

R E S T R I C T E D

AIR HISTORICAL BRANCH

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Part I

30 June - 13 July, 1940

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R E S T R I C T E D

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.299 (1 July 1940)

Operations on 30 June and during the night of 30 June/1 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Norway

On 30 June a Lockheed approached Bergen at about 1130 hours, but turned back immediately AA opened fire.

Luftgau Holland

A three-engined enemy aircraft was shot down over Waalhaven airfield. The machine was burned out.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

At 1235 hours 8 Blenheims escorted by 6 - 8 fighters attacked Merville airfield. 7 He 111's were slightly damaged by bomb fragments. 6 Blenheims and 3 enemy fighters (Spitfires and Hurricanes) were shot down by German fighters. In addition, German fighters shot down a Hurricane at St. Omer. AA brought down a Spitfire at Le Treport and 7 other enemy aircraft of unknown types.

The Reich

Between 0050 and 0200 hours two enemy incursions were made over Denmark as far as the Kattegat and Little Belt (mine-laying aircraft?).

Between 2350 and 0300 hours 20 enemy incursions were made as far as the line Eutin - Wandsbeck - Soltau - Lehrte, the aircraft operating mainly in the Hamburg - Wesermuende area. Bombs were dropped at several places. A few aircraft were damaged at the Weser Aircraft Company (Weser Flug A.G.), but no damage of any importance resulted elsewhere.

AA defence was put up at Pellworm, Cuxhaven, Wesermuende, Wilhelmshaven, Carolinensiel, Hannover and in northern Holland without noticeable effect.

Between midnight and 0230 hours about 80 enemy incursions were made as far as the line Buende - Lippstadt - Hanau - Heidelberg - Offenburg. There was no noticeable concentration of effort. Only unimportant damage was caused by the bombs dropped. AA defence was put up at Muenster, Muenchen-Gladbach, Siegburg and Muenstereifel without noticeable effect.

Two aircraft made an incursion over the Schnee-Eifel - Karlsruhe area during the night. Reports on damage are not available. At 0106 hours enemy aircraft - probably approaching from Switzerland - flew from Lake Constance in the direction of Hagenau. Flares were dropped over Lake Constance. AA fire at Schwenningen had no noticeable effect.

The fact that the enemy had practically no success in spite of the large number of bombs dropped is presumably due to the predicted AA fire making aimed bombing impossible.

Altogether 31 British aircraft (of 8 squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Results of reconnaissance carried out on the morning of 30 June:

Airfields:

Dorchester: 50 - 60 aircraft.

/Filton

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Filton: 30 single-engined aircraft (approx.)

Warmwell: 23 single-engined aircraft,
24 multiple engined aircraft.

Bristol: 1 single-engined aircraft (Hurricane),
7 twin-engined aircraft,
6 four-engined aircraft (A.W. Ensign),
4 four-engined aircraft (D.H. Albatross).

Calshot Castle:
(seaplane base) 2 four-engined aircraft (Sunderlands),
5 twin-engined aircraft,
6 twin-engined aircraft (LondonII),
6 single-engined aircraft.

Calshot Castle:
(landplane base) No aircraft identified.

Ryde: No aircraft identified. Obstacles on runway.

Bembridge: No aircraft identified.

Cowes:
(seaplane base) 1 single-engined seaplane moored to buoy.

Hythe:
(seaplane base) No aircraft identified.

Hamble:
(seaplane base) No aircraft identified.

AA Positions:

Heavy AA positions on the perimeter of Warmwell airfield.

Three AA positions 6.5 km north-north-west of Bristol (4 light, 4 medium and 4 heavy AA guns).

Heavy AA positions about 1.3 km south-west of the camp 8.5 km north-north-west of Bristol.

Three AA positions about 7.5 km south-south-west of Southampton (4 light, 4 medium and 4 heavy AA guns).

Barrage Balloons:

45 barrage balloons 5 - 8 km north-west to north of Bristol.

About 10 balloons at Avonmouth.

1 balloon at Calshot Castle seaplane base.

15 balloons over Southampton water.

6 barges (?) with balloons south of Southampton.

A large number of closely grouped balloons along the coast from Southampton to Portsmouth. Altitude about 4,000 metres.

