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If left without supplies of rations, arms, and ammunition, the troops landed in Ireland would, sooner or later, be crushed by an enemy whose continuous reinforcement could not be ~~interrupted~~ prevented. It will be possible during the winter months to move individual blockade breakers with arms and ammunition into Irish ports and bays as long as no hostilities between Ireland and England exist and provided the Irish cooperate.

The Fuehrer agrees to this evaluation of the situation and declares that any provision of support to Ireland could be taken into consideration only if that country would call for German help. At first, it must be established by the German ~~Ambassador~~ Ambassador in Dublin whether or not de Valera wants support or any reinforcement of his armament by the provision of captured English arms and ammunition which could be delivered to him by ~~individual~~ single steamships. Ireland would be very important for the Luftwaffe as a jump-off base for attacks against the ports of North-West England. The possession of Ireland could ~~bring about the~~ bring about the end of the war. Inquiries have to be made first.

The Commander in Chief of the Navy then reports that the ~~hipper~~ cruiser "Hipper" operates in the Arctic Ocean to break through into the Atlantic to reach Brest. The battleships and destroyers would follow at the end of December. 160 000 gross register tons were sunk by submarines on 2 December. Two submarines are operating off Free-town.

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and mining
The coast-defense specialists requested by Bulgaria are ready for dispatch. The Navy is prepared for the operation "Felix". Negotiations on the fortification of the Canary Islands are conducted with the Spanish.

Moreover, the Commander in Chief of the Navy declares his attitude on the employment of the aerial torpedo. In this connection he calls the attention to a directive issued on 26 November by the Luftwaffe Operations Staff to the General of the Luftwaffe with the Commander in Chief of the Navy. According to this directive, the commitment of aerial torpedoes was to be discontinued immediately in view of the special purpose ordered by the Fuehrer (~~maximization~~ ^{commitment of} a torpedo air group to be newly formed and to be equipped with ~~He-111~~ the aircraft types "He-111/He-5" and "Do-217" in the Eastern Mediterranean. This measure is unacceptable for the Naval Operations Staff.

Therefore, the ~~immediate~~ ^{Commander} in Chief of the Navy ~~asks~~ ^{thinks it necessary to} demand the instantaneous release of the aerial torpedoes for ~~the~~ employment by the units of the Commander of the Air Forces with the Commander in Chief of the ^{Navy}. The torpedoes are to be used in operations ~~against~~ against the enemy merchant fleet and for the formation of modern air torpedo squadrons to be equipped with "He-111" aircraft and to be assigned to the Commander of the Air Forces with the Commander in Chief of the Navy. Furthermore, modern reconnaissance aircraft must be provided to the Commander of the Air Forces with the Command

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in Chief of the Navy for the submarine warfare and the simpler employment of aerial mines off the ~~xxxx~~ ports of West England, above all in the Firth of Clyde, would be necessary.

The Commander in Chief of the Navy ~~gives~~ hands over to the Fuehrer a memorandum on the conduct of the combat operations against England.

In this memorandum, the concentration of the means of combat of the Navy and the Luftwaffe against the British supply lines is given as

the primary operational objective of the ~~xxxx~~ conduct of the operations against England. According to this memorandum, it is absolutely necessary

to make available the means of combat required for this purpose

with utmost energy and speed. Of ~~xxxx~~ decisive importance for the increase of the effectiveness of the submarine warfare would be an extensive

air reconnaissance which is conducted in ~~xxxx~~ closest cooperation with the submarine forces. Such air reconnaissance must be placed

under the control of the ~~xxxx~~ Navy which must be provided with top-quality aircraft for ~~xxxx~~ this purpose.

The Fuehrer directs the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command to ~~xxxx~~ consider these questions without taking prestige factors into account.

Memorandum
~~xxxx~~ :

The aerial torpedoes have hitherto been dropped from aircraft of the naval air units (He-115). As far as the normal military activities and the supply are concerned, the latter are under the

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command of the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe, whereas they are, in the opinion of the Navy,

~~placed~~ under the operational control of the Commander in Chief of the

Navy, which, however, applies only to reconnaissance operations ac-

ording to the view taken by the ~~Luftwaffe~~ Commander in Chief of the

Luftwaffe. The Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe prohibited the

employment of aerial torpedoes on 26 November in order to save the

limited stocks aerial torpedoes available for a special purpose

(commitment against the elements of the British fleet in the ports

of Gibraltar and Alexandria). In addition, he ordered the organiza-

tion of an own air-torpedo group. The Commander in Chief of the Navy

raised objections against this project ~~at the time of~~ a personal

report to the Fuehrer on 3 December. During this report, he voiced th

opinion that the aerial torpedo commitment against England must not

be discontinued and that, owing to the peculiar nature of this arm,

the aerial torpedoes ~~should~~ ^{could} be brought to bear effectively only by

personnel with a specialized training. Such personnel is available only

in the naval air units which were partially formed by the Navy.

Notes on the Commitment of the Naval Air Units during the Period from

4 December to 6 January 1941

The Chief of the Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch

prepares a note to be used for a verbal report. In this note the

question of the aerial torpedoes is discussed. At the same time he

under the date of 5 December, submits^v to Admiral Fricke the outline for an order to the following

effect:

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806th

- 1.) Reassignment of the Coast Air Group to the Navy.
- 2.) A directive to the Commander in Chief of the Navy to continue the combat operations with aerial torpedoes with utmost energy.
- 3.) Equipment of the multi-purpose squadrons with modern torpedo aircraft.
- 4.) Sea reconnaissance over the Atlantic. The Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe examines the possibility of making available Do-17 aircraft for the urgent improvement of the reconnaissance potentialities in the Atlantic.
- 5.) Employment of the armament of the coast air units. The current re-equipment of the coast air groups with standard-type bomber aircraft offers the possibility of employing arms against water-borne targets and of exploiting unique opportunities also in such cases in which bomber units of the Luftwaffe cannot be committed early enough. On this ground, the air units of the Commander in Chief of the Navy shall be, on principle, permitted to bring to bear all types of armament (torpedo bombs) against water-borne targets.

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff directs the National Defense Branch to examine this outline of an order (Wehrmacht High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense Branch/Group I Luftwaffe No. 001085/40 Top Secret Military Document, dated 5 December 1940). Thereupon the Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch draws up, on 6 December 1940, a note designed for a verbal report ^{deals with} and which ~~treats~~ the equipment and missions of the naval

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air arm. The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch likewise draws up a note for use during a verbal report.

On 19 December, communicates ~~XXXXXXXX~~ to Group I Navy of the National
 Defense Branch the attitude of the Naval Operations Staff on a letter of the Luftwaffe General Staff directed to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff.

On 28 December, the branches of the Wehrmacht receive an order of the Fuehrer to the effect that, pending a definite decision on the contestable question of the organization of the long-range reconnaissance, the 806th Coast Air Group is reassigned to the Commander in Chief of the Navy. In addition, the detachment of 4 reconnaissance squadrons (long-range) which are needed for independent long-range reconnaissance operations of the Army High Command and of three army groups, is to be contemplated by the Luftwaffe.

The Commanders in Chief of the Army and the Navy will examine
 to what extent they will be ~~able~~ able to organize mobile army and static navy antiaircraft batteries using 88-mm antiaircraft equipment available to the Luftwaffe and to man these batteries with their own personnel.

On 2 January 1941, the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe
 requests that the 806th bomber group be re-assigned to the Luftwaffe since this bomber group is to be committed in the coming full-moon period.

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On 4 January, the Naval Operations Staff communicates the following

information to the National Defense Branch:

- 1.) The efforts made by the Luftwaffe to utilize Type Fw-200 aircraft of the 1st Group/40th Bomber Wing for ~~anti~~submarine operations are appreciated.
- 2.) Systematic reconnaissance conducted by naval command staffs ~~is~~ exclusively for purposes ~~of~~ of the naval warfare in the Atlantic is necessary. The 806th Bomber Group is provided with personnel adequately trained for such action. It is requested that the 806th Bomber Group be equipped with external tanks (to increase the range of the ~~recon-~~ reconnaissance).
- 3.) A further close cooperation between the 1st Group/40th Bomber Wing and the Commander of the Submarine Forces in the form of armed reconnaissance operations would effectively supplement the action against the enemy supply service.

On 4 January, the Navy High Command (Naval Operations Staff)

had requested anew that the 806th Bomber Group be immediately re-assigned to the Navy for employment in sea reconnaissance operations.

The reason given in this request had been the situation caused by the icing of the North Sea air bases. This request is submitted to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff on 6 January.

On 6 January, the Fuehrer takes the following decision:

- 1.) The losses of merchant ships and the resulting steady decrease

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of British imports constitute, according to what all reports say un-
animously, the heaviest burden on England.

Two factors which must not impair one another reduce British
strength:

- a) The Commitment of submarines,
- b) the air action against England.

2.) Therefore, the following order is issued:

The 1st Group/40th Bomber Wing is placed under the command of the
Commander in Chief of the Navy (FW-200 aircraft).

The 806th Bomber Group is re-assigned to the Commander in Chief of
the Luftwaffe as of 7 January in order to be available again for
commitment against England during the next period of moonlit nights

The Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe, however, will insure that
the requests of the Navy regarding the observation of the British
Home Fleet and its movements in coastal waters will be fulfilled.

This applies particularly to times when operations of heavy naval
forces are imminent or in process. The rapid exchange of the recon-
naissance results between the other agencies concerned will be regu-
lated by an agreement between the Commanders in Chief of the Luft-
waffe and Navy.

5 December 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

5 December 1940

(.....)

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The stipulation in Directive No. 18 that the prerequisites for the operation "Seelowe" should be improved in every respect was the reason that all three branches of the Wehrmacht and the Chief of the Group for Motor ~~Vehicles~~ ^{ized Transportation} of the General Army Office General von Schell, occupied themselves with the development of transport ships. Most of this development was given top priority.

A conference held at the Cavalry School of Krampnitz in the afternoon of 5 December and attended by the Chief of Group I Army, Colonel Lieutenant von Lossberg, as the representative of the Wehrmacht High Command/National Defense Branch, the Chief of Group I Navy, Lieutenant Commander Junge, also a representative of the National Defense Branch, furthermore by Lieutenant ~~Mr~~ Colonel Dr. Schulz as the representative of the Army High Command/General of the Engineer Forces, and by the Captains von Montigny and Kinderlen of the Navy High Command, brought the following results:

The Navy is developing a barge ^{the final blueprint} ~~which will be constructed~~ of which ~~it~~ will be ready by the middle of December. This new barge will represent a considerable improvement compared to the craft used so far. Under certain conditions (recognition of top construction priority, provision of BMW-engines by the Luftwaffe) a maximum of 500 such barges could be constructed within 5 months. They alone, however, would not be sufficient for the operation "Seelowe". In addition, tow-boats and naval craft of all types would have to be employed, even though on a considerably smaller scale

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than hitherto.

The Army is attempting to replace the landing craft used so far by steel and concrete vessels equipped with a propulsion ~~device~~ unit and to construct a new barge of steel and concrete with or without a propulsion unit. In the case of the former the heavy specific weight causes a lot difficulties. The latter is, according to unanimous reports from the Army and Navy High Commands, suitable only for employment in best weather conditions and in every respect inferior to the barge developed by the Navy.

The Navy High Command reports that the Luftwaffe develops huge ~~barges~~ ferry-boats which are primarily designed to carry anti-aircraft artillery guns and are intended to be used for artillery action against airborne and coastal targets.

General von Schell ordered the experimental construction of two glider-barges with wing-type attachment for the transportation of tanks. On 5 December, these two barges were transferred to the Navy for testing their usefulness.

In conclusion, the Chief of Group I Army, Lieutenant Colonel von Lossberg, establishes that the Navy has made the greatest progress in the experiments and that the decision of the Fuehrer according to which the Navy is to be the competent authority in respect to these experiments has not yet taken effect. Should the Fuehrer ~~decide~~ make up his mind to force a decision of the war

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by conducting the operation "Seelowe", it would be advisable to form a special staff with the Navy High Command which would have to insure the availability of the transport fleet at a specific date.

The Commander in Chief of the Army and the Chief of the Army

 General Staff give a verbal report to the Fuehrer in the Reich's Chancellery at 15:00 hours while the Chiefs of the Wehrmacht High Command and of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff are present.

The Commander in Chief of the Army makes the following statements: (.....)

Asked by the Commander in Chief of the Army whether he considers the German Luftwaffe strong enough to ~~continue~~ continue the air war against England in addition to the campaign in the East, the Fuehrer declares that the British Air Force will, in the spring of 1941, not be stronger than it is today and will therefore not be able to carry out daytime attacks against Germany. On the other hand, the German Luftwaffe will, in view of its negligible losses at the present time, be stronger in the spring of 1941 than it is today. Consequently, the defensive air warfare against England would be insured even if strong elements of the fighter and antiaircraft artillery units would be committed in the East. Thus, the continuation of major nuisance raids at night against England would be possible during a short campaign in the East.

(.....)

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The campaign in the East would begin at the earliest in the middle of May provided the winter would be normal. The Fuehrer does not consider the conduct of the operation "Seelowe" possible any more.

(.....)

6 December 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch, 6 Decem-

(.....)

ber 1940

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff then briefs the Chief of the National Defense Branch in detail on the result of yesterday's conference of the Fuehrer with the Commander in Chief of the Army.

(.....)

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff explains in detail this plan (operation in the East) and the comments of Hitler on this operation (see under 5 December). He informs the Chief of the National Defense Branch also on the views taken by the Fuehrer regarding the prospects of the air war ^{against England} for success in case strong ^{elements of the Luftwaffe} ~~air units~~ are committed in the East. (See under 5 December).

Moreover, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff serves notice that the operation "Seelowe" is no longer taken into consideration and that the material preparations for this operation can therefore be discontinued. No measures should be taken in respect to Ireland until the exchange of views with the Irish government has

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brought about any results.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch suggests that

 measures to be taken to counteract any British attack against Ireland
 could
 be considered as early as now if any systematic support ~~should~~ not
 be provided to that country. (.....)
 (.....)

The Chief of the Wehrmacht ~~Operations~~ Staff verbally re-

 ports to the Fuehrer on the questions of the employment of aerial

 torpedoes and of the equipment and commitment of the naval air units.

After the verbal report of the Commander in Chief of the
 Navy to the Fuehrer on 3 December (see under 3 December) the Chief of
 the Operations Branch of the Navy High Command, Admiral Fricke, han-
 ded the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff ~~xxx~~ an outline for
 an order on 4 December in which the demands of the Navy were specific
 as follows:

- 1.) The employment of aerial torpedoes^{in combat operations} should be continued with ut-
 most energy.
- 2.) An aircraft type (He-111/H-5) suitable for aerial torpedo commit-
 ment in daytime operations should be placed at the disposal of
 the Commander in Chief of the Navy for the reequipment of certain
 multi-purpose squadrons. The ~~xxx~~ ^{aerial torpedo} operations should be conduc-
 ted only by coast air units because of the limited stocks of tor-
 pedoes.

