

( ..... )

As a result of the attitude adopted by the Army High Command on the outline for the Directive No. 18 and of the time-schedule for the operation "Felix" submitted ~~at the same time~~ simultaneously with the letter of the Army High Command <sup>it is suggested to</sup> the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff ~~suggests~~ that the Directive No. 18 be modified. The suggested modifications are approved by the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff and by the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command.

( ..... )

11 November 1940  
-----War Diary of the Wehrmacht High  
-----Command/Wehrmacht Operations  
-----

Staff/National Defense Branch,

11 November 1940

Discussion of the Situation

( ..... )

( ..... ) A total of 783 air attacks were carried out against England ~~October~~ in October; 333 of these attacks were directed against London.

The torpedo boat "T 6" was lost due to being hit by a mine during an operation against the coast of East ~~Scotland~~ Scotland.

( ..... )

12 November 1940

( ..... )

The Directive No. 18 is issued to the high commands of the Wehrmacht after being signed by the Fuehrer. (See under 9 November/5)

( ..... )

13 November 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Opera-

tions Staff/National Defense

Branch, 13 November 1940

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff submits the evaluation of the situation prepared by him for the imminent conference between the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command and Marshal Badoglio in Innsbruck and approved by the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command.

This evaluation of the situation begins as follows: "The war



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has been won, it cannot be lost any more, it just has to be brought to an end. For this purpose it is necessary to convince England by force that she has lost the war". The directive continues with the statement that at the beginning of 1941 Germany will, in all fields, be stronger than she was at the beginning of the war or at the beginning of the operations in the West. The German Army will not be confronted with any problem in Europe owing to its strength of about 230 divisions of first-wave divisions, which 185 are ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ 20 of the latter are armored divisions. Furthermore, the Army has 4 armored units with captured enemy equipment, 12 motorized divisions and stocks of ammunition sufficient ~~far~~ to meet the requirements of large-scale combat action lasting 2 to 3 years. By the beginning of the new year, the Navy will have recovered from the damages incurred and replaced the major part of its losses. The Navy will be able to commit a steadily increasing number of submarines ~~incumbent upon it to~~ against the enemy and to <sup>up</sup> step up the production of submarines <sup>to</sup> 25 submarines by the end of the year. The Luftwaffe, too, will, by springtime, be stronger in respect to quantity and quality than it was at the beginning of the battle against England.

After a brief discussion of the effects of the air and sea war against England and some remarks on the attitude of Russia and the USA as the only powers from which England still hopes ~~for~~ support, the situation in the Mediterranean as the topic proper of the conference is treated in detail. During the treatment of this question it is stated that according to German opinion it is desirable for military

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reasons

~~REASON~~ to confine the warfare in the Balkans to Greece. British attacks against the oil production area of Rumania only could justify the commitment of German troops in the South East. To support the Italian offensive against Egypt primarily the commitment of German air forces against Alexandria and the Suez-Canal should be taken into consideration after the capture of Marsa Matruh for which German troops would not be needed according to the opinion of both parties. Gibraltar could be taken without difficulties by especially trained German troops provided Spain should ~~xxx~~ decide to enter the war rather soon. As regards the cooperation with France, Germany should, in view of the great importance of the French colonial empire in Africa for the continuation of the war against England, endeavor to tighten this cooperation as closely as possible. It is desirable that this necessity be fully recognized also by all military authorities in Italy.

Regarding the immediate cooperation of Italian air and naval units with the corresponding German branches of the armed forces

Marshal

the view taken by <sup>Marshal</sup>Badioglio is shared. Badioglio is of the opinion that it would be more economical and better strategy to employ the Italian air units stationed in Belgium in the Mediterranean during the winter. On the other hand, however, it is requested that the Italian submarines employed in the Atlantic be left in this area as a valuable support for the siege of England.

( ..... )

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14 November 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht OperationsStaff/National Defense Branch,

( ..... )

14 December 1940

Finally, the Chief of the National Defense Branch inquires what political guiding principles are envisaged in case Ireland, attacked by England, calls for German support. Ambassador Ritter, in turn, ~~asks~~ wants to know what ~~the Wehrmacht~~ the Wehrmacht could do in such case. The Chief of the National Defense Branch declares that any effective support could not be provided; airborne troops could not be committed. The conduct of Luftwaffe and Navy operations only could be taken into consideration. Ambassador Ritter thinks that in such case the utmost effort on the part of the Wehrmacht would be demanded by the Fuehrer.

( ..... )

19 November 1940War Diary of the WehrmachtHigh Command/Wehrmacht Opera-tions Staff/National Defense

( ..... )

Branch, 19 November 1940

Upon the question of the Chief of the National Defense Branch whether the Fuehrer has ever voiced his opinion about what should be done in case Ireland, attacked by England, would call for German support the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff replies that the Fuehrer has not yet given this problem any thought.

( ..... )

Eventually, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff declares that now the Fuehrer again gives considerable thought to the operation "Seelowe".

( ..... )

Notes on the period from 1 to 4 December

The Chief of the National Defense Branch calls on the Fuehrer for verbal report and consultation on the afternoon of 3 December.

( ..... )

At this occasion, the Chief of the National Defense Branch submits the note on Ireland in addition to a survey of the stocks of captured English arms.

( ..... )

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff ( ..... )

As regards the airborne corps, the Fuehrer has ordered that the 22nd Division be placed under the command of the 7th Air Division.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch no longer upholds his intention to have the operational principles of the 22nd Division examined because of this new assignment of this division, since the Fuehrer pointed out emphatically that this assignment would be only temporary in nature.

( ..... )

3 December 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch ,

3 December 1940

At 16:30 hours, the Commander in Chief of the Navy ~~reports to~~ <sup>reports to</sup>

the Fuehrer on the situation while the Chief of the Wehrmacht High  
Command, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff, and Commander  
von Puttkamer are present. He gives the following report:

It has become more and more clear that the utmost harm is inflicted upon the British by the destruction of their industrial and harbor installations by the Luftwaffe in connection with the disruption of the sea supply service by submarines in coordinated action with the Luftwaffe. For this reason, these operations should be continued in a concentrated manner and interruption or impairment of this action should be tolerated. These operations might, in the long run - maybe as early as this winter - have a fatal effect on the enemy. Any loss of prestige resulting from an operation involving an excessive risk must be carefully avoided. Such loss of prestige could prolong the war and, above all, influence the attitude of the USA in a manner detrimental to Germany. Further operations should be carried out against England with the objective to relieve the pressure on Italy and to capture Gibraltar for the purpose of ~~clearing~~ clearing the Mediterranean of enemy forces.

for Ireland against Britain  
 Regarding the problem of the support ~~in the Mediterranean~~  
 tain, the dispatch of an expeditionary corps and the occupation of the Island of Ireland would not be possible owing to the superior enemy sea power, the unfavorable geographical conditions, and the impossibility to move in supplies.