Railway Stations:

Templecombe: about 1,000 trucks, 5 locomotives with steam up
and a train moving out in a westerly direction
(9 km east-north-east of Sherbourne).

/Bristol

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Bristol: about 4,000 trucks, 5 locomotives with steam up.

Winterbourne: (about 6 km north of Bristol): about 1,200 trucks, 3 locomotives with steam up, a train (40 trucks) moving out in an easterly direction.

Camps:

Piddlehinton: (7 km NNE of Dorchester): size about 1,800 x 430 metres. Huts and tents.

0.8 km east of West Lulworth (14 km east of Weymouth). Size about 880 x 720 metres. Huts and tents.

2 km north-east of Warminster: size about 1,000 x 700 metres. Huts and tents.

1.5 km east of Heytesbury (43 km SE of Bristol): size about 400 x 250 metres. Huts and tents.

8.5 km NNW of Bristol: size 560 x 480 metres. Huts.

At Heytesbury (about 13 km east of Frome): 2 camps close together each of about 800 x 380 metres in area. Huts and tents.

Filton Aero-Engine Works: no damage visible.

Fuel Storage Installations:

6 km NNW of Bristol, well camouflaged, 8 tanks.

4.3 km NE of Avonmouth, 11 tanks, undamaged.

On the north-western edge of Frome (about 40 km SE of Bristol), well camouflaged, 8 tanks.

Fawley Refinery (9 km south of Southampton). About 50 tanks in an area of about 800 x 700 metres. Undamaged.

Shipping:

Spithead: (between Ryde and Alverstoke)
1 battleship (apparently of "Queen Elizabeth" class),
1 light cruiser (D class),
4 destroyers,
1 auxiliary cruiser (120 metres long),
4 escort vessels,
1 transport (12,000 tons).

Avonmouth: 1 tanker (9,000 tons),
15 freighters (together about 100,000 tons),
a number of small coastal vessels.

Portishead: 3 freighters (together about 115,000 tons),
5 coastal vessels (together about 1,500 tons),

Calshot Castle: (2.4 km NW of Southampton Water)
1 tanker (about 5,000 tons) moored to the oil bridge.

Cowes: (Roadstead)
4 tankers (together 31,000 tons),
2 freighters (together 5,000 tons),
1 escort vessel,
1 destroyer,

/Cowes cont'd.

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Cowes: Cont'd 1 merchant ship (apparently being converted into an auxiliary cruiser - 120 metres long),
5 ships on the slipway,
a number of coastal vessels.

between Hythe and Hamble (Southampton Water):

2 light cruisers,
2 destroyers,
1 freighter (about 5,000 tons).

Weymouth: 40 ships (in the harbour and on the roadstead).

Off Portsmouth: 18 warships approx. (cruisers or destroyers),
40 merchant ships.

Net Barrage: running from Sea View 1.5 km in NNE direction.
Another from lighthouse 2.5 km NNE of Sea View
in direction of lighthouse (southern boom-gap
of about 120 metres between the two lighthouses,
guarded by two ships).

Morning reconnaissance over the Shetland Islands observed three airfields. No aircraft activity was identified.

Afternoon reconnaissance reported 30 - 35 ships east of Sunderland.

During the night of 30 June/1 July bomber formations were sent out to make nuisance attacks on harbour installations, industrial plants and airfields in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The following results were achieved:

Harbour installations at Portland: Hits were scored on harbour installations and apparently in the shipyard. 12 250 kg bombs were dropped. Slight heavy AA over the target.

Aberdeen was attacked by one aircraft which dropped 6 250 kg and 144 incendiary bombs. Bombs were observed to fall at the entrance of the harbour basin, and a fire was seen on the southern edge of the harbour.

Dundee was attacked by one aircraft which dropped 6 250 kg and 144 incendiary bombs. Five of the 250 kg bombs were observed to fall east of the quay bridge. Searchlight activity made closer observation impossible. Four fighters with searchlights pursued the aircraft as it was leaving the target area. A small searchlight and a red signalling lamp flashing "B" were observed on the coast about 3 km south-east of Aberdeen. The second aircraft observed a large fire north-west of Aberdeen.