- 3.) The 606th Coast Air Group (Do-17 Z) temporarily placed at the disposal of the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe according to a directive of the Wehrmacht High Command of 13 September 1940 should be re-assigned to the Navy for commitment in reconnaissance operations over the North Sea area and for providing support for the submarine warfare in the sea area north-west of England.
- 4.) To improve the reconnaissance potentialities in the Atlantic, some elements of the coast air units should be equipped with the aircraft type Do-217 which will be employed at the front before long and shows a superior performance.
- 5.) The air units of the Commander in Chief of the Navy should be, on principle, permitted to bring to bear all their armament (torpedoes and bombs) against water-borne targets.

In his verbal report to the Fuehrer the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff declares himself in favor of a decision on the equipment and commitment of the naval air units as suggested by the Navy. In relation to the intention of the Commander in Chief of Luftwaffe the ~~Navy~~ to commit against the British naval units in the Mediterranean an aerial torpedo group to be newly organized, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff points out that the British Warships ~~at~~ Alexandria and Gibraltar mostly lie in the ports rather than at moorings outside the port and thus could be hit by aerial torpedo raids owing to inadequate depth of the water. Therefore, these raids could

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be directed only against those ships moving into or out of the base. But even in such cases the prospects for success would be too slight.

The Fuehrer decides that the preparations of the Luftwaffe for the torpedo commitment in the Mediterranean are to be discontinued for the time being and wants that the Chiefs of the Luftwaffe and the Naval Operations Staffs jointly report to him verbally as soon as possible on the question of the equipment and commitment of the naval air units.

Subsequently, the Fuehrer makes the following statements to the Chiefs of the Wehrmacht High Command and the Wehrmacht Operations Staff:

Each such controversy between two branches of the Wehrmacht like that just brought before him proves anew the necessity of a strong Wehrmacht High Command. Such controversies show that there is a discrepancy of opinion in many questions which cannot be settled by conferences between the branches of the Wehrmacht concerned. If there were no superior authority to make a decision there would be the danger that, for instance in this case, the launching of torpedoes from aircraft would not be developed further or would even be given up completely since both branches of the Wehrmacht could not agree as to which of them should tackle this task. Such a state of affairs, however, would be irresponsible. It would be completely immaterial for the outcome of the war whether the Luftwaffe or the

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the Navy would employ the aerial torpedoes, but it would be of decisive importance that the aerial torpedoes would be employed by that branch of the Wehrmacht which could achieve the maximum success by such employment.

Another lesson to be learned from such controversies is that the top-level command of the Wehrmacht must tighten the reins of command to ^{effect} ~~insure~~ the optimum commitment of the forces of all the ~~the~~ three branches of the Wehrmacht. To insure this optimum commitment is the mission of the Wehrmacht High Command. This is true already today when his - the Fuehrer's - authority always makes it possible to arrive at a decision, after all

In view of the future a steady strengthening of the position of the Wehrmacht High Command is especially necessary. His - the Fuehrer's - place could some day be taken over by ^a ~~another~~ man who might be the best politician but might not have his knowledge and ability in the military field. Such a man would need a strong ~~Wehrmacht~~ Wehrmacht High Command. Otherwise, the great danger would exist that the forces of the three branches of the Wehrmacht would fall apart instead of being concentrated for a common effort. In such case, the Wehrmacht would never be able to show an optimum performance. Such state of affairs would be irresponsible during a war in which the existence of the Reich is at stake.

The Navy and Luftwaffe High Commands are informed on

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the decision of the Fuehrer regarding the employment of aerial torpedoes in the Mediterranean and on his desires expressed after the common verbal report of the Chief of the Naval Operations Staff and of the Luftwaffe General Staff on the problem of the equipment and ~~the~~ commitment of the naval air arm.

(.....)

7 December 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht OperationsStaff/National Defense Branch,

(.....)

7 December 1940

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff is informed in detail on the progresses made by the three branches of the Wehrmacht in the development of transport ships for the operation "Seelowe". These progresses were established in a conference held by the National Defense Branch on 5 December (see under 5 December). The following statement is released by the National Defense Branch:

The barge developed by the Navy will, if constructed in adequate numbers, improve the prospects for success of a landing carried out in a broad front on the coast of South England. Since, however, it has been decided already that no serious preparatory measures shall be taken for the operation "Seelowe" for the time being, it would be useless to burden the armament program with such additional constructions by which other projects would necessarily be impaired.

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For this reason, it would be necessary to maintain the preparations made so far and to develop test models which could be used for 1942 if necessary (large-scale program beginning in the autumn of 1941).

A directive to the branches of the Wehrmacht ~~announcing~~ to the effect that the construction projects for the operation "Seelowe" should be adequately limited and be taken care of by the Navy will be submitted. The reconsideration of the armament program on the basis of the same objective has been initiated.

(.....)

10 December 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Opera-

Staff
tions ~~Branch~~/National Defense

Branch, 10 December 1940

In addition, the Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch submits to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff an outline of an order of the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command to the high commands of the branches of the Wehrmacht according to which the development of transport vessels suitable for employment in the operation "Seelowe" is delegated exclusively to the Commander in Chief of the Navy. However, the construction projects are to be confined to the development and testing of single experimental vessels to prevent any further burdening of the armament program (see under 5 and 7 December).

The order is ~~assigned~~ assigned by the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Com-
mand and sent out to the high commands of the branches of the Wehr-
macht still on the same day (Wehrmacht High Command/Wehrmacht Opera-
tions Staff/National Defense Branch/Group I 33398/40 Restricted Top
Secret, dated 10 December 1940)

(.....)

12 December 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Opera-

tions Staff/National Defense

Branch, 12 December 1940

The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch sub-
mits an outline of the Directive No. 21 (Operation "Fritz" - operatio^{ns}
in the East) (.....) to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations
Staff.

(.....)

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch sub-
mits to the Chief of the National Defense Branch an evaluation reques^t
ted by the latter of the situation which may develop in the case of a
two-front war against England and Russia. This evaluation of the
situation ~~is prepared from~~ ^{is prepared from} the angle of the ~~naval warfare~~ ^{naval warfare} and arrives at the
conclusion that Germany should not ~~engage in~~ ^{engage in} a military conflict with
Russia because of the ~~inevitable~~ ^{inevitable} impairment of the naval warfare
inevitable in such case as long as Germany is under the necessity to

to employ all her forces to defeat England. The Chief of the National Defense Branch reserves to himself the right to forward this evaluation to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff.

14 December 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

(.....)

14 December 1940

Moreover, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff

asks General von Rintelen to communicate again to General Cavallero the request of the Reichsmarschall that the Italian air forces stationed in Belgium be employed in the Mediterranean during the winter. In addition to the reasons frequently quoted the fact should be taken into consideration that the German Luftwaffe placed the best concrete airfields at the disposal of the Italian units. These airfields, however, are now urgently needed^{again} by the German Luftwaffe, for its own units, since the heavy types of its bomber aircraft can no longer take off from^{many of} the soggy airfields.

17 December 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

(.....)

17 December

The Chief of Group II of the National Defense Branch is to submit an outline of an order based on the principle that the installations

most important for the warfare against England should not be utilized until further notice ~~for the time being~~ and that the military personnel of these installations should be considered as reserves at the disposal of the Fuehrer. (.....).

(.....)

18 December 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense

(.....)

Staff, 18 December 1940

then

The Chief of the National Defense Branch hands the Chief of

the Wehrmacht Operations Staff the modified outline of the Directive

No. 21 "Barbarossa" (see under 17 December) . This directive is submitted to the Fuehrer still on the same day, is signed by him and

sent to the branches of the Wehrmacht.

(.....)

31 December 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch/ 31 December

1940

Upon the request of the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe

of 30 December for a basic directive for the action to be taken by

the Luftwaffe in the event of a British surprise attack against Ireland,

after land, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff serves notice, ~~add~~

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the Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch has given him a verbal report, that it is not planned by the Wehrmacht High Command to issue any directive on this question for the time being. However, the Luftwaffe may naturally feel free to attack, in the case of any British action against Ireland, British naval craft in Irish ports and British troops on Irish territory. During such attacks however, Irish should be spared as far as possible. The Wehrmacht Press Office is to prepare leaflets for use in Ireland.

The Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe is verbally informed on this decision by the Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch.

9 January 1941

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense

Branch, 9 January 1941

At 12:15 hours, the Fuehrer confers with the Commander in Chief of the Army ~~ix~~ at the Berghof in the presence of the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff, the Assistant Chief of Staff I, the Chief of the Army General Staff, the Chief of the Operations Branch of the Navy High Command, and the Chief of the Luftwaffe Operations Staff.

The Fuehrer makes the following statements:

(.....)

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When the conference is continued at 13:45 hours, the Fuehrer presents, in the presence of the Reich's Foreign Minister, the following overall evaluation of the situation:

(.....)

A landing in England would ^{not} be possible ~~only~~ unless the full air supremacy is achieved and England is paralysed to a certain extent. Otherwise, such an operation would be a crime. The final British war objective is the defeat of Germany on the continent. However, her own means are not adequate to reach this objective. The British Navy is weaker than ever before owing to its commitment in two theaters of war ~~far~~ widely separated. Its reinforcement to a decisive extent would not be possible. The British Air Force is extremely adversely affected by the bottleneck situation in the British ^{supply of} raw materials ~~supply~~ resulting from the interruption of the imports (mainly aluminum) and by the effects of the German air and naval warfare against the British industry. The aircraft industry suffered such damages that a decrease rather than an increase of the production was caused. This disruption of the aircraft industry by the German Luftwaffe must be continued even more systematically than it has been done so far. The British Army, after all, will not be able to carry out any invasion.

What sustains England is the hope for American and Russian support, since the destruction of the British homeland is inevitable in the long run. England, however, hopes to be able to hold her own

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until she has formed a powerful continental block against Germany. The diplomatic preparations for the formation of such a block can be clearly recognized.

Stalin, the potentate of Russia, is a prudent thinker; he would not overtly operate against Germany, but it must be expected that he will, to an increasing extent, cause difficulties in situations precarious for Germany. He wants to lay claim on the inheritance of impoverished Europe, is in need for successes, and is yearning for the West. He also fully ~~well~~ realizes that after an overall victory of Germany the situation of Russia would become very precarious.

The British are sustained by the possibility of a Russian participation in the war. They would not give up the race until this last hope on the continent is crushed. Hitler does not believe that the British are "completely crazy". They would give up as soon as they no longer see any chance to win the war. If they lost the war, they would no longer have the moral strength to hold together their empire. If, however, they could hold their own, raise 40 to 50 divisions, and get support from the USA and Russia, a very difficult situation would develop for Germany. This should not happen.

Up to now, he has acted according to the principle to crush always the most important enemy positions to get one step forward. For this reason, Russia has to be crushed now. Either the British

would give in then or Germany would continue the war against Great Britain under ~~most~~ favorable circumstances. The destruction of Russia would also enable Japan to direct all her effort against the USA. This fact would prevent the latter from entering the war.

(.....)

The destruction of the Soviet Union would mean a great relief for Germany. In such case, only 40 to 50 divisions would have to ~~remain~~ ^{strength} remain in the East, the Army could be reduced, and the entire armament industry could be utilized for the Luftwaffe and Navy. Thereupon fully adequate ~~fighter~~ antiaircraft artillery defenses would have to be built up and the most important industries would have to be transferred into areas not endangered. Germany could then never be attacked.

(.....)

10 January 1941

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Opera-

tions Staff/National Defense

Branch, 10 January 1941

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff ~~communicated~~ serves notice

by teletype message from the Reich's Chancellery in Berchtesgaden that the Fuehrer took the following decisions on 9 January:

(.....)

2.) The preparations for the operation "Seelowe" should also be

discontinued provided they do not serve the development of special equipment and the deception of the enemy.

(.....)

The high commands of the branches of the Wehrmacht will be informed on the previously mentioned ~~directives~~ decisions of the Fuehrer by a directive of the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command.

18 January 1941

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense

Branch/ 18 January 1941

In the evening of 17 January, the Chief of the National Defense Branch goes to Berchtesgaden and ~~verbally reports~~ gives a verbal report to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff in the Reich's Chancellery in Berchtesgaden in the morning of 18 January.

(.....) During this report he points out that 20 transport ships are still being held for ~~their~~ use in the operation "Seelowe". He suggests that this number of ships be reduced and ~~in~~ that ~~the~~ shipping space thus released^{be made} available for the sea traffic to Norway.

(.....)

22 January 1941

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff,

National Defense Branch, 22 Janua-

ry 1941.

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The Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command sends a note on his

 conference with the Italian General Guzzoni in Berchtesgaden on 19 Ja

 nuary 1941 and a brief report on the ~~subjects discussed in the confer~~

~~ences~~ of the Fuehrer during the concluding conference with the Duce

 at the Berghof on 20 January 1941.

(.....)

On 20 January at 11:00 hours, the Fuehrer was informed by the

 Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command and the Chief of the Wehrmacht
 Operations Staff in the presence of the Military Attaché in Rome on
 the results of the military conferences with the Generals Guzzoni and
 Gandin. Subsequently, at 12:00 hours, he explained to the Duce, his

 views on the situation. This conference was attended on the German ~~side~~

 side by the Reich's Foreign Minister, ~~xxx~~ Envoy Schmidt, an interpret
 of the Foreign Office, the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command, the
 Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff, General von Rintelen, Colo-
 nel Schmundt, and Commander von Puttkamer. On the Italian side, the
 conference was attended, in addition to the Duce, by Foreign Minister
 Count Ciano and by the Generals Guzzoni, Marras, and Gandin.

(.....)

(The Statements of Hitler:)

The overall situation in the East can be correctly evalua-
 ted only if the situation in the West is first taken into account.

 The attack against the Island of Britain is the ultimate objective.

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In this respect, Germany's situation may be compared with that of a man who has but one single bullet in his rifle. If this bullet fails to hit the target, the situation would be considerably worse than before. The landing could not be repeated, since ~~too much~~ ^{an excessive amount of} matériel would get lost ~~in the event of a successful~~ ^{if} the operation should miscarry. In such case, England would not have to worry about any landing any more and would be able to commit the majority of her forces anywhere at the periphery of the area to be protected. However, as long as the attack has not yet taken place, the British have to expect it continuously. The landing would be possible only in certain weather conditions which did not exist last fall.

(.....)

Moreover, the Fuehrer commented on the air war and on the ratio between the German and British air attacks. An extremely powerful antiaircraft artillery with a lot of ammunition would be needed, since the time could come when the war would be conducted exclusively by the Luftwaffe and the Navy. The dive-bomber aircraft only could achieve success in operations against strongly armed ships.

(.....)

29 January 1941War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht OperationsStaff/National Defense Branch,29 January 1941

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(.....) The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff
 declares on the outline submitted by the National Defense Branch
 on 25 January for the Directive No. 23 for the warfare against the
 British war economy (see under 15 January) (no entry there!) that
 the guiding principles laid down in this directive by the Fuehrer
 which provide for an increased operational mobility of the Luftwaf
 fe have not been adequately taken into account. Therefore, this
 outline requires further reconsideration which he intends to effect
 himself. (See under 6 February).