The following alternative targets were also attacked, but the effect was not observed:

Harbour installations at Cardiff: 2 250 kg and 16 50 kg bombs dropped.

Harbour installations at Gloucester: 2 250 kg and 10 x 50 kg bombs dropped.

Harbour installations at Weymouth: 2 250 kg and 14 50 kg bombs dropped.

A large number of searchlights and AA guns was observed at Bristol, Gloucester, Weymouth and Portland.

Harbour installations at Newport: 4 250 kg bombs fell in the target area. 30 - 40 searchlights were observed east of Newport and 10 - 15 searchlights at Bristol and Bath. There was no AA defence.

At

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At Newcastle 15 50 kg bombs and 4 incendiary canisters were dropped on an industrial plant (blast furnace). After the attack the fire could be seen 60 km away.

At Nottingham 15 50 kg and 4 incendiary canisters were dropped on an illuminated building (presumably an industrial plant). The effect of the attack could not be observed. 15 50 kg bombs and 4 incendiary canisters were dropped on an illuminated airfield about 7 km west of Hull. The bombs fell on the south-western perimeter of the airfield. A target 20 km south of Hull was attacked (not named). Fire observed by the following aircraft to be still burning 15 minutes after the attack.

South-east of Grimsby 15 50 kg bombs and 4 incendiary canisters were dropped on an illuminated airfield (the lights were extinguished immediately before the attack). The bombs are presumed to have fallen in the target area.

Generally strong searchlight and fighter activity was observed. Some of the fighters appeared as far as 150 km out to sea. Over land fighters co-operated with the searchlights.

The searchlights were extinguished when recognition signals were sent up.

Spitfires were observed over Moray Firth 50 km east of Aberdeen. The fighters were on patrol in formations of three and five. Towards mid-day the fighter screen was reinforced.

Two 250 kg bombs were dropped on harbour installations at Belfast, falling in the vicinity of the harbour. The effect was not observed.

Ten warships were observed east of Portland. Towns in Ireland were not blacked out. There was no defence over Belfast.

NORTH SEA and BALTIC APPROACHES

One enemy submarine was attacked and probably sunk about 40 km west-south-west of Egersund and another about 260 km west of Stavanger.

Reconnaissance over the central North Sea, evening reconnaissance over the Skagerrak, escort operations and submarine searches were uneventful.

During the night of 30 June/1 July mine-laying operations were carried out according to plan off Middlesborough, the Humber estuary and the Downs. There was no AA defence, but one barrage balloon was observed off the Humber estuary at 300 metres and four others off Middlesborough at 800 metres. Five night fighters with searchlights came out of the clouds at 2,500 metres. (9 Fl.Div.)

GROUND SITUATION

Nothing of particular importance occurred in France.

Total Aircraft Losses on 30 June, 1940

German: 1 Me 109
 1 He 115 (forced landing 90 km east of Middlesborough.
 Rescue operations in progress.)
 2 aircraft

/Enemy:

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Enemy:

In Air Combat: 2 Hurricanes
 2 Spitfires
 6 Blenheims at Merville

By AA: 1 Hampden at Hamburg (28/29 June)
 1 Spitfire at Le Treport
 7 aircraft, types unknown

20 aircraft

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Mediterranean

Reconnaissance over Malta on 30 June confirmed the previous days' findings and also established the following details:

Calcare Creek: 1 warship and 1 large merchant ship.

Great Harbour: 1 large merchant ship and 2 destroyers arriving.

Marsa Scirocco: 1 large merchant ship.
 Well placed AA fire.

Libya

On 28 June armed reconnaissance was carried out over Giarabub and Ridotta Maddalena (both on Italian territory near the frontier) and over Bir el Gobi (50 km south of Tobruk).

East Africa

Reconnaissance was carried out over the Upper Sudan on 28 June. Nothing of importance was observed.

Italian Operations

Mediterranean

The attack on Malta reported on 30 June was carried out by 8 S.79's of II Squadra Aerea. Hits were scored on the naval base and on Halfar and Micabba airfields.

Two formations of II Squadra Aerea took off to attack two mine-layers west of Linosa Island (between Malta and Sfax).