In this connection the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations
 Staff serves notice that the Luftwaffe has submitted a suggestion
 for the conduct of the air reconnaissance over sea. According to
 this suggestion, the reconnaissance over the southern North Sea,
 over the Skagerrak, and ~~in~~^{over} the entrances into the Baltic Sea as well
 as the protection of convoys by air units ~~xxx~~ⁱⁿ the Channel up
 to Cherbourg should remain the mission of the Navy, whereas the
 reconnaissance operations over the northern North Sea, ~~in the~~^{over the}
 Channel area, and over the Atlantic should be delegated to the
 Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe (see 22 February). The sugges-
 tion of the Luftwaffe will be submitted to the Fuehrer before long
 and then be handed over to the National Defense Branch for complian-
 ce jointly with the Navy (see 4 February).

(.....)

3 February 1941

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Opera

tions Staff/National Defense

Branch, 3 February 1941

(.....)

Conference of the Fuehrer with the Commander in Chief of the Army
 and the Chief of the Army General Staff at the Berghof on the opera-
 tion "Barbarossa" and the operation "Sonnenblume" (sun flower). The
 conference ~~was~~ ^{is} also attended by the Chief of the Wehrmacht High
Command, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff, and the Chief
of the Operations Branch of the Army General Staff.

The Chief of the Army General Staff gives a verbal report
 on the planned conduct of the operation "Barbarossa". He makes the
 following statements: (.....)

During the concentration of the 4th Concentration Echelon (German:
 Aufmarschstaffel) ~~which~~ scheduled to last from 25 April to 15 May
 such strong forces would be withdrawn from the West that the con-
 duct of the operation "Seelowe" would then no longer be feasible.
 The concentration of the forces in the East would then be clearly
 recognizable. (.....).

(.....)

4 February 1941

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staf

National Defense Branch, 4 Februa

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(.....)

Commander in Chief of the Navy
 (.....) In the afternoon, the ~~Rumler~~ gives a verbal report
 to the Fuehrer in the presence of the Chiefs of the Wehrmacht High
 Command and the Wehrmacht Operations Staff.

(.....)

The ~~Commander~~ in Chief of the Navy ~~Sinnix~~ (.....) finally
 comments in detail on the missions to be assigned to the Luftwaffe
 for the disruption of the British supply lines and on the organiza-
 tion and missions of the coast air units. He submits a memorandum of
 the Naval Operations Staff.

When the Fuehrer discloses that the Commander in Chief of the
 has
 the Luftwaffe also submitted a new memorandum on this question, the
 Commander in Chief of the Navy requests that this question be further
 considered by the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff with the
 Chief of the Naval Staff and the Chief of the Luftwaffe General Staff
 on the basis of both these memoranda and a final decision be taken.

The most important fact disclosed during the further discus-
 sion of a number of problems is that, according to a statement of the
 Commander in Chief of the Navy, would ~~require~~ require 6 months for the
 entire preparation of the operation "Seelowe" as a military action
 starting out from the present state. This preparation would include
 the barge-construction program. Not including the latter, the Navy
 would need 2 months.

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In this connection, the Fuehrer points out that the deception of the
 enemy must be maintained precisely in spring.

6 February 1941

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Opera-

tions Staff/National Defense

(.....)

Branch, 6 February 1941

The cleaner copy of
 the revised version of the Directive No. 23 for the warfare

against the British war economy which was prepared by the Chief of the

the Wehrmacht Operations Staff and sent to the National Defense

Branch on 5 February is re-submitted to the Chief of the Wehrmacht

Operations Staff, signed by the Fuehrer, and, still on 6 February,

issued

~~forwarded~~ to the commanders in chief of the branches of the Wehrmacht

and to the Chief of the Economic and Armament Office.

The main reason for the issuance of Directive No. 23 was the

as a result
 fact that ~~winged~~ of the events in the Mediterranean and in view of

the imminent operations "Marita" and "Barbarossa" more and more

strong elements of the Luftwaffe have to be withdrawn from commit-

ment against the British Isles and those forces still available for

such commitment have to be concentrated more closely and to be main-

ly directed against such targets the destruction of which will produ

effects similar to those brought about by the sea warfare against the

British merchant fleet, i.e. primarily against the most important

British import harbors, the British shipping space, and the key

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establishments of the British air armament.

(.....)

15 February 1941

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

15 February 1941

A basic directive is issued to the branches of the Wehrmacht for the protection of the coastline against British offensive action in case major operations are conducted in eastern theaters of ~~war.~~ war.

~~xxxxxx~~ To prevent British successes, even successes of prestige, the Fuehrer directs that in the event of landings operations against the occupied western areas the Commander in Chief West appointed by the Commander in Chief of the Army will be responsible for the repulsion of such enemy action. The forces occupying the British islands in the Channel are to be reinforced to such an extent that these islands can be defended without any support by combat units of the Luftwaffe. The reinforcement of the coastal defenses in Norway is of particular importance. Particular attention has to be devoted to Narvik, the ~~Rx~~ Polar coast, as well as to all those places where the **roads** running along the coast can be interrupted by naval action or by small-scale landing operations. It must be expected that the British would employ even battleships for such operations. In addition, ~~di~~ dive-bomber, single engine, and twin-engine fighter units have to be steadily kept available

in Norway to repulse enemy attacks in the air or at sea. To economize on forces, the formation of mixed squadrons or the establishment of schools or courses may be taken into consideration. From springtime on, the stationing of our naval forces ~~probably~~ ^{also} must be based on the assumption that not the German Bight but Norway and the coastline of the occupied western areas will be the objectives of enemy naval action.

(.....)

17 February 1941

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations #12

Staff/National Defense Branch,

(.....)

17 February 1941

- The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff gives the Chief of the National Defense Branch the following information:

- 1.) The Fuehrer wants the preparation of a study on the concentration of forces in Afghanistan for action against India following the operation "Barbarossa".

(.....)

A report comes in from the Chief of the Special Staff "HWK"*, Admiral Groos, on the conferences the latter has had, since his report of 23 January (see 29 January), with the Chief of the Japanese Navy Mission

.....

Note: * HWK:

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Vice Admiral Nomura . In the meantime, the latter was appointed a member of the Military Commission of the Three-Power Pact.

Admiral Nomura summarizes the concepts which the Japanese Navy intends to present in the framework of the Japanese Navy Mission as well as of the Military Commission of the Three-Power Pact as follows:

(.....)

(.....) Moreover, the Japanese Navy is extremely interested in obtaining, in German, information on the further development of the war situation, the German air and submarine war, the possibilities of a landing in England, the Italian operations in the Mediterranean, and on the extent of the German support for Italy. The Japanese Navy fully realizes that Germany can hardly specify a date for the landing in at least England but it would like to know whether Germany hopes that Japan would conduct some operation in the Pacific Ocean in connection with such a landing.

On this point, the Chief of the National Defense Branch makes the following statements:

According to the report of the Special Staff HMK it seems to be sure that does not want any military conflict with the USA and would be ready to engage in any action against England only when Germany is about to strike the final blow at that country. In the meantime, Japan would spare no effort to increase her readiness for engagement in the war with German support.

(.....)

26 February 1941War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense Branch, 26 Februa-ry 1941

Regarding the conduct of the air reconnaissance operations, over the North Sea, over the Channel area, and over the Atlantic, the Commander in Chief of the Navy did not make any specific suggestions for the limitation of the reconnaissance sectors when he declared his attitude on this problem on 24 February. The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch declared in a telephone conversation with the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff on 25 February at noontime, that the memorandum of the ~~Staff~~ ^{Commander} in Chief of the Navy contains an argument which could refute the conviction of the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff that the recognized ~~naval~~ requirements of the Navy could be met even in the case of the planned settlement of this question. The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff promises to consider this problem thoroughly and he also is ready to fulfill the request of the Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch to submit to the ~~Fuehrer~~ the letter of the Commander in Chief of the Navy and the memorandum of the Naval Operations Staff to the Fuehrer before the latter signs the Fuehrer Directive.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch suggests that

a) the limitation of the reconnaissance areas be based on the ranges

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of the units under the tactical control of the Commander of the Air Units and that the cooperation be insured by obliging the "Reconnaissance Commander Norway" and the "Air Commander Atlantic" to comply with the directives of the Navy Group Command North;

- b) the responsibility for the entire northern area be delegated to the Navy in contradiction to the temporary decision of the Fuehrer to provide the former with the possibility of gathering experience (.....)

27 February 1941

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht

Operations Staff/National

Defense Branch, 27 February

1941

According to the Report No. 557 of the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe (Operations Staff - Intelligence Officer) on the situation, dated 27 February, the strength of the British Air Force in the home area amounts ~~xxx~~, on 27 February, to

- 1.) about 70 fighter squadrons containing approximately 700 aircraft (550 of which are day fighter aircraft and 150 are ~~night~~ night fighter and 2nd-class fighter aircraft;
- 2.) 65 to 70 bomber squadrons containing about 1100 aircraft
1st-class
(of which 750 are bomber aircraft);
- 3.) 28 to 30 long-range reconnaissance squadrons containing about

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land-based
350 to 400 aircraft (about 300 to 330 of which are aircraft and
and 50 to 70 are flying boats);

4.) 17 to 20 squadrons short-range reconnaissance ~~squadrons~~, army
aircraft, transport, and special purpose squadrons containing
a total of 350 to 400 aircraft.

It can be expected that by the end of March 1941 about 350^{1st-class} fighter
and 300 1st-class bomber aircraft of American production will ~~be~~
assigned to
~~be~~ the units of the Royal Air Force.

The Chief of Staff of the Royal Air Force, Air Chief Mar-
shal C.F.A. Portal, is said to have the intention to organize a bomber
force well prepared for action and with an adequate striking power.
This force is to be systematically committed against Germany during
periods of good weather conditions.

For this purpose, about 14 wings (British wings!) consisting of about
2 squadrons each are ^{said} to ~~be~~ have been formed. These wings may
be mainly equipped with Wellington and Hampden aircraft while 30 per
cent of them may employ American aircraft types.

The relative quiet air situation over the British industrial
cities which came about in the middle of December owing to weather
conditions enabled the British air armament industry to recover to
an undesirable extent. After missing spare parts and heavy aircraft
engines had arrived from the USA, the ~~aircraft~~ construction of the
aircraft ~~which~~ ^{which} had been completed to 50 and 75 per cent during the
preceding months could be finished.

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The following types of air-drop ammunition are employed by the Royal Air Force:

- 1.) High-explosive bombs with thick casings and with weights of 95, 200, and 460 kilograms.
- 2.) Long-delay time fuze bombs which cannot be disarmed by removing the fuze.
- 3.) Armor-piercing bombs with weights of 110 and 220 kilograms; with their fuzes. lately, such bombs ~~xxxxxxx~~ set at a delay of about 1 second were dropped on residential areas. They penetrated down to the air raid shelters where they produced their effects.
- 4.) Incendiary bombs which, in contrast to the German Bl E 1, have been developed to show a better penetration performance whereby, however, their burning duration and effect are reduced. Some of the small-size incendiary bombs are provided with an additional blasting charge which produces a detonation and a fragmentation effect after^v the expiration of a certain burning period ~~xxxxxxx~~.
- 5.) Liquid incendiary bombs, which fail to detonate comparatively often and produce a relatively limited effect.
- 6.) Small incendiary plates which can cause damage in the open terrain only in adequate weather situations.

(.....)

8 March 1941

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch, 8 March

1941

In the morning of 7 March, the Chief of the National Defense Branch goes to Berchtesgaden and gives a verbal report to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff in the morning of 8 March.

(.....)

In the further course of the verbal report the Chief of the National Defense Branch gives an account of the the result of the conference on the deception of the enemy in respect to the operation "Barbarossa" and suggests the approval of the measures intended by the high commands of the branches of the Wehrmacht and that the civilian agencies participating in certain preparations for the operation "Barbarossa" be informed to the same effect by a letter. (National Defense Branch/Group IV).

(.....)

13 March 1941

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

(.....)

13 March 1941

The Chief of the National Defense Branch asks the Liaison Officer of the Economic and Armament Office, Major Rudelsdorf, to let the Chief of the Economic and Armament Office know that:

- 1.) In relation to the imminent operations the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command ordered that the experts on the British economy

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intended by the Economic and Armament Office in autumn of 1940 for employment in the framework of the operation "Seelowe" in the usual form be notified anew ~~xx~~ that they will be called up for service before long. The purpose of their draft should, as far as necessary, be hinted in the same form as in the autumn of 1940. It would be advisable to send out these notifications still in the course of this month.

(.....)

(.....)

(The entries end with the 24 March 1941)

No. 2

Wehrmacht High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

Discussions of the Situation Conducted by the National Defense Branch

Copies of excerpts of the hand-written notes of ~~the~~ Ministerialrat (high-ranking civil servant) Helmuth Greiner on the discussions on the situation conducted by the National Defense Branch during the period from 8 August 1940 to 25 June 1941.

The original material comprises 213 pages with text on both sides of the size 150 X 210 mm.

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Prefatory Notes:

1) The following excerpts contain only those passages which are of direct or indirect interest for the operations "Seelowe" and the "Air Battle of Britain".

2) The only dates quoted are those ~~of the days~~ ^{under which} entries were taken from the original.

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

Location: ~~xxxx~~ train "Atlas", stationed at the railroad station of Berlin-Grunewald. The Wehrmacht Operations Office is renamed Wehrmacht Operations Staff as of this date.

Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: At present, the strength of operational aircraft of the Luftwaffe amounts to 949 bomber, 869 single-engine fighter, 268 twin-engine fighter, and 336 dive bomber aircraft. The total strength thus amounts to 2422 aircraft.

(.....)

Staff Conferences: The Chief of the National Defense Branch has requested the Chief of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence (Captain (Nav Buerkner) to conduct an investigation to find out where the British Empire is vulnerable to attack. Those vulnerable spots are to be taken into consideration in case the operation "Seelowe" will have to

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be postponed. In such event Egypt and Gibraltar are to be left out of the picture. Moreover, he asked the Chief of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence for information on the Russian war potential. The reports on the experience of the campaign in Norway are to be evaluated for the operation "Seelöwe".

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch submits a survey of the naval forces ready for engagement in the war on 15 September 1940 and on 15 April 1941. At present, 9 destroyers are available 1 of which is in the ship-building yard. New destroyers will be added to this force from October on. At the beginning of the war, 56 submarines were available. In addition the Submarine UA built for Turkey was available. 26 submarines were lost up to 31 July 1940 25 submarines were newly built during the same period of time. Consequently, 56 submarines including the Submarine UA are available now. In addition, we possess the captured British Submarine Seal - UB and both the former Norwegian Submarines UC and UD. About 73 more submarines will be added to this force during the next six months.

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch reports that the overall program of the intensified air war is not feasible owing to weather conditions and should, therefore, be reduced from 4 to 3 attacks. It is to be feared that the Reichsmarschall will order the premature discontinuation of the attacks. No decision has yet been taken as to whether and when the operations are to be conducted.

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It is intended that an attack be conducted by the bomber forces escorted by strong fighter units against the airfields of London on the second day.

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: The conferences of the Chief of Staff of the Navy High Command with the Operations Branch of the Army General Staff in Fontainebleau are still in progress.