Libya

On 28 June effective air attacks were made on enemy motorised units on the Egyptian frontier in the El Esh - Soegga area. Enemy tanks were shot up in the Amseat area (on Egyptian frontier, near the coast). One tank was set on fire. Marsa Matruh was bombed.

East Africa

No operations on 28 June. Fighters took off on interception sorties in the area Massaua - Gura - Asmara (Eritrea), but no enemy aircraft were encountered.

/ Enemy

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Enemy Operations

Libya

Tobruk airfield was attacked on 28 June. Nine men were killed and a Fiat Cr 42 burnt out.

East Africa

On 28 June enemy aircraft with fighter escort bombed and shot up Assab airfield (Eritrea). Effect not known.

4 enemy aircraft made an ineffective attack on the fuel dump at Massaua.

GROUND SITUATION

Libya

On 27 June enemy armoured forces in the Giara - Garet-Giaballa area 40 km north of Giarabub were effectively bombarded by artillery.

East Africa

On 27 June British armoured forces on the Sudan frontier were driven back when they attempted to advance into Italian territory.

SITUATION AT SEA

On the evening of 29 June 3 Italian destroyers en route from southern Italy to Cyrenaica encountered British naval forces. One Italian destroyer is missing.

An Italian transport caught fire en route to Albania. 700 men were taken aboard a torpedo boat, 300 others are missing. No further details known.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.300 (2 July 1940)

Operations on 1 July and during the night of 1/2 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Norway

A Lockheed Hudson flying at 4,500 metres approached Bergen at about 1850 hours, dropped 6 bombs on open land and made off immediately AA guns opened fire.

A Lockheed Hudson which attacked the fuel storage installation at Stavanger at about 2115 hours made off when AA guns opened fire. 6 bombs - apparently unaimed - were dropped. No enemy aircraft were encountered by twin-engined fighters which were operational.

Luftgau Holland

25 incursions were made between 2330 and 0115 hours, 19 of them passing into the Reich. The other aircraft flew as far as the line Groningen - Utrecht - Rotterdam, most of them operating between Texel and

/Rotterdam

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Rotterdam. Bombs were dropped at 12 places, mainly in Rotterdam and Leiden. No appreciable damage was caused. AA defence was put up south-west of Zwolle, at Blokzijl, south-west of Alkmaar and at IJmuiden. One enemy aircraft was brought down south-west of Amsterdam and another north of Rotterdam.

Between midnight and 0300 hours 17 enemy aircraft incursions were made from Heligoland Bay and northern Holland, reaching the line Fuenen - Kiel Bay - Wismar - Soltau. Bombs were dropped at six places, mainly in Kiel and Bremen. At Kiel casualties amounted to 10 - 12 killed and there was some material damage. Slight damage was reported in the rest of the area.

A few aircraft circled over Kiel Bay and the Elbe estuary (mine-laying aircraft?).

At Wismar and Lubeck enemy aircraft turned back without dropping bombs owing to intense AA fire. At Kiel two enemy aircraft were brought down for certain and another was probably destroyed.

Between 0015 and 0250 hours 19 enemy incursions were made as far as the line Herford - Lippstadt - Siegen - Bonn, the aircraft operating mainly over Muenster and the Ruhr. Several people were killed and injured and buildings were damaged at Muenster, Oberhausen and Wesel.

Searchlights were greatly impeded by ground fog and a layer of mist at 1,000 metres. At many places predicted AA fire forced enemy aircraft to deviate from their course or turn back, so that only unaimed bombing was possible. Owing to the weather, night fighters did not take off.

Altogether 32 British aircraft (of 9 Squadrons) were definitely identified.

G R E A T B R I T A I N

A burning merchant ship was observed 35 km west of Brest at 1833 hours on 1 July.

On 30 June and 1 July the British Channel Islands of Guernsey, Jersey and Alderney were occupied by airborne forces.

Bomber formations carried out the following attacks:

Day

A hit was scored on the stern of a coastal patrol boat off Torquay. The ship was observed to catch fire and began to list.

An ineffective attack was made on a convoy of 10 ships (15,000 tons) on a north-easterly course 120 km south-west of the Isle of Wight. 4 SC 250 bombs were dropped.

At Wick a hit was scored on the mole and another on a harbour building with SC 250 bombs.

Further attacks were made on harbour installations at Cardiff and Newport. 96 SD 50 bombs were dropped.

N O R T H S E A A N D B A L T I C A P P R O A C H E S

A submarine which did not reply to a recognition signal was observed in the central North Sea about 250 km west of Skagen. Two fighters attacked with cannon and machine gun fire. The submarine dived, leaving behind air bubbles and a large patch of oil.

/Reconnaissance

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Reconnaissance over the Skagerrak and escort operations were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 1 July, 1940

German: 1 He 59
 1 He 111
 2 aircraft

Enemy:

By AA: 2 aircraft (type unknown, in Luftgau Holland)
 1 Whitley (by naval AA at Kiel)
 1 Hampden (by naval AA at Kiel)
 4 aircraft

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Mediterranean

On 1 July air activity was limited to reconnaissance and escort operations.

Libya

Nothing of importance was observed on 29 June by reconnaissance along the frontier from Ridotta Maddalena - Sidi Omar - Bardia (on coast, 20 km north-west of Sollum).

On 30 June reconnaissance aircraft were active over the Sidi Arzeis, Bardia and Amseat frontier area. One German aircraft was shot down by enemy fighters.

Italian East Africa

Reconnaissance over Mote Sauer (Somaliland) on 29 June was uneventful.

German Operations

Aegean

On 30 June 20 aircraft attacked three convoys south-west of Crete. A cruiser, a destroyer and 2 small freighters were hit.

Libya

On 29 June aircraft bombed and shot up enemy armoured forces at Bir el Gobi (40 km south of Tobruk), vehicles on the caravan track between Sollum and Sidi Omar (frontier, 40 km south-west of Sollum), at Amseat (10 km west of Sollum) and at Ridotta Capuzzo (10 tanks were hit directly south of Amseat).

On 30 June 2 enemy tanks at Ridotta Capuzzo were set on fire by machine gun fire and others were damaged.

/East

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East Africa

On 29 June attacks were made on Port Sudan airfield and on the airfield and railway station at El Teb (both on the Red Sea). One aircraft is missing. In addition, an effective attack was made on the harbour and airfield at Aden. Small-calibre bombs were used to disperse camel caravans on the frontier of the Upper Sudan.

Enemy Activity

Mediterranean

After an unsuccessful attack on 2 torpedo boats off Augusta (eastern coast of Sicily) by 3 enemy aircraft at 2100 hours on 30 June an attack was made on the fuel dump at Augusta. No damage of any importance resulted.

Libya

On 29 June 9 aircraft attacked Tobruk airfield. There was no damage. 7 enemy aircraft were shot down. Attacks by enemy fighters on Italian aircraft after the latter had returned to their bases were ineffective.

East Africa

On 29 June 3 enemy aircraft bombed military installations at Harrar.

GROUND SITUATION

Libya

On 28 June Marsa Ramla (north-western corner of Egypt) was occupied after skirmishes between patrols.

Italian East Africa

On 28 June Italian forces in Somaliland occupied the watering place of Tumuk (170 km south of Djibuti).

SITUATION AT SEA

On 1 July an Italian submarine shot down an attacking British aircraft. Place not known.

MISCELLANEOUS

GREAT BRITAIN

According to evaluation of photographic reconnaissance carried out at 0815 hours on 30 June, the following warships were at Spithead (off Portsmouth):

- 1 French battleship; "Courbet" or "Paris",
- 1 French destroyer of the "Ochacal" class,
- 3 French torpedo boats of the "Pomone" class.

Evaluation of photographic reconnaissance has confirmed the belief that the ship reported at Scapa Flow as the British aircraft-carrier "Hermes" is actually a merchant ship converted into a dummy aircraft-carrier. Although the dummy is very similar to the aircraft-carrier it is only 148 metres in length, whereas the "Hermes" measures 183 metres.

/Evaluation

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Evaluation of Photographic Reconnaissance
carried out on 1 July, 1940

Portland Harbour

3 coastal batteries, 6 AA positions, fuel storage installation with 26 tanks (undamaged).

Portland Harbour airfield - no aircraft identified.

Warmwell Airfield

28 multiple-engined aircraft and 14 single-engined aircraft - types not identified.