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: As a result of the directive of the Naval Operations Staff that the plans should not be modified to provide for a landing on a broad basis the Luftwaffe gave its permission for mine-laying operations along the coast of South England up to and including Eastbourne. No progress is being made in the solution of the question of the commitment of Italian air units against England. The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff promised to the Chief of the National Defense Branch that he would urge a basic decision of the Fuehrer on the cooperation with Italy. Difficulties were encountered in the cooperation of the Army and the Navy with the Luftwaffe in respect to the operation "Seeloewe". Regarding the order for "Build-Up East" (codename for measures against the Soviet Union) the Luftwaffe requests information ^{from} ~~from~~ the Army for the build-up of its ground organization in the occupied eastern territories.

9 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

9 August 1940

Yesterday, the Fuehrer, escorted only by his aide, went to the Baerghof where he intends to stay until the beginning of the intensified air war ~~against~~.

The Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff requests more detailed information on the alleged Russian concentrations of troops at the Finnish border.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch yesterday conferred with the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Branch on the question of the support to be provided by the Italian Navy and Air Force to the Navy and Luftwaffe during the intensified sea and air war. The chain of command of the Italian submarines committed in the Atlantic is to be established ~~in accordance~~ according to the wishes of the Commander in Chief of the Navy.

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: Admiral Schniewind left Fontainebleau yesterday without any agreement on the basis for the landing being reached.

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: According to latest reports, the losses of the British civilian population due to German air action in July amount to 258 killed and 321 injured.

(.....)

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10 August 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht OperationsStaff/National Defense Branch,10 August 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: The losses of the British Civilian population during the period from 17 June to 17 July amount to 336 killed and 476 injured.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Economic and Armament Office: submits the report on the situation in the field of war ^{economy} ~~production~~ for the month of July 1940 . There are only two priority categories now. The beginning of the production of the consumer goods industry ordered by the Fuehrer is not yet possible. Armament production is still ranking first. The 60-hour week will lead to ~~an~~ an impairment of efficiency.

(.....)

Staff Conferences: The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe reports that the beginning of the intensified air war was postponed again yesterday owing to the ~~bad~~ weather situation. The decision of the Reichsmarschall to be taken today is not yet known.

The problem of the transportation and supply organization for the operation "Seelowe" is discussed. Will it be necessary to establish a special organization ? The branches of the Wehrmacht report to the Navy ~~and~~ their requirements for naval transportation. The Navy decides on the

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order of succession of the transportation. The same method is employed in the case of air transportation. In the latter, the air ~~transport~~ transport space is divided into tactical and supply transport space. On the other hand, it is suggested that Wehrmacht Transportation and Supply Branch be responsible for the decision on the priority and the order of succession of the transportation. The three following solutions may be taken into consideration: 1.) Decentralization, the responsibility rests with the commanders in chief of the branches of the Wehrmacht. 2.) Centralization, direction by a central authority of the Wehrmacht. 3.) Laisser faire.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch suggests that no new organization be established but that this mission be delegated to the Chief of Wehrmacht Transportation, General Gercke.

12 August 1940 (No discussion on the situation War Diary of the

on 11 August)

Wehrmacht High Command/Wehr-
macht Operations Staff/Natio-
nal Defense Branch, 12 August
1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: The Third Air Fleet carried out a successful attack ^{on 11 August} owing to the initiative of Generalfeldmarschall Sperrle ~~and his staff~~. 230 bomber and 620 fighter aircraft were committed. The prospects for favorable weather conditions are good. For this reason, the order for a large scale attack may be expected.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence (.....
.....) England is concerned about the situation in the Mediterra-
nean and in North Africa. The British attach great importance to
the mastery of the Western Mediterranean. (.....)

(.....)

13 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Oper

rations Staff/National Defe

(.....)

se Branch, 13 August 1940

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence: The
people are unanimously determined to hold their own. The crisis
caused by the first German air attacks at the end of June has been
over-come by now. The Dunkirk-fighters are not ~~inclined to~~ ^{inclined to make} ~~peace~~
either (V*-man report). (.....)

Staff Conference: The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National De-
fense Branch: Owing to deteriorating weather conditions today's at-
tack, ~~executed~~ ^{conducted by} 1000 aircraft was stopped prematurely. A new decis^{on}
will be made by the Reichsmarschall at 14:00 hours. The Second Air F
Fleet was not committed at all. The Fuehrer returns from the Berghof
.....

Note: * V-man:

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to Berlin this morning at 11:20 hours.

The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch: yesterday

 with each other on the
 compared the controversial views of the Army and the Navy ~~with each other~~
 broad or
~~small~~ small basis to be chosen for the operations "Seelowe" in a
 note prepared for a verbal report. No decision has yet been taken
 as to when the operation is to be carried out. As soon as the day
 has been decided on, the Navy will determine the hour. It will be
 submit a suggestion
 the next task to ~~suggest~~ ~~to suggest~~ for the reconciliation of
 these views deviating from each other. The Navy is ~~ready~~ ready to
 a new suggestion after it has been decided to employ 500 motor-boats
 of various types and with different speed performances at the extreme
 left wing. This action is called the "Green Movement". What conclu-
 sions should be drawn regarding the "Blue Movement"? Capacity of the
 motor-boats: 6000 men. The losses might amount to 1000 men, the rest
 would thus amount to 5000 men. Consequently, stronger parachute for-
 ces would have to be employed. During the crossing, the Luftwaffe
 missing
 will have to replace the artillery. This suggestion of the Chief of
 the National Defense Branch is to be submitted to the Chief of the
 Wehrmacht Operations Staff in the Reich's Chancellery still ~~today~~
 this evening.

14 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

 Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

 Staff/National Defense Branch,

14 August 1940

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The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: The
 offensive air action of the Second and Third Air Fleets started as
 planned on 13 August. The operations of the Second Air Fleet, howe-
 ver, had to be soon discontinued owing to bad weather conditions.
 One bomber group only carried out its operations but suffered heavy
 losses owing to lack of fighter cover. Thereupon, the Reichsmarschall
 issued, at 11:00 hours, a new order for the resumption of the ~~attack~~
 attack at 14:00 hours. However, also this attack was not carried out
 to the full extent by the Second Air Fleet. At 19:00 hours, the ~~Reichsmarschall~~
 Reichsmarschall issued a new order for the resumption of the operati^{ns}
 on ~~13~~ 14 August. This order, however, was modified in the evening
 on account of the weather conditions.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence: The
 German Military Attaché in Moscow, General Koestring, reports that
~~the~~ treatment and information ~~xxx~~ provided by the Russian com-
 mand staffs. have improved.

The Chief of the National Defense Branch: (..... concerning
 WStK* and the Economic and Armament Office)

Staff Conference : The Chief of the National Defense Branch: (.....

Note: * WStK:

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A new suggestion for the operation "Seelowe" is made by the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff. He also advocates the broad basis. Should the Navy High Command think it impossible to conduct the landing operation on a broad basis, the landing would have to be foregone at all. Carried out on a small basis, such a landing would be desperate act and its failure would have considerable military and political consequences. There are other ways to force the British on their knees. For such purpose, however, a closer cooperation of the Axis-Powers, an intensification of the submarine warfare (40 Italian submarines based at Bordeaux), and the capture of Egypt and Gibraltar would be necessary. The British will to resist would have to be broken by next spring.

15 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense

Branch, 15 August 1940

The Chief of **Group I Luftwaffe** of the National Defense Branch: The operations of the Second and Third Air Fleets scheduled to be conducted in the morning of 14 August were called off owing to weather conditions. A number of single aircraft was committed in the afternoon. Heavy losses were partially incurred due to weather conditions. The losses of the friendly forces amounted to 16 aircraft, those of the enemy amounted to 18 aircraft and 7 barrage balloons. The latter will

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still be increased by a number of aircraft destroyed on the ground.

Today, single aircraft only will be committed at first, if the weather improves, the commitment of whole formations will be ordered.

The Chief of Group III of the National Defense Branch: The WStK*

submits a report on the activities of General de Gaulle. The latter has at his disposal more than 2000 to 3000 ground troops and negligible naval forces ~~in England~~ (2 old battleships and ~~several~~ light modern naval units of greater strength) in England.

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter, Intelligence: Ra-

dio address of Eden: The War has hardly begun for England. Approximately 200 000 men were saved at Dunkirk. Firm confidence in a British victory. - (.....) The Russians apparently do not intend to invade Finland on 15 August.

(.....)

The Chief of the National Defense Branch: (.....) Norway:

Concentration of the Mountain Corps (2nd and 3rd Mountain Divisions and 181st Division) in North Norway. Transfer of the 196th Division to Drontheim to occupy the northern sector of Finland in the event of a Russian invasion in that country. Adequate supplies will have

.....
Note: * WStK:

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to be stocked in North Norway.

16 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

16 August 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

Daytime events on 15 August: The aircraft were initially not permitted to take-off. At noontime, two dive-bomber groups of the Second Air Fleet were committed. In the afternoon, all three air fleets (Second, Third, and Fifth Air Fleets) engaged in offensive action. 55 friendly and 108 enemy aircraft were shot down. The results were not so favorable since fighter aircraft could not take off owing to weather conditions or lost contact in the haze so that the bomber aircraft were exposed to heavy attacks by British fighter forces. The British dropped incendiary tubes during the last days. Lately, they even dropped wadding bundles with vermins. The German forces dropped parachute bags ^{simulate} to ~~imitate~~ the landing of parachute forces. This caused a great excitement in the British press. A large-scale attack is scheduled to take place today. The aircraft, however, ~~have~~ been unable to ^{so far} take off ~~yet~~ because of the weather conditions. The Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe takes a new decision at 11:00 hours. Milan and Torino were attacked from bases in England during the night of 14/15 August. The distance from England to Goerlitz is longer,

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but nevertheless this was a good aeronautical achievement because the aircraft had to fly across the Alps.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence:

(.....) The Russian-Finnish tensions seem to be reduced.

No considerable reinforcements were reported along the Finnish border. The Finnish Army consists of 5 corps with 15 divisions but is ~~only~~ ^{only} equipped with small artillery forces and has almost no aircraft at its disposal. The attitude taken by the American press is satisfactory according to a telegram sent by General von Boetticher

<u>19 August 1940 (No discussion on</u>	<u>War Diary of the Wehrmacht</u>
the situation on 17	<u>High Command/Wehrmacht Opera-</u>
and 18 August)	<u>tions Staff/National Defense</u>
	<u>Branch, 19 August 1940</u>

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: On 18 August, the Second Air Fleet attacked after 14:00 hours and in the afternoon. The Third Air Fleet conducted but one attack. The British fighters did no more appear in such great numbers, they are not so aggressive any more. A minor mishap occurred over the area of Portsmouth: The friendly dive-bombers sustained losses since they were not provided with fighter protection. Total losses 147 friendly and 49 enemy aircraft. Operational intentions for 19 August: Attacks after improvement of the weather conditions. Today

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the Fifth Air Fleet attacks Newcastle. The British use anti-aircraft artillery ammunition which releases wire cables after detonation. The Fuehrer ordered the extension of the anti-aircraft artillery defenses all over Germany. For this purpose, captured enemy guns ~~should be used~~ and the industry in occupied France should be exploited for the production of gun-platforms. The enemy losses during the period from 8 to 18 August amounted to : 656 aircraft ~~shots~~ shot down and 81 aircraft destroyed on the ground. The losses of friendly aircraft amounted to 261.

The Chief of Group III of the National Defense Branch: (.....)

The Fuehrer has decided that Italy should have the decisive vote in all questions of armistice in the Mediterranean.

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence:

(.....) General von Boetticher (Military Attaché in Washington) requests better ~~information~~ orientation on the air war against England.

The Liaison Officer of the Economic and Armament Office: The losses of mineral oil due to British bombing are of no decisive importance.

21 August 1940 (No discussion) War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

on the situation took place Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff,

on 20 August owing to the National Defense Branch, 21 August

absence of the Chief of the 1940

National Defense Branch)

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The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

Owing to weather conditions, a number of single attacks only was carried out by the Second and Third Air Fleets against British airfields on 20 August. The aggressiveness of the British fighters varied. The pilots committed had received only a short-term training for this reason, the command ~~was~~ seemed unsure. The prospects for good weather are poor at present. Friendly bomber units are committed only on a small scale for the time being.

(.....)

Staff Conference: During yesterday's discussion with the Chief of the

Wehrmacht Operations Staff the Chief of the National Defense Branch

suggested the employment of long-range artillery during the offensive action of the Luftwaffe and that the Army High Command be ^{given} ~~permitted~~ permission by teletype message to open ^{up} long-range artillery fire.

General Jeschonnek asked General Jodl for information on the ^{Army's} ~~concept~~ concept on the commitment of parachute forces during the operation "Seelowe". The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch suggests the occupation of the Isle of Wight by airborne forces in order to capture the coast batteries. The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch points out that ~~that~~ during the winter the landed forces cannot be ~~supplied~~ provided with supplies by air. He reports that, regarding the "Build-Up East", the establishment of the ground organization in the East would, in the opinion

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of the Luftwaffe, not be possible without knowledge of the overall intentions.

23 August 1940 (No discussion of War Diary of the Wehrmacht High
 the situation took place on 22 Command/Wehrmacht Operations
 August because the Chief of the Staff/National Defense Branch,
 National Defense Branch was visi- 23 August 1940
 ted by the Chief of the Operations
 Branch of the Army General Staff.)

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: The
 air operations are on both sides impaired by bad weather. There
 is a prospect for an improvement of the weather conditions during
 next week.

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch evaluates
 the importance of the landing of 50 American destroyers to England.
 as follows: Considerable reinforcement of the British convoy escort
 forces. These forces are provided with adequate artillery to opera-
 te against submarines. 5 battleships of the British home fleet are,
 supported from the area of Clyde, ready to repulse German forces.
 7 battleships are stationed in the Mediterranean. The "Revenge" is
 committed in convoy operations in the North Atlantic. The "Queen Elisabeth"
 has not yet appeared ~~since~~ during the whole war. At the beginning of the war
 she was in the dock-yard. The "Resolution" operating always in the
 Gibraltar sea has presumably incurred damage. The "Hood" and "Vali-
 ant" left Gibraltar to protect convoys.
 ant" left Gibraltar

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence: As a
 result of its own information and after consultation with the Branch
 for Foreign Armies West of the Army General Staff the Foreign Group/
 Counter Intelligence arrives at the conclusion that 22 fully combat-
 ready British divisions (among them 1 to 2 armored divisions) and
 12 1/2 divisions not yet fully combat-efficient are stationed in the
 British Homeland. (.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Economic and Armament Office: The priority
 categories are to be further subdivided. Top priority is given to the
 preparation of the operation "Seelowe". The fuel supplies stocked
 at the Belgian-French coast are endangered by the British air attacks.
 The dispersion of these supplies has been completed at the Belgian
 and Dutch coast.

Staff Conference: The Chief of the National Defense Branch: (.....)
 This morning, Admiral Fricke ~~and~~ informed the Chief of the
 National Defense Branch by telephone that during the "Green Movement"
 25 steamships will move straight ahead and 25 will be directed to the
 East for the crossing in the Strait of Dover. The approval of the
 Commander in Chief of the Navy is to be sought today. - Certain limi-
 tations are still in force in spite of the unrestricted air war. The
 methods to be employed in the prohibited American zone (300-sea miles
 border) along the American coast and other restrictions are to be
 listed in a new directive of the Wehrmacht High Command.