Chickerell Airfield

No aircraft observed; obstacles in taxiing area.

Weymouth

Camp 440 x 530 metres in area about $2\frac{1}{2}$ km south-south-west of the town. Heavy AA position (4 guns), huts and tents on the south-eastern perimeter of the camp.

Noreton Area

Camp with rail link 11 km east of Dorchester.
Training area about 2.7 x 2 km.

Weymouth

Camp 410 x 630 metres in area with huts and tents about 3 km west of the town.

Swansea

Fuel storage installation with about 60 tanks (oil refinery) about 5 km east of the town.

Swansea Bay

6 freighters totalling about 22,000 tons and a small coastal vessel $2\frac{1}{2}$ km south-east of Mumbles Head.

Wreck (stern of a freighter) $1\frac{1}{2}$ km north of Mumbles Head.

Swansea Coal Harbour

9 tank ships totalling 65,800 tons,
47 freighters totalling 155,000 tons,
1 freighter in dry dock,
1 submarine 75 metres in length,
a large number of small coastal and harbour vessels.

No bomb hits or damage to warehouses, fuel storage installations, locks or in the port area could be identified.

/Portland

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Portland Harbour

4 armed merchant ships (auxiliary cruisers),
3 gunboats (?),
10 freighters totalling 36,000 tons,
2 patrol ships,
1 submarine 56 metres in length
3 paddle-steamers,
2 supply ships,
a large number of small harbour and coastal vessels,
net barrages at the harbour entrances.
5 freighters under way 30 km south of Portland.
1 patrol ship moving on 120° course 5 km south of
Portland (visual reconnaissance).

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.301 (3 July, 1940)

Operations on 2 July and during the night of 2/3 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Holland

At 1140 hours an incursion was made at Den Helder by 3 Blenheims. One of the aircraft was shot down south-east of Den Helder in an air battle. No bombs were dropped.

Between 2345 and 0400 hours 30 - 35 incursions were made by enemy aircraft over Holland, most of them passing on into the Reich. Bombs were dropped at eight places in Holland, mainly on the west coast. Damage was slight and there were no casualties. One enemy aircraft was shot down by fighters.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Bombs were dropped at Bruges at 0347 hours. No damage or casualties reported.

Between 1900 and 2200 hours a number of incursions were made over France up to 40 km south-west of Reims. Bombs were dropped at St. Valery and Pecamp, but no damage was caused. Flares were dropped over several airfields.

The Reich

At 1530 hours an enemy aircraft attacked Aalborg-West airfield. Five bombs were dropped on the runway, but no damage of any importance resulted.

Between 2340 and 0240 hours 14 incursions were made from Heligoland Bay and northern Holland as far as the line Langeland - Fehmarn - Wismar - Hamburg, with the main effort over Hamburg. Several aircraft circled over Kiel Bay, south-west of Fehmarn, over Luebeck Bay and Wesermuende (mine-laying aircraft?). Bombs were dropped at seven places, mainly in the Hamburg-Harburg area. There was slight damage but no casualties.

Between 0030 and 0330 hours 19 incursions were made from the Holland/Belgium area as far as the line Uelzen - Braunschweig - Paderborn - Siegen. Bombs were dropped at six places causing slight damage but no casualties.

/Intense

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Intense AA fire prevented aimed bombing everywhere.

Altogether 34 aircraft (of 9 Squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

At 1230 hours 5 ships on an easterly course were observed 20 - 30 km south of the Isle of Wight.

At 1235 hours 2 large ships on a westerly course were observed 20 km south of the Isle of Wight. These ships had noticeable red markings on their decks.

Between 1800 and 1900 hours a heavy cruiser with one freighter of about 2,000 tons and another of about 500 tons on a westerly course were observed in the central Channel south of Portland. No other movements were observed.

A convoy comprising 10 merchant ships on a southerly course was observed off the Tyne estuary.

New airfields are under construction 10 - 15 km east of Newcastle.

According to reliable reports, the aircraft-carrier "Argus" is located in the North Atlantic, probably in the vicinity of Iceland.

On the afternoon of 2 July a convoy comprising 22 merchant ships and 2 troop transports put out from Gibraltar on a westerly course.