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The Liaison Officer of the Wehrmacht Press (Major von Wussow) is notified by the Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch that, at the beginning of the intensified air war, England had at her disposal 900 modern and 200 old-type fighter aircraft. 650 of these aircraft were in operational condition. It is estimated that England still possesses 450 - probably 600 - fighter aircraft and, in addition, 200 such aircraft in reserve. At noontime, Major Deyle (General Staff Officer assigned to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff) telephones from Berchtesgaden and communicates that the National Defense Branch will probably follow up still in the evening of 23 August .

(The Fuehrer has been at the Obersalzberg since 17 August, the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command was there on 18/19 August and ~~later~~ moved, ^{at Berchtesgaden} on 21 August, to the Reich's Chancellery together with the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff, Major Deyle, and the Chief of Group I Luftwaffe 1, Major Queisner). At 16:00 hours, the order for the departure of the National Defense Branch comes in. The train "Atlas" leaves the railroad station of Berlin Grunewald at 19:55 hours and arrives at the main station of Salzburg on 24 August at 09:45 hours. At this station, it is placed beside the train of the Reich's Foreign Minister ("Heinrich

The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch (^{Lieutenant} ~~Sherst~~ Colonel von Lossberg) left by airplane for Brussels and Fontainebleau together with Captain Dr. Borner to consult with the Army High Command and with the army commands committed at the Channel coast. No discussion

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on the situation is held on 24 August.

25 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch, 25 August

1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

Weather situation: Commitment of air units in closed formation probably not possible.

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: Battleship

"Bismarck" is commissioned on 24 August.

(.....)

(.....)

The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch: Surprising

news come in on concentrations of Russian troops on the Pruth River.

The ~~danger~~ of an invasion exists. The former Finnish Military Attaché

in Oslo called on Generaloberst von Falkenhorst to feel out the Ger-

man attitude in the case of a new Russian attack. The situation of

Finland is precarious.

Staff Conference: The Chiefs of the Groups I Army and I Navy of the

National Defense Branch are to prepare a map showing the disposition

of the shipping space concentrated for the operation "Seelowe" at

the different ports, the shipping routes, defenses of the flanks,

and the landing and assembly areas of the 10 divisions of the Six-

teenth and Ninth Armies.

The principal movement to be carried out is called the "Blue Movement". The Unit 800 intended for special employment (Regiment Brandenburg) is to be committed either in England or with the Italians

26 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch, 26 August

1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

British night air raid against the eastern section of Berlin. The losses of the German Luftwaffe since 10 May 1940 have amounted to: 147 reconnaissance aircraft of the Army (146), 439 fighter aircraft (630), 240 twin-engine fighter aircraft (280). (The figures within parentheses represent the replacements). The total losses including the training aircraft ^{have} amounted to: 3298 aircraft. 2239 of ~~the~~ them were completely destroyed and 2436 aircraft were delivered as replacements.

The Chief of Group IV of the National Defense Branch: (.....)

Concentrations of Russian troops in the Northern Bucovina.

Staff Conference: At 10:00 hours in the morning, the Chief of the

National Defense Branch accompanied by the Chief of Group I Navy

of the National Defense Branch submitted ~~reports~~ to the Chief of

the Wehrmacht High Command and to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Opera-

tions Staff a map showing the intentions of the Navy and the Army

in respect to the operation "Seeloeven".

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The Army advocates the maintenance of the division of the area of attack into sectors, since each division is subdivided into regimental combat groups which will be followed by the rest of the forces. During the past night, the Navy High Command submitted a request regarding the strengths of the forces to be transported during the movements "Blue" and "Green".

27 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High
 Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff
 National Defense Branch, 27 August

1940

During the past night, Berlin was on air alert for 45 minutes. A night attack of strong friendly air forces was directed against Plymouth. Changeable weather conditions. Intentions for 27 August: The Second Air Fleet will rest, the Third Air Fleet will operate on a limited scale.

(.....)

Staff Conference: Yesterday, the Fuehrer did not take any decision on the date for the beginning of the operation "Seelowe". However, he maintains the decision that the operation will be carried out. The Army will have to adjust its plans to the potentialities of the Navy. When will the x-order have to be issued? According to the Army this order will have to be issued 12 days ~~in advance~~ in advance. The Chiefs of the Operations Groups I Army, I Navy, and I Luftwaffe

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have to ascertain the opinions of the branches of the Wehrmacht on this question. A time-table is to be prepared which must contain also the date at which the operation still can be called off without lifting the concealment of the concentration of the forces. All basic data for a directive for the conduct of the operation "Seelowe" have to be made available. The most essential information can be taken from Directive No. 16.

Supply: An agency of the Navy will have to be established at each port. All these agencies can be placed under a central control within the framework of a field army. The Army units will submit their requests to these agencies. Both field armies will be independent. Each of them will be assigned a sector with a number of ports. The ships will systematically return to those ports from which they had left. The Chief of the National Defense Branch holds that the field armies should have some sort of a staff in the zone of the interior. The Chief of Group III of the National Defense Branch is to prepare the corresponding basic principles. The decentralization should be as extensive as possible. The requirements of the Luftwaffe will have to be reported to the field armies.

29 August 1940 (A brief discussion of the situation only was held on 28 August under the direction of the Chief of Group

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff National Defense Branch, 29 August 1940

III of the National Defense Branch, Lieut. Col. (GSC) Priess.

During an operation over Greater Berlin in the night of 28/29 August, four bombs were dropped on the area of the Goerlitzer railroad station. 10 persons were killed and 28 were injured, some of them seriously. The ~~attics~~ ^{woodworks of the roofs} of a number of buildings caught fire

Changeable weather over England, already foggy.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Economic and Armament Office: The number of railway cars to be made available daily has been increased from 150 000 to 155 000. The majority of the locomotives employed in the occupied territory has been withdrawn, since Belgium, Luxembourg, and Alsace-Lorraine have their own stocks of railway material again. The effect of the operation "Seeloeve" on the inland navigation amounts to 10 per cent. The freighters withdrawn from that navigation cannot be used any more later owing to their ~~expensive~~ built-in reinforced concrete bottoms. The fuel supplies are shipped out of the endangered zones. 98,7 per cent of the Rumanian oil production and refineries are located in the area of Floesti.

The Chief of Group III of the National Defense Branch: (.....)

The Fuehrer returns to Berlin in the evening because of the British ~~air~~ air attack against Berlin which took place during the past night. The special train "Atlas" (National Defense Branch) leaves Salzburg at 20:45 hours. The train arrives at the station of Berlin Grunewald on 30 August at 10:00 hours. The order for the departure of

the train arrived from the Reich's Chancellery at Berchtesgaden on 29 August at 15:30 hours.

30 August 1940

War Diary of the ~~Wehrmacht High~~ Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch, 30 August

1940

Offensive air operations are impaired by weather conditions. A large-scale attack is carried out against Liverpool-Birmingham.

(.....)

(.....)

(.....)

31 August 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

(The conference is held by

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

Lieutenant Colonel Priess in

National Defense Branch, 31 August

the absence of the Chief of the

1940

National Defense Branch who holds

a lecture to the foreign military

attachés.)

British air attacks are conducted against Berlin during the night

of 30/31 August. The main effort of these attacks is directed against

the section of Siemensstadt. Considerable conflagration is caused.

In some cases, the production is interrupted for a period of about

14 days.

(.....)

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The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence:

It can be said that the tenseness in the Balkan situation has ~~increased~~ lessened. It was hinted to the Italians, apparently by the Fuehrer himself, that they were to desist from any action at the Albanian-border. Communist agitation in unoccupied France. Government unstable.

2 September 1940

(No discussion on the situation on 1 September)

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch, 2 September

ber 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

On 1 September, attacks against airfields around London. At night, the main effort of the attacks was directed against Bristol. No ~~bombs~~ bombs were dropped on Berlin and surroundings during the night of 1/2 September. British prisoners complain about overstrain and report on great effects of the German attacks. A British feint maneuver was carried out: British Spitfire with Me 109 painted on the wings. Sometimes still strong British fighter defenses. Employment of American aircraft is said to be imminent. High -pressure weather zone over South and Central England. This weather is expected to last a few more days.

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: Three Ita-

lian submarines operate from bases in Italy in the Atlantic.

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The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

The Italian Air Force inspected its operational airfields at the Channel coast. The Italian air units will arrive during the second half of September. Their headquarters will be stationed at Alost.

(.....)

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence:

(.....) General von Boetticher reports that an American commission has been sent to England to gather information on the British defense effort for a report to Roosevelt. This commission is said to have got a very favorable impression.

The Liaison Officer of the Economic and Armament Office: 1000 ~~xxxx~~

freighters have been withdrawn from inland navigation for employment in the operation "Seeleowe".

The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch: Italy has

74 divisions at her disposal. 28 of these divisions are stationed along the Yugoslavian border and 14 of them are stationed in Libya.

The Finnish Army consists of 5 army corps with 16 divisions. The

total strength of the Finnish forces amounts to 140⁰⁰⁰ to 150 000

men. Finland possesses 600 aircraft. These forces are confronted ^{with} ~~by~~

15 to 20 divisions on the Russian side. The Russians improve the railroad network in the newly gained Finnish territories. -

The disposition of the British forces: 16 divisions are employed

for coast defense purposes, 19 1/2 divisions are kept as strategic reserve. The whereabouts of 3 divisions are unknown. The British losses of matériel in France ~~include~~ amount to the following percentages: guns 65 per cent, armored vehicles 33 per cent. For this reason, a new armored vehicle has been developed by improvisation in England. 180 to 200 aircraft per month are delivered ~~from~~ ^{by} the USA. The French troops in England wear British uniforms with a sleeve band with the inscription: "France".

Staff Conference: 1.) The plan of the organization of the forces and the time-schedule for the operation "Seelowe" which were requested by the Army came in this morning. The time-table is to be set up under the direction of the Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch. The basic principles for the supply ^{activities} ~~operations~~ during the operation "Seelowe" are to be established by the Chief of Group III of the National Defense Branch. A conference with the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff will be held in the afternoon.

2.) South-East: (.....). 3.) Italy: General von Rintelen reported on 29 August that Marshal Badoglio was happy about the German rejection of the Italian measures planned to be taken against Yugoslavia. He will notify the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command that the action planned against Yugoslavia and Greece has been called off. The water ways in the Eastern Mediterranean are controlled by Italy to an increasing extent. The preparations for the operations against

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Egypt have been completed. The offensive against Egypt will be carried out as soon as the first German battalion has landed on British soil.

In Libya, there is no great inclination to attack. The armed forces and the people of Italy want to have the war brought to an end soon.

(Both the last sentences reflect the opinion of General von Rintelen)

4.) Finland: (.....). 5.) The note prepared by the Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch for a verbal report on the combined commitment of German and Italian battleships against England ~~apparently~~ impressed the competent circles in the Reich's Chancellery and apparently also the Fuehrer. ~~Especially~~ ^{Now} ~~the Wehrmacht~~ ^{Navy} High Command is counting on 15 rather than 19 British battleships.

3 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/

National Defense Branch, 3 September

ber 1940

The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch: The 1st Armored Division will be transferred to East Prussia.

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: 65 tons of explosives were dropped on England during the night of 1/2 September. 33 tons of this amount were dropped on Bristol. The operations against the British fighter defenses were resumed on 2 September; these operations are to be continued on 3 September. During the night of 2/3 September, enemy aircraft approached Berlin but changed

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their course before reaching the city. The population of Berlin had hide in air raid shelters for 8 1/2 hours during the period from 25 August to 1 September. The objective of the friendly offensive air action during the month of August was to gain the air supremacy by operating against the enemy fighter forces. The losses of the Royal Air Force since 8 August have amounted to 1115 fighter and 92 bomber aircraft, whereas the losses of the Luftwaffe have amounted to 252 fighter and 215 bomber aircraft. 1140 demolition and numerous incendiary bombs were dropped on England during August. 18 airfields were destroyed and 26 were damaged. 10 per cent of the ground installations ^{with facilities} ~~in order~~ to repair fighter aircraft have been destroyed. It has not yet been possible to inflict considerable damage on the British bomber force. Attacks were carried out against 8 aircraft 3 aluminum, and 19 airframe factories. A considerable number of the British aircraft reported by us as shot down can certainly be reconditioned very fast. According to calculations of the Luftwaffe the British had, on 1 July, more than 900 fighter aircraft and a reserve of 250 aircraft. On 1 September, the British Air Force had more than 600 fighter aircraft of which 420 were in operational condition and an industrial output of 100 aircraft as reserve. The British antiaircraft artillery now seems to be concentrated in the southern part of the country. The achievements of this artillery are, in general, bad. The British barrage balloons fly at an altitude of 4000

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meters with intervals of 400 meters. The German aircraft fly over and between them. The British bomber forces have not carried out any major daytime operation as yet. They have more than about 600 aircraft at their disposal. At the most 100 of the available 500 German night aircraft have been operationally committed so far. The losses sustained by them were negligible. It has not been possible to hit the British shipping space. The British supply stocks, there have aircraft fore, grown. The output of the British industry in July amounted to 300 bomber and 300 fighter aircraft. The American production will not get going until the middle of 1941. From all this the conclusion can be drawn that the British fighter defenses are heavily battered and that the continuation of the German offensive operations against the British fighter force during September in favorable weather conditions may weaken the British fighter defenses to such an extent that the air attacks against the British production centers and port installations can be intensified ~~in~~ enough considerably ~~suchxxxxdegraxxtion~~ to impair the British supply activities. It is questionable whether England will carry on fighting under such ~~xxxx~~ circumstances.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Economic and Armament Office: The Wehr-

 macht spending during the first year of the war amounted to 38 billion Reichsmark of ~~billions Reichsmark~~ of which 20 billion were spent for armament production.

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Staff Conference: 1.) Operation "Seelowe": As a result of a suggestion of the Navy High Command a brief outline for a directive on the time-schedule including the dates was submitted to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff this morning. The order to be issued on ~~S-Day~~ minus 10 days must provide for the beginning of the measures to be taken to deceive the enemy. The views of the Army and the Navy on the "green" and the "blue" movements still deviate from each other. A settlement of this controversy is to be brought about by the two high commands concerned on the basis of the directive of the Wehrmacht High Command. The directive of the Army High Command ~~for~~ ^{for} the concentration of the forces has been submitted. 2.) (.....) The practice of having the military attachés report only through the ambassadors should be modified.

4 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

4 September 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: Air

attacks were carried out against the area south-east of London to hit the British fighter force. The ratio of aircraft shot down has considerably changed in our favor. During the night of 3/4 September the main effort of the British air attacks was directed against the northern section of Berlin (10 demolition bombs). No attacks were

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directed against the center of the city. Attacks against London have not yet been permitted by the Fuehrer. A dive-bomber group has been assigned to the Italians by us.

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: The decision for the lending of the 50 American destroyers to England has been taken definitely. These destroyers will represent one third of the British strength. The Italian Supreme Command decided against the employment of the Italian battleships.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence: Great Britain leases Newfoundland, the Bermudas, and the West Indies to the USA in return for the lending of the 50 destroyers.

(.....)

Staff Conference: 1.) (.....) 2.) Operation "Seelowe": In addition to the time-schedule an order for the conduct of the operation is to be issued on 11 September. Data have to be provided ~~for~~ to the Fuehrer as a basis for his daily command decisions. A method of presenting a picture of the daily event on a map is developed.

The Luftwaffe has not yet submitted a suggestion for ~~fix~~ the commitment of the parachute forces. The following locations have been selected for the command staffs: Gisela (Giessen) or Felsennest (Muenstereifel). 3.) (.....).

(.....)

5 September 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense Branch, 5 September

(.....)

1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: The Luftwaffe units which penetrated into enemy territory yesterday encountered only negligible enemy fighter defenses. During the past night, the enemy conducted air attacks the main effort of which was directed against Osnabrueck. 7 bombs were dropped on Potsdam. The anti-aircraft artillery defenses of Berlin are reorganized: 31 heavy, 17 light, and 11 searchlight batteries are employed. The eastern territories of Germany should also be protected again. Weather conditions are good all over North-West Europe, a number of bad weather zones exist.

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: The first Italian submarine moved into the port of Bordeaux on 4 September.

(.....)

Staff Conference: (.....) The forces stationed in the East will be reorganized by 24 October as follows: Army Group B with the ~~Army~~ Twelfth, ~~Fourth~~ Fourth, and Eighteenth Army Command Staffs will contain a total of 35 divisions of which will be 6 armored, 3 motorized, and 1 cavalry divisions. - Colonel von Witzleben reported yesterday that

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the **XXI** Group has already started their deception measures for the operation "Seelowe". The time-schedule prepared by the Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch still needs some supplementation.

The Chief of Group I Army suggests the coordination of the large-scale attack against London with the operation "Seelowe". The Fifth Air Fleet will be transferred to Holland during the next few days for the **large-scale** attack on London. The Italian air units will be operationally committed in about three weeks. The Reichsmarschall is not interested in the preparations for the operation "Seelowe", since he does not think that the operation will be actually carried out. (.....)

6 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations ~~Staff~~

Staff/National ^Defense Branch,

6 September 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: The
 strength of the British fighter squadrons decreased from 12 - 15 to 5 - 7 aircraft. The population of London spent 7 1/2 hours in the air raid shelters during the past night. About 80 British aircraft penetrated into Germany at night. Operational intentions for today: Air units should penetrate to London and operate against the British fighter defenses. The Third Air Fleet had to transfer all its single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft to the Second Air Fleet. During the month of ~~July~~ ^{June}, the British Air Force dropped bombs on 1315 places,

- 200 -

during July on 854 places, and during August on 884 places within the Reich's territory(not the number of bombs!). The British air action against the Ruhr Area and the Rhineland lessened. The enemy air action over the rest of the Reich's territory, however, was ~~increased~~ intensified. The air-raid-shelter map shows that ~~increased~~ the number of hours spent by the population in the air raid shelters in the different places of the Reich's territory had considerably increased in August. The following air attacks were carried out against Great Britain: 122 attacks in June, 271 in July, and 691 in August. A total of 3085 tons of bombs were dropped on England in August. The amount of bombs to be dropped will be increased in September.

(.....)

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Economic and Armament Office: The industrial production suffered shortcomings owing to the frequent air raid alerts during August; the armament industry, however, did not suffer any stoppage in the ~~production~~ process. In August, 236 aircraft were delivered by the USA to England.

Staff Conference: Colonel von Witzleben reports by telephone that changes in the directive of the Army for the concentration of the forces for the operation "Seelowe" will be effected as a result of requests submitted by Army Group A, the Ninth and the Sixteenth Armies.

(.....)

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: During the operation "Seelowe", measures to deceive the enemy will be carried out by the Navy from the German Bight, from the Skagerrak, and from Norway on S-Day minus 2 days. The heavy cruiser "Hipper", escorted by two tankers, will move into the Atlantic on S-Day minus 3 days.

7 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht
High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense Branch, 7 September 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: A heavy air attack was carried out against Berlin again during the past night. The London docks were attacked during both the past nights. Attacks against the eastern and western sections of London are planned to be conducted this afternoon and tonight. The Japanese Air Attaché in London reported to his government on the good effects of the German air raids. The Japanese Air Attaché in Berlin reported to Tokio that the British air raids against Berlin brought about but little effects.

(.....)

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence: (.....) The weekly fats ration in England consists of 170 grams of

which 113 grams were butter.

Staff Conference: (.....) The Chief of Group I Navy of the

National Defense Branch submits a memorandum of the Navy on the

operation "Seeloewe" which provides for the following order of

succession: At first motor-boats and motor-sailing boats, then

1.) Tugs with barges. 2.) Steamships with barges. 3.) Steamships

with empty barges.

9 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

(No discussion on the

Command/Wehrmacht Operations' Staff

situation on 8 September -

National Defense Branch, 9 Septem

Sunday).

ber

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

During the past night, enemy air forces intruded 58 times. The main

effort of the enemy air action was directed against Hamburg. The

British did not reach Berlin owing to bad weather. The attacks xx

planned to be conducted against London yesterday were called off

because of the bad weather. During the night, however, attacks were

carried out. A strong incendiary effect was produced. A major air

raid was conducted against London in the afternoon of 7 September.

A deterioration of the weather conditions over London is to be ex-

pected from tomorrow on.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence:

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A retelegram of General von Boetticher arrived. This telegram contained information on the results of the German air raids against England up to the afternoon of 8 September. The morale of the British people is said to be strongly shaken. Symptoms of tiredness can be noticed. The optimism is gone. The effect in the central section of London was like an earthquake. Considerable damage was inflicted on the public utilities (gas, electricity, water). (.....)

Staff Conference: The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter

Intelligence: (.....) General von Boetticher communicates and request endorses the ~~desires~~ of the US-Armed Forces that the American military attaches be given permission to visit the ~~front~~ units of the German Army and Luftwaffe at the front. The branches of the Wehrmacht are to be notified that the Wehrmacht High Command attaches great importance to the fulfilment of the American request.

Operation: "Seeloewe": The last date at which the operation still can be called off is S-Day minus 1 day i.e., 24 hours in ~~six~~ prior to the time set for the landing. The "Hipper" will probably put out to sea as early as on S-Day minus 8 days.

(.....)

10 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

10 September 1940

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The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: The

 main effort of the German air attacks on 9 September and during the
 night of 9/10 September was directed against London again. During
 the night, 190 aircraft were committed in operations. The following
 was the operational intention of the Second Air Fleet for 10 Septem-
 ber: 1 wing was to attack London, the rest of the forces was to raid
 airfields and the air armament industry. The Navy claims that Boulog-
 ne was not attacked from the air but was fired at from the sea.

(.....)

Staff Conference: (.....) The Chief of the Luftwaffe General

 Staff, General Jeschonnek, demands to have the projected German air
 bases at the Atlantic coast of North Africa, Casablanca and Dakar,
 protected by German ground forces. Any decision on this question
 will not be made pending the completion of the operation "Seelowe".

(.....) (Report of the Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the
 National Defense Branch, Major Freiherr von Falkenstein, on his
 interview at the Luftwaffe Headquarters in France on 9 September).

11 September 1940War Diary of the WehrmachtHigh Command/Wehrmacht Opera-tions Staff/National DefenseBranch, 11 September 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: The

 daytime attacks conducted yesterday were considerably impaired by
 the weather situation. Therefore, no concentrated attack was carried

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cut against London. At night, about 40 aircraft operated over London. 50 operations were conducted against the Reich. 10 enemy aircraft raided the government area of Berlin. 2 persons were seriously, 2 were slightly injured. There were 5 air raid alerts in London yesterday. Last night, the air raid alert lasted 8 hours and 13 minutes. During three days and two nights up to the morning of 10 September, 1220 tons of demolition bombs and 1490 BSK* were dropped on London. The antiaircraft artillery defenses of Berlin were reinforced from 19 to 29^{heavy} batteries. In addition, 14 light and 11 searchlight batteries were employed there.

(.....)

Staff Conference: (.....) The order for the operation

"Seelowe" will not be given today. The warning order will not be issued until 14 September to initiate the beginning of the operation as late as on 24 September. The outline of Directive No. 18 prepared by the National Defense Branch has been submitted to the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff. The antiaircraft artillery will be assigned to the Army during the period of time provided for in Directive No. 16. Last night, the high commands were notified by teletype message on the postponement of the decision on the operation

Note: * BSK:

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"Seeloewe".

12 September 1940War Diary of the WehrmachtHigh Command/Wehrmacht Opera-
tions Staff/National DefenseBranch, 12 September 1940The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch: Army Group

B will be shipped to the East during the period from 17 to 19 September.

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: An

air raid against London was planned to be conducted yesterday afternoon. This raid, however, could not be fully carried out owing to the weather situation. About 200 tons of explosives were dropped. 148 aircraft took part in the offensive action. The damages caused seemed to be considerable. The British attacked Calais, Boulogne, and Ostend. In addition, about 90 operations were conducted against the Reich's territory. The plans for today provide for concentrated attacks of the Second and Third Air Fleets against London and, in the case of bad weather, the conduct of nuisance raids. The prospects for favorable weather conditions are not very good. It is still planned to move in the Fifth Air Fleet for a large-scale attack against London. The transfer of this air fleet, however, has not yet been ordered.

(.....)

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The Liaison Officer of the Economic and Armament Office: Before

the war, the British tonnage amounted to 18 million tons. Now, ~~this~~

it amounts to 25 million tons.

Staff Conference: Captain Fett returned from Fontainebleau yester-

day. The Army High Command fears that the deception measures to be

taken from bases in Norway will be started too early. The Army has

agreed to the plan of having parachute forces land only near Dover.

(.....) Yesterday, Admiral Fricke, upon orders of the Commander in

Chief of the Navy, called on General Jodl to inform the latter that

the Commander in Chief of the Navy has agreed to the delegation of

the sea/air reconnaissance to the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaf-

fe in the case of the operation "Seelowe".

13 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

13 September 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: The

night fighter division will be assigned the mission of patrolling the

enemy airfields and of shooting down ^{enemy aircraft} ~~leaving~~ leaving, landing,

or starting. The aircraft of this division, however, will also be

equipped with incendiary and demolition bombs to attack alternate

targets. The range of these aircraft is considerable. The attacks

conducted yesterday were impaired by bad weather. Yesterday after-

noon, 20 aircraft were committed against London, while 40 aircraft

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were committed at night. The changeable weather will probably last.

Weather permitting, London will be raided ~~again~~ this afternoon.

The British civilian population suffered heavy losses during the past nights.

(.....)

Staff Conference: (.....) Churchill delivered a speech, He seemed to be remarkably well informed on the German intentions regarding the operation "Seelowe".-

(.....)

14 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

14 September 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: A
 number of nuisance raids only was carried out yesterday owing to the weather conditions. The operational intentions for today: Continuation of the nuisance raids. The Military Attaché in Washington has sent a detailed report on the effects brought about by our air attacks on the British population. The British intensify their reconnaissance activities over the Belgian-French Channel coast. Therefore, the number of enemy aircraft penetrating into the Reich's territory decreases.

(.....)

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Staff Conference: (.....) Yesterday, the new Generaloberste
 dined with the Fuehrer. The latter made very optimistic statements and
 declared that in the present favorable situation he would not run
 any risk like the landing in England. The Fuehrer promised to place
 30 000 tons of shipping space at the disposal of Generaloberst von
 Falkenhorst.

16 September 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

(No discussion on the
 situation on 15 September)

Command/Wehrmacht OperationsStaff/National Defense Branch,16 September 1940The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

During the night of 14/15 September, a number of nuisance raids
 was carried out. On 15 September, the Second and Third Air Fleets
 attacked London. During these operations, major air battles deve-
 loped over London. The German units sustained heavy losses owing
 to the lack of fighter ~~defense~~ protection (50 friendly against 79
 enemy aircraft). The intensity of the attacks against the Reich's
 territory have considerably decreased. Operational intentions for
 today: Continuation of the large-scale attack against London in
 the case of good weather conditions, otherwise nuisance raids.

(.....)

17 September 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht OperationsStaff/National Defense Branch,17 September 1940The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: No

enemy aircraft intruded into the Reich's territory during the night

Owing to the closed cloud cover, only nuisance raids were carried

out against London yesterday. New attacks were conducted at night.

General von Boetticher reports on the improvement of the morale of

the population of London as a result of the reinforcement of the

antiaircraft artillery defenses. On the other hand, however, he also

mentions the low spirits of the population owing to the effects of

the long-delay time fuzes.

Operational intention for today: Continuation of the nuisance raids

If the weather improves, closed flying formations under extremely

strong fighter escort will be committed. During the last week, the

population of London had to stay in the air raid shelters for 74

hours and 45 minutes (as compared to 23 hours in Muenster as the

maximum on the German side).

(.....)

The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch: Captain

Fett reports on the organizational structure of the British Army:

20 divisions are employed for coast defense purposes. 14 of these

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ns
divisions are in full operational condition. 14 and a half divisions
of which 4 are in full operational condition, are kept as strategic
reserve.

Staff Conference: (.....) The Luftwaffe built a large dummy
installation near Kremen in the Mark Brandenburg which, howe-
ver, will operate only at^{dark} nights from this day on.- We have not yet
succeeded to^{British} destroy the ~~enemy~~ fighter force. At the end of the month
the Italian air units will be committed in operations at the ~~English~~
Channel coast. They will arrive during the period from 20 to 23 Sep-
tember coming via the Brenner ~~Pass~~. The Luftwaffe wants that, in
the case of the conquest of Gibraltar, that one of the Canary Islan^{ds}
(Las Palmas) be taken by Germany for the establishment of an air
base.

18 September 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

(In the morning, the Chief of
the National Defense Branch and
the Chief of Group III leave for

Command/Wehrmacht Operations
Staff/National Defense Branch,

18 September 1940

an inspection tour. They go to
den Haag and Brussels to visit
the Sixteenth and the Ninth Armies
and then to Fontainebleau).

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

London was attacked again yesterday. The plan of the Commander in

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Chief of the Luftwaffe to attack London with strong units could be carried out only partially owing to weather. ^{stormy} ~~conditions~~ Further intentions operational ~~intentions~~ : Continuation of the nuisance raids and of the attacks by closed flying formations against London to an extent permitted by weather conditions. New Build-up of the anti-aircraft artillery defenses in the East. The air raid alert in London on Monday, 16 September, lasted almost 14 hours. Owing to bad weather conditions, enemy aircraft intruded only into the western areas of the ^{Reich} ~~territory~~.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Branch/Counter Intelligence:

^{last}
In his ~~next~~ speech, Churchill drew the attention to the damages which had been inflicted on the German shipping space and which should not be underestimated. During the first half of September, the British civilian population suffered ^{losses} ~~2000~~ amounting to 2000 persons killed and 8000 persons wounded. New British ~~warning~~ methods: Previous warning, warning by especially trained observers.

(.....)