The following were attacked:

Day

Convoy of 14 ships south of Portland: a stick of bombs fell near an 8,000 ton transport.

Convoy south of Portland:

- 1 freighter of 10 - 12,000 tons sunk by 2 250 kg bombs,
- 1 freighter of 8,000 tons damaged by 4 250 kg bombs on stern,
- 1 freighter of 6,000 tons hit on bows by 2 250 kg bombs. Ship sinking.

Newcastle: 8 250 kg bombs were dropped on the Vickers-Armstrong plant. All the bombs fell in the target area. Violent explosions and large fires were observed. Enemy fighters forced German aircraft to withdraw into the clouds. There was strong AA defence over the city centre and eastern part of Newcastle and slight defence over the western part of the city. Barrage balloons at 1,300 - 1,500 metres. Nuisance attacks over northern Scotland:

At 115 hours an aircraft dropped 2 250 kg bombs over Wick. Effect not observed.

One aircraft turned back owing to icing. Another aircraft dropped 2 250 kg bombs on an unknown airfield at 2030 hours. Effect not observed. Heavy AA guns fired on the aircraft before it dropped its bombs.

Night

Bournemouth, town and harbour. 4 250 kg and 14 50 kg bombs dropped.

Portsmouth, harbour. 6 250 kg bombs dropped. Effect not observed.

/ Swanage

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Swanage (50 km west of I. of Wight). 2 250 kg and 10 50 kg bombs dropped. Effect not observed.

Bristol. 18 250 kg and 72 50 kg bombs dropped. Effect not known.

Cardiff, (searchlight battery). 3 250 kg and 12 50 kg bombs dropped. Effect not observed.

Owing to the weather, attacks on targets in Bristol, Avonmouth and Portishead could not be carried out.

There was a barrage balloon at 3,000 - 4,000 metres north of Bristol.

Searchlights were active between Sidmouth and Bristol. There was no AA or fighter defence.

Mine-laying operations at Harwich, Downs and Elbow buoy were carried out according to plan. Defence was slight. There were 23 searchlights at Harwich. At the Downs the searchlight beams were directed vertically and described small circles. (9 Fl.Div.)

NORTH SEA and BALTIC APPROACHES

At 0700 hours delayed action bombs were dropped on a submarine west of Kristiansund in bad weather. The bombs fell at the point where the submarine dived. Effect not known.

Escort operations, night patrols over the Kattegat and submarine searches were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 2 July, 1940:

GERMAN: 1 Do 215

ENEMY:

In Air Combat: 1 Blenheim over Schagen (south of Den Helder)
1 Blenheim at Edam
2 aircraft

Late Report

GERMAN: 1 Do 215 on 1 July

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Mediterranean

At 2130 hours 2 S.79's escorted by 3 Cr.42's carried out reconnaissance over Malta. 3 aircraft were observed on Halfar airfield. One light cruiser was observed in Salina Bay and another 6 km to the north. An ocean-going liner and a medium merchant ship were observed in Calcare Creek. A monitor was observed in Lazaretto Creek. 2 mine-sweepers on a southerly course were observed $\frac{1}{2}$ sea mile south of Punta Delimara. The amount of shipping at La Valetta remains unchanged.

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East Africa

On 29 June reconnaissance was carried out over north-eastern Kenya. On 30 June reconnaissance was carried out over the Burao area (Somaliland, 120 km south of Berbera) and along the frontier of the Sudan from the Red Sea to Gallabat (north-west of Lake Tana). Nothing of particular importance was observed. The search for a British cruiser in the Red Sea was unsuccessful.

Italian Operations

East Africa

The naval base at Berbera (Somaliland, on the Gulf of Aden) was bombed on 30 June. Smoke and flames were observed over the harbour and camp.

Enemy Operations

East Africa

The fuel and ammunition dump at Assab airfield was attacked by one enemy aircraft on 29 June and by 3 enemy aircraft on 30 June. No damage of any importance resulted.

On 30 June 10 aircraft attacked the fuel dumps at Massaua and Archio (directly south of Massaua). No damage of any importance was caused. 3 enemy aircraft were shot down by fighters. Enemy aircraft bombed an Italian cavalry detachment in the Sabderat area (Sudan frontier).