19 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch, 19 Sep-

tember 1940

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Chief

The ~~Liaison Officer~~ of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense

Branch: Vivacious fighter combat developed near London during which the British fighters carried out fierce attacks. Strong British air raids against the Channel coast, 80 barges sunk, an ammunition train with 500 tons of explosives blown up. At present, only small British air units intrude into Germany. The Torpedo Boat T 11 received two hits the T 3 sunk last night owing to a bomb hit.

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence: The

British Air Minister claims that the British losses of aircraft since the beginning of the intensified air war have amounted to 621 aircraft.

(.....)

The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch: (Lieute-

nant Colonel von Lossberg) ^b submits, at 15:30 hours, to the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command the study on the operations to be conducted in the East which was prepared by the National Defense Branch.

(Wehrmacht High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense Branch No. 33290/40 Restricted Top Secret, dated 15 September) .

20 September 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense Branch, 20 Septem-ber 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: The

 offensive operations conducted by the Luftwaffe yesterday were again
 impaired by the weather conditions. Summarized evaluation of the at-
 tacks against London up to 19 September: During the period from 6/7
 September to 13/14 September 1927,40 tons and 2425 BSK were dropped
 on London. From 14 to 19 September in the morning, 3259,80 tons and
 4482 BSK were dropped on London. Thus, a total of 5187,20 tons and
 6907 BSK were dropped in 13 night and 12 days. The British anti-air-
 craft artillery fires parachute-net-rockets which apparently prove
 to be ineffective. In the course of 12 days ~~London~~ there were 131
 hours of air raid alert in London. 1 BSK (Brandschuettkasten)* repre-
 sents the equivalent of 36 incendiary bombs of 1 kilogram each.

(.....)

21 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

21 September 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: Weather

 conditions were bad yesterday. Therefore, only single aircraft ~~operated~~
 operate
 in daytime (20 aircraft). Strong units operated at night. No British

Note*: BSK: Brandschuettkasten. English translation:

aircraft intruded during the day. At night, heavy enemy attacks were again directed against the Channel ports. Enemy aircraft intruded intruded into the western areas of the Reich's territory.

(.....)

23 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

(No discussion on the situation was held on 22 September. The Chief of the National Defense Branch and

High Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff/National Defense Branch, 23 September 1940

the Chief of Group III of the National

Defense Branch returned in the evening

of 21 September. The Chief of the National

Defense Branch fell sick).

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: Yesterday,

the Luftwaffe had to struggle against bad weather again. America

delivers helium gas to England for use in barrage balloons. This gas

is inflammable and escapes when the balloon is hit. The balloons can

be patched. Operational intention for today: Attacks against London

and Southampton, feint attacks against Portland. Last night, British

aircraft operated over Berlin. They dropped nothing but flare bombs.

(.....)

The Chief of Group III of the National Defense Branch: He reports on

his trip with the Chief of the National Defense Branch which took them

from Amsterdam to Le Havre. The preparations for the operation "Seeloe
we"

have not yet progressed ~~xxxxx~~ to such a degree that the operation could have been carried out on 21 September.

(.....)

24 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

24 September 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: The
 attacks during the night of 22/23 September were again concentrated against London. On 23 September, nuisance raids only were conducted. Some of them had to be discontinued owing to weather conditions. 250 bomber aircraft operated over London during the night of 23/24 September. 150 enemy missions were flown into the Reich's territory during which 60 bombs were dropped. About 45 aircraft operated over Berlin. They dropped bombs on 17 places.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Branch/Counter Intelligence:

(.....) General von Boetticher reports on the impressions of the American General Strong in England: England is decided to fight the war to the bitter end.

Staff Conference: Regarding the military mission for Rumania the

Reichsmarschall declared that he would by no means approve any subordination of the air force mission ~~xxxxx~~ to the Army mission.

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(Our warfare now seems to consist of nothing else but considera-
to
tion ~~of~~ the Reichsmarschall and the Italians).

25 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

(The Chief of the National

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Defense Branch has recovered

Staff/National Defense Branch,

from his sickness).

25 September 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: Last

night, 7 demolition and about 30 incendiary bombs were dropped on

Berlin-Siemensstadt. Yesterday, nuisance raids only were ~~again~~ con-

ducted ^{against England} because of the weather conditions. Operational intentions for

today: Attacks, covered by fighter forces, ~~will~~ are to be directed against

London. ~~When~~ If weather conditions should be unfavorable, nuisance

raids will be carried out. The British fighter defenses are concen-

trated in the South.

(.....)

Staff Conference: The Reich's Foreign Minister is piqued because

did not know about
he ~~has not been informed of~~ the employment of Italian submarines

at Bordeaux and of Italian air forces at Alost. He is kept infor-

med by the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence. At the beginning of

September, an Italian commission headed by General Fougier comes

to Alost and Karinhall. Italian air forces are placed under the

command of the Second Air Fleet. Their operational commitment can

~~be~~
be expected $\frac{1}{2}$ at the beginning of October. (.....)

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The Chief of the National Defense Branch suggests the dispersion
 of the shipping space in the port areas and the embarkation in ~~the~~
 those ports chosen to effect such dispersion for the operation
 "Seelowe" (direction of 19 September). He reports that the civi-
 lian population in Rotterdam and Antwerp is able to watch the pre-
 parations, that the barges are massed in certain port areas, and
 that the preparations of the Luftwaffe for the operation "Seelowe"
 are far behind schedule. The Navy ~~knows nothing of the preparations~~
 of General Jodl with Admiral Fricke, its preparations on the assump-
 tion of 8 minus 15 time. The Army requests the same time-schedule.
 The Navy is of the opinion that the Army has abandoned the plan to
 land at dawn. On the other hand, the Ninth and Sixteenth Army Com-
 mand Staffs still think that a landing could be taken into consid-
 eration only when carried out 20 minutes after the beginning of day-
 break. The Chief of the National Defense Branch orders the Chief of
 Group I Army of the National Defense Branch to contact the Chief
 of the Wehrmacht Press on the question of the propagandistic measu-
 res to be taken in case the operation "Seelowe" will be called off

(.....)

26 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

26 September 1940

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The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: During

the night, 256 tons of bombs were dropped. During the day, only ~~xxxx~~
one single aircraft operated over London, no attack was carried out.

No major fighter combat has taken place ~~during~~ the past eight days.

The British fighter forces seem to recondition their aircraft. During

the night of 24/25 September, strong British^{air} forces raided the Chan-
nel coast. These raids interrupted the entire water supply ~~for~~ ^{of} Le Hav

re. Last night, 63 enemy missions were flown against the Reich. 4

bombs were dropped on Berlin which was on air alert for 5 hours.

There is a good prospect for an improvement of weather conditions.

The Luftgau (Luftwaffe administrative organization) has been reinfor-

ced by 3 heavy and 8 light antiaircraft artillery battalions. In addi-

tion, 1 night fighter squadron and 1 flight of 4 night fighter air-

craft has been transferred to Berlin.

(.....)

Staff Conference: (.....) The efforts made^{yesterday} by the Chief of ~~the~~

National Defense Branch to obtain some information at the Reich's

Chancellery led to some success. (.....) 3.) Until lately, the

Fuehrer had no faith in the French. He did not change his attitude

until the incidents at Dakar occurred. He now aims at making use of

France to the largest possible extent. He intends to have the former

French Ambassador Francois-Poncet call on him and to have a meeting

with Pétain.

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4.) Operation "Seeleowe": The decision that the warning order be issued on S-Day minus 10 days is not **changed**. The order will not be issued without prior consultation with the branches of the Wehrmacht whether this period of time would be sufficient. The Chief of the National Defense Branch called the attention to the difficulties which will be encountered in taking the propagandistic measures necessary in case the operation "Seeleowe" will be called off. This question is to be further considered by the Wehrmacht Press.

27 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

National Defense Branch, 27 Sep-

tember 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

Since the beginning of the attacks, 4865 tons of bombs and 7336 BSK* have been dropped on London. Owing to bad weather conditions, 3 aircraft only operated over London yesterday. During the night, 160 aircraft operated over London. 28 missions were flown against the Reich. 23 bombs were dropped during the past night. The night before last, Karinhall was attacked with demolition and incendiary bombs. The French air attacks against Gibraltar seem to have caused

Note: * BSK:

considerable damage.

(.....)

28 September 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Opera-

tions Staff/National Defense

Branch, 28 September

The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch: East:

Army Group B is at present in Berlin, from 6 to 10 October it will be at Poznan. ~~The~~ Twelfth Army Command at Krakow, Fourth Army Command at Warsaw, Eighteenth Army Command at Bromberg, later Koenigsberg. Total strength: 35 divisions of which 30 are stationed in East Prussia and in the Government General (25 infantry, 1 cavalry, 3 armored, 1 motorized divisions). In addition, the XXXX Army Corps (2 armored and 1 motorized divisions) near Vienna. 11th Rifle Brigade reorganized into 11th Armored Division, 60th Division is converted into an armored division. First Air Fleet is transferred from Berlin to Koenigsberg.

Luftwaffe

The Chief of Group I of the National Defense Branch: Yesterday's

losses: 42 friendly, 89 enemy aircraft. Operational intention for today: Concentrated commitment of forces penetrating to London, provided weather conditions permit such action. No British aircraft were observed yesterday. During the night, 12 enemy missions were flown into the Reich and 4 bombs were dropped. Now, the British

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fighter aircraft again oppose the German units over the Channel.

(.....)

Staff Conference: (.....)

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: Transport

space for the operation "Seelowe"; On the whole, everything that is needed is available. Dispersion of the shipping space ~~is not possible~~. Orders regarding Rotterdam and Antwerp already issued, dispersion elsewhere not possible.

30 September 1940

(No discussion on the situation on 29 September).

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

30 September 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: Du-
ring the night, 87 missions were flown into the Reich. The enemy aircraft penetrated to the southern outskirts of Berlin and dropped 35 demolition and 70 incendiary bombs. Yesterday, London was attacked through a closed cloud cover. Further attacks were carried out at night. At times, the British fighters showed little aggressiveness.

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: (.....)

The Italian air forces arrived in Belgium jointly with the major part of the bomber force on 28 September. Italian submarines are based at Bordeaux.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Economic and Armament Office: The butter-

 per week ration in England amounts to 57 grams in addition to 170
 grams of fats.

Staff Conference: A report arrived from the 22nd (AirLanding) Division

 on its commitment in the Fortress Holland. The Wehrmacht High Command
 will request the opinion of the Army High Command on this report to
 be able to form ^a ~~independent~~ judgment of its own.

(.....)

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: He reports

 on the dispersion of the transport space for the operation "Seelowe".
 This dispersion is under way. The Chief of the National Defense Branch
 points out that, owing to this dispersion, the warning order can no
 longer be given on S-Day minus 10 days. The Chief of Group I Navy
 of the National Defense Branch further reports that the Commander in
 Chief of the Navy suggested to the Fuehrer on 26 September that the
 decision on the operation "Seelowe" be postponed up to 15 October.
 The operation should, in his opinion, be called off entirely if no
 decisive results would have been brought about by the air operations
 by that date.

1 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

1 October 1940

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The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: 103

enemy missions were flown into the Reich's territory, 9 demolition bombs were dropped on Berlin. London and Liverpool were raided yesterday.

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: The first

4 destroyers arrived at England from the USA.

(.....)

The Chief of Group IV of the National Defense Branch: The Fuehrer

has ordered that summer time will be continued until further notice. (.....)

The Chief of the National Defense Branch: The handing over of Ame-

rican Flying Fortresses (heavy bomber aircraft) seems to be imminent.

(.....)

The Chief of the National Defense Branch: The Commander in Chief

does not of the Army approve the report of the 22nd (Air Landing) Division and requests that this report be handed back. The Chief of the National Defense Branch will give the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff a verbal report on this question.

2 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

2 October 1940

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The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: The

 air operations against England still are impaired by the bad weather. Over South England some breaks in the cloud cover. Map ~~XXXXXX~~
 providing information on air raid alerts: During the period from
 16 to 22 September, Berlin was next to Muenster, on air alert
 for the maximum period of time during which the population had to
 stay in the air raid shelters. 516 demolition bombs were dropped
 on Germany in the course of the past week.

(.....)

The Chief of the National Defense Branch: The Fuehrer wants that

 the present air raid warning system ~~and the regulations~~ be maintained and
 the regulations for the behavior of the population during air alerts be further
 complied with; he established these basic principles himself.

The Liaison Officer of the Economic and Armament Office: The economic

 orders placed by the Russians have been ~~put~~ placed into the priority
 category No. Ia.

(.....)

3 October 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht OperationsStaff
Branch/National Defense Branch,~~XXXXXX~~
3 October 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

 The offensive air action is further impaired by the weather situation.

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Plans for today call for the continuation of the attacks against London and the British air armament industry, above all against the Spitfire-factories near southampton. The Weather situation is bad.

On 1 July 1940, ^{British} 1250^v fighter aircraft were available. 900 new aircraft were added to this strength by 30 September. 2079 aircraft were reported as shot down. However, only 1470 aircraft were shot down not including 13 per cent crash landings so that the total losses might amount to 1650 aircraft. Thus, the British Air Force had more than 500 aircraft of first class at its disposal on 30 September. A total of 32 squadrons exists of which 18 are stationed around London and 4 in South England. About 500 fighter aircraft are daily in operational condition. It cannot be expected that the strength be considerably increased in October. Personnel: 1250 fighter pilots were available on 1 July 1940. This strength was reinforced by 300 pilots by 30 September. The losses during the same period of time amounted to about 1000 pilots. The figure of 500 fighter aircraft and 500 fighter pilots is ^{still} a very high one. Any similar calculation for the British bomber forces is not available.

(.....)

Staff Conference: (.....) Yesterday in the afternoon, the Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff was informed by the Chief of the National Defense Branch on new objections raised by the Luftwaffe to the further assignment of the Squadron 1/106 to the Navy.

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regarding
The Fuehrer yesterday signed a directive ~~on~~ this question in ~~favor~~
favor of the Navy. (.....)

4 October 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht OperationsStaff/National Defense Branch,4 October

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

A number of single aircraft only operated yesterday owing to the weather situation. The aircraft attacking from the clouds attained a good score. The Second Air Fleet did not conduct any attack during the night. The Third Air Fleet committed 38 aircraft.

1 British mission was flown into the Ruhr Area yesterday, 13 British aircraft appeared in the area of Bergen. No enemy aircraft intruded during the night. The operational intentions are still the same. Weather conditions are bad. The barrage balloons in England fly at altitudes from 4000 to 5000 meters with great intervals. They easily break from their moorings. A map of the night fighter operational areas shows that a total strength of 1 group and 1 squadron and, near Berlin, 1 flight of aircraft are committed.

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence: Hen

derson replaced Chamberlain who had resigned. The decisive predominance of the Conservative Party thus no longer exists.

(.....)

Staff Conference: Regarding the question of air alerts the Chief of the National Defense Branch points out that no more than 1 bomb dropped may be calculated per 1 intruding aircraft. - A conference took place ~~last~~ yesterday between General Jodl and General Jeschonnek. The former pointed out how fast and well the US-press is informed on British air attacks against Berlin and how badly the friendly authorities are informed on damages caused in London. In the future, the foreign press in Berlin should no longer be provided with such good information.

5 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

5 October

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: Day-time attacks on London were carried out yesterday by a number of single aircraft. The major portion of this action was directed against alternate targets. Night attacks were directed against London. British aircraft intruded into the coastal area, 4 aircraft penetrated into the Reich's territory. No enemy aircraft intruded during the night. The antiaircraft artillery effort at Rotterdam, Ostend, Calais, Dunkirk, Boulogne, Brest, Cherbourg, and Lorient has been intensified. 45 heavy, 24 light, and 18 searchlight batteries are employed at Berlin. These antiaircraft artillery forces of Berlin

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will not be reinforced.

The major part of the reinforcements consists of newly activated forces. Antiaircraft artillery corps still exist/ in view of the operation "Seelowe". The American press reports the intention to provide the British with four-engine flying fortresses (1000 horse powers, maximum speed of 400 kilometers per hour, cruising speed of 330 kilometers per hour, 3 machine guns with a caliber of 12,7 millimeters, 2 light machine guns, climbing altitude of 6500 to 8900 meters, cruising range of 4300 kilometers with a bomb load 1000 kilograms). British flying boats: Maximum speed of 325 kilometers, cruising range of 6000 kilometers without bomb load, 3600 kilometers with a bomb load of 1800 kilograms. Both types can easily evade attack. The German type "Condor" is approximately equivalent. The latest model of the type "Condor" is to be equipped with 4 rigid and 6 movable machine guns as well as with 4 cannons.- Weather prospects are bad.

(.....)

The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch: (.....)

The Fuehrer went to the Berghof for a few days to be able quietly to consider the new political concept.

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: The
Luftwaffe reports that it had dropped aerial mines ~~only~~ with the new Type-Fab fuze only over the sea and not over London or any other part of the country. The Reichsmarschall is very excited about the

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formulation of the directive regarding aerial mines. He intends to call on the Fuehrer today and considers this formulation as an unjustified reproach raised by the Navy against the Luftwaffe. He insists on the employment of aerial mines over London, since these mines produce the maximum effect. General Speidel is appointed as the Chief of the Luftwaffe Mission in Rumania. General Jeschonnek calls for a further reduction of the information provided to the American diplomats and press on the air war.--

Air alert: This question was broached again during the recent conference with the Reichsmarschall. The Reichsmarschall wants to discuss this subject once more with the Fuehrer. 76 Italian aircraft have arrived in Belgium, 15 are still ~~en route~~ en route, and the Italian fighter aircraft are still beyond the Alps owing to weather conditions.

7 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

(No discussion on the situation

Command/Wehrmacht Operations Staff

took place on 6 October).

National Defense Branch, 7 October

1940

The Chief of Branch I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: During

the past two days, London was reached only by a number of single aircraft because of the unfavorable weather conditions. No British aircraft intruded into the Reich's territory. The weather is not so bad that they could not intrude, but they would encounter difficulties during the landing owing to ground fog. (.....)

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The Liaison Officer of the Economic and Armament ~~Office~~: A conference of the office chiefs with Goering ~~in his capacity~~ on the fuel supply problem took place on 4 October. It was decided to transfer fuel depôts to areas not endangered by air attacks, since shortcomings of the production had occurred owing to enemy air raids.

(.....)

8 October 1940War Diary of the WehrmachtHigh Command/Wehrmacht Opera-tions Staff/National DefenseBranch, 8 October 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: During the night of 6/7 October and on 7 October the offensive operations against London were discontinued owing to bad weather. During the night of 7/8 October, 180 aircraft were committed of which 140 operated against London. On 7 October, the British committed air forces over the coastal area in operations ~~into the Reich's territory~~. During the night, 110 missions were flown into the Reich's territory of which 54 were ~~conducted~~ conducted to Berlin. The heaviest attack on Berlin ever conducted took place. During this attack, 50 demolition and 48 incendiary bombs were dropped and 25 persons were killed, 50 persons were injured. - Changeable weather situation. The bomb loads dropped on England and Germany during September amounted to: 387 tons dropped by the British on the Reich's territory, 7415 tons dropped by the Germans on Englan

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5818 tons were dropped on London. This amount equals almost that
dropped on Warsaw. In addition 332676 incendiary bombs were dropped

(.....)

9 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

9 October 1940

The Chief of the National Defense Branch went to Brussels to attend
conferences.

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: Owing
to weather conditions, only nuisance raids and attacks against alter-
nate targets were carried out. A number of single British aircraft
intruded. At night operations against Berlin were started. These
operations, however, were apparently discontinued in England owing
to bad weather conditions. Bombs were dropped on Emden, Bremen, and
Hamburg. Weather conditions deteriorate in France, South England, and
Germany. Map showing air alerts: During the past week, the popula-
tion of Muenster had to stay in the air raid shelters ~~for~~ 12 hours
and 45 minutes, while the population of Berlin had to stay in the
shelters 8 hours and 30 minutes.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence: In

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a speech, Churchill mentioned that 8500 persons were killed and 13000 persons were wounded in London.- (.....)

10 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

10 October 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

Weather conditions were bad yesterday; for this reason, single aircraft only attacked London by day and by night. During the night British attacks were directed against the Rhineland and the Ruhr Area. German fighter aircraft are to be used as bombers, since they are less heavy and more maneuverable than bomber aircraft.

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: Disposition

of the heavy British naval forces: 5 battleships in the home area, the "Revenge" in the North Atlantic, 5 units at Alexandria, the "~~Renown~~ Renown" at Gibraltar, 2 units damaged at Dakar. Aircraft carriers: 1 at Aden, 2 at Alexandria, 2 at Freetown.

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence: The

Russians have sent air and military attachés to London. (.....)

11 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense

Branch, 11 October 1940

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The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

110 missions were flown into the Reich's territory. 88 demolition bombs were dropped on 34 places. Yesterday, 101 bomber aircraft were committed in daytime operations against England and 298 at night. Since the beginning of the intensified air war 8108,64 tons of explosives were dropped on England. In addition, more than 10000 BSK were dropped on that country.

(.....)

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: 10 Ger-

man submarines are, on the average, engaged in combat action. The Italians complain about the slight chances for their submarines employed at Bordeaux. The Chief of Staff of the Wehrmacht Commander Norway, Colonel Buschenhagen, called on General Jodl the day before yesterday. As a result, the Fuehrer ordered that the 18 steamships of the Norwegian route which had been made available for employment in the operation "Seelowe" be reassigned to the Navy.

The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch: He sugges^s

the maintainance of the pressure on England during the winter.

(.....)

12 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht

High Command/Wehrmacht Opera

tions Staff/National Defense

Branch, 12 October 1940

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The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: During

the day, only fighter-bomber aircraft were committed against London.

At night, also bomber aircraft were employed. British aircraft operated

over the North Sea coast at night. The Operational intentions

remain the same. Changeable weather situation. The Luftwaffe strength

of operational aircraft ready for employment on 1 October amounted

to 898 bomber aircraft, (10 ~~October~~ ^{August}: 1015 aircraft, established strength

1600 aircraft), 375 dive-bomber aircraft, (10 ~~October~~ ^{August}: 346 aircraft),

730 fighter aircraft, (10 ~~October~~ ^{August}: 933, established strength: 1171),

174 twin-engine fighter aircraft, (10 August: 375, established strength

448 aircraft). The emphasis of the production is placed on the following

types: Me-109 and Me-110 fighter aircraft, Ju-88 bomber aircraft

Ju-87 dive-bomber aircraft. The Luftwaffe Headquarters is established

in a train stationed at Beauvais.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence: According

to diplomatic reports from London the British Air Force intends

to concentrate its attacks against nearby objectives in North and

West Germany.- (.....)

The Chief of the National Defense Branch: (.....) An outline for

a directive for the discontinuation of the operation "Seeleowe" is to

be prepared.

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14 October 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

(No discussion on the
situation took place on
13 October)

Command/Wehrmacht OperationsStaff/National Defense Branch/14 October 1940The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

Single fighter-bomber aircraft attacked London during the day and
about 200 bomber aircraft raided the city at night with good visual
observation of the ground. During the past night, enemy aircraft penetra-
ted into the Reich but were re-called prematurely. The operational
intentions remain the same; both air fleets commit extremely strong bomber
forces in night operations against London.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence:

(.....) American correspondents present a drastic picture of
the increasing destruction in London yet stress the determination
of the people.

Staff Conference: (.....) Operation "Seelowe" : The Chief
of the National Defense Branch suggests a half Year's rest.

23 October 1940 (As a result of
an information trip of the offi-
cer in charge of the war diary
to Belgium and France from 15 to

War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht Operations StaffNational Defense Branch, 23 Oc-tober 1940

20 October no entries for this
period are available).

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

West coast of England has been mined by the 30th Bomber Wing of the 9th Air Division operating from West France. Yesterday, London was attacked by a number of single aircraft. Enemy aircraft intruded into the coastal area. No enemy operations^{were conducted} into the Reich's territory, apparently owing to fog in England.

(.....)

The Chief of Group I M of the National Defense Branch: Circles of the

Congress in Washington are said to have declared that the United States will not place any super-bomber aircraft at the disposal of England.

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Economic and Armament Office: According to

a report of a V-man from London, the effects of the German attacks on London and the British industry were not very strong during September. During October, however, the effects are said to have been stronger. The British people is said to be fatalistic. The people, however, ~~is~~ does not appear demoralized.

Staff Conference: The Chief of the National Defense Branch: General

Jodl thinks it possible that the Fuehrer told the Duce at the Brenner that he agreed to the attack against Greece without informing his military advisers correspondingly.- Order for the dispersion of the forces intended for the operation "Seelowe": Long periods of time

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will, in the future, be required to get the operation going. The three branches of the Wehrmacht are to report on this point. The measures to deceive the enemy are to be continued, but the main effort of ~~this~~ this deception should be directed to Norway. - (.....)

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch: The

 morale of the flying units is excellent. These units are strained but not overstrained. The tendency to attack with single aircraft becomes more and more predominant. General Jeschonnek hopes to achieve a lot during the winter. The pressure imposed on London at nights is to be continued provided weather conditions permit such action. The replacement situation in respect to personnel and material is good. The opinion that daytime bomber attacks can be carried out only under certain conditions is not ~~disputed~~ undisputed. In general, only fighter-bomber aircraft equipped with 250-kg bombs are to be committed in daytime operations against London or alternate targets. These aircraft are to fly at extremely high altitudes. According to the General Jeschonnek, the damages caused in London are very considerable. The Reichsmarschall has ordered ~~that~~ to raid the British night airfields. All the Italian ~~have~~ carry out experimental flights. The fighter ~~have~~ have arrived now. They ~~adjust themselves to the conditions existing~~ force is equipped with obsolete materiel. ~~have~~ About 60 Italian bomber aircraft have arrived.-

(.....) The Fifth Air Fleet has been reinforced by a bomber group.

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24 October 1940War Diary of the WehrmachtHigh Command/Wehrmacht Opera-tions Staff/National DefenseBranch, 24 October 1940

(.....)

(.....) Report of General von Boetticher on the situation in England up to 21 October: The situation has ~~apparently~~ ^{evidently} become more precarious -

✓ The objective to make life difficult and to disturb the production has been achieved. Production has decreased. The traffic situation is difficult. There is a danger that epidemics might break out. Reports from the embassies in Lisbon and Sofia agree. An impressive change has taken place in the tone of the British press.

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: The Italian submarines have also been employed in the northern sector. At the present time, 3 German and 4 Italian submarines are engaged in combat operations.

(.....)

Staff Conference: (.....)

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: The armored battleship "Admiral Scheer" commanded by Captain Krancke put out to the Atlantic yesterday.

(.....)

25 October 1940War Diary of the Wehrmacht HighCommand/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch, 25 Oc-

tober 1940

(.....)

The Liaison Officer of the Foreign Group/Counter Intelligence:

official

(.....) A very interesting British report on the disruption of the German preparations for the invasion is available.

(.....)

Conference with the Chief of the Groups I Army, I Navy, I Luftwaffe,

and IV of the National Defense Branch:

The Chief of Group I Navy of the National Defense Branch: The follo-

wing ships will be ready for action: The "Bismarck" on 1 April, the

"Tirpitz" in the summer of 1941, the "Scharnhorst" and the "Gneise-

nan" in November 1940, likewise the "Hipper"; the "Luetzow" on 1

April 1941. The auxiliary cruiser 21 expected from Lorient yesterday

did not arrive. (.....)

26 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

26 October 1940

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

(.....) On 25 October, 13 Italian bomber aircraft were, for

the first time, committed in an operation against Harwich. (.....)

(.....)

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29 October 1940

War Diary of the Wehrmacht High

Command/Wehrmacht Operations

Staff/National Defense Branch,

29 October 1940

The Chief of Group I Army of the National Defense Branch: Reorgani-
zation of the Army: In the West: Generalfeldmarschall von Rundstedt
 appointed as Commander in Chief West and Commander in Chief of Army
 Group A. The Army Groups A (Ninth and Sixteenth Armies) and B (First
 Seventh, and Sixth Armies). In the East: Army Group B (Eighteenth,
 Fourth, and Twelfth Armies). In the zone of the interior: Army Group
 C (Second and Eleventh Armies). The Headquarters of the Army High
 Command will arrive at Zossen on 30 October.

The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National Defense Branch:

11 night airfields in England were attacked in the evening of 27
 October. Last night, 80 enemy missions were flown into the Reich's
 territory and 38 bombs were dropped. The Fifth Air Fleet keeps bomb-
 er units ready for supporting the operation "North" (Putting out
 to sea of the armored battleship "Admiral Scheer"). During September:
 The population of Muenster was 65, that of Berlin 40 hours in the
 air raid shelters. A total of 741 attacks were conducted against
 Great Britain. 268 of them were directed against London. 8300 tons
 of bombs not including incendiary bombs were dropped. 6000 of them
 were dropped on London.

Staff Conference: The Chief of Group I Luftwaffe of the National

Defense Branch: In a conference with Pétain, the Fuehrer disclosed

information regarding the strength of the German Army and stated that in 1941 25 submarines will be produced per month. Pétain assured him that no American aircraft had sofar arrived in England. The Fuehrer was highly impressed by Pétain. The latter ~~showed a great respect~~ had dignity and splendid military bearing. Laval seemed to be a clever boy. The Fuehrer was not considerably impressed by Franco. (.....

The studies on the Atlantic Islands ~~was to be~~ prepared under the dates of 22 September and 2 October are to be reconsidered and supplemented. The operational possibilities should be examined in detail on the basis of the following considerations: 1.) Military-political, military-geographical, and purely military ~~infrastructure~~ aspects of these islands to what extent can the supply be drawn from resources of the country? 2.) Examination of the operational possibilities at sea and in the air with special regard to the ground forces to be embarked.

Spain will be willing to provide unofficial support, Portugal will stay neutral since she is exposed to British pressure. France will tolerate German measures within the territory under her jurisdiction and provide indirect support by placing transport ships, air bases and supply depots at our disposal. 3.) Suggestions for the preparation: Equipment of transport ships, providing coast batteries equipment of transport submarines, check-up and equipment of transport aircraft, demands to France.