GROUND SITUATION

Libya

On 28 June the units at Ridotta Capuzzo were reinforced by a strong force from "Marmarica" Division. On 29 June numerous enemy attacks with tanks and air support in the Sollum - Amseat area were driven off, as were repeated night attacks on 30 June. In these actions 3 medium enemy tanks were destroyed and one enemy aircraft was shot down by machine gun fire.

East Africa

On 29 June an enemy armoured force which attempted to advance at Sabderat (Sudan frontier) was driven off. A British patrol was captured on the southern shore of Lake Rudolf. On the Somaliland frontier an attack on Buramo (170 km south of Djibuti) was repulsed without loss by the Italians.

SITUATION AT SEA

At 0530 hours on 2 July the battleships "Hood", "Resolution" and "Valiant", the cruisers "Enterprise" and "Arethusa", the aircraft-carrier "Ark Royal" and 10 destroyers put out from Gibraltar on an easterly course. Bomber formations in Sicily were alerted.

Large-scale operations have apparently been planned in the western Mediterranean against Italian sea communications in the Tyrrhenian Sea or in the sea area between Sicily and Libya. It is expected that British naval forces will carry out operations in the eastern Mediterranean at the same time.

/Report

R E S T R I C T E D

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Report from Athens: During the afternoon of 1 July a naval battle between Italian and British warships took place off Gardos Island south of Crete. Both sides sustained losses.

A convoy of unknown nationality comprising 8 warships and 12 transports is reported to have been attacked by aircraft, also of unknown nationality, 15 sea miles north of Retvyeknos on the morning of 2 July.

MISCELLANEOUS

GREAT BRITAIN

According to a reliable report, all fast convoys, whatever their nationality or destination, always put in at Milford Haven after crossing the Atlantic. They lie at anchor inside the net barrage and always leave Milford Haven singly and without escort.

At 2115 hours an air battle took place between an Me 109 and a Lockheed 150 km off Stavanger. 3,000 rounds of machine gun ammunition and 120 cannon shells were fired at the enemy aircraft, the left engine of which began to smoke. The air battle was discontinued owing to lack of ammunition. Before reaching the English coast the Lockheed signalled for medical aid.

Evaluation of Photographic Reconnaissance
carried out on 2 July, 1940

Cowes Seaplane Base

No seaplanes observed.

Cowes West Airfield

No aircraft observed.

Calshot Castle Seaplane Base

1 Sunderland,
1 Lerwick,
9 twin-engined aircraft,
5 single-engined aircraft (types could not be identified),
1 barrage balloon over the airfield.

Cardiff

Balloon barrage, 10 balloons.

Southampton Seaplane Base

No seaplanes observed.
About 30 barrage balloons over Southampton Water.

Cardiff

4 heavy AA guns on the north-western edge of the city.

/Hamble

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Hamble (North) Airfield

- 9 multiple-engined aircraft,
- 7 single-engined aircraft (types could not be identified).

Southampton Harbour

- 5 passenger ships totalling about 83,000 tons,
- 3 cargo and passenger ships totalling about 36,000 tons,
- 17 freighters totalling about 88,000 tons,
- 1 monitor,
- 3 paddle-steamers,
- 18 coastal vessels totalling about 14,000 tons,
- 2 destroyers, apparently of the "Tribal" class,
- 3 destroyers under construction (?),
- 1 destroyer,
- 1 submarine in dry dock,
- 4 coastal passenger ships(?) totalling about 18,500 tons at anchor in Southampton Water (4 km SSE of Southampton harbour).

Fawley Fuel Storage Installation

- 1 tanker of about 5,000 tons in the discharging bay.

Cowes Harbour

- 2 destroyers, apparently of the "Afridi" class,
- 5 ships on the slipway,
- 2 tankers totalling about 10,000 tons on SSW course 1½ km north of Cowes.

Hamble (South) Seaplane Base

Number of seaplanes could not be identified.
Ammunition dump 1 km north-west of Usk (about 15 km north of Newport) about 1,200 x 1,300 metres in area. Not yet listed as a target.

Southampton Airfield

- 28 multiple-engined aircraft,
- 14 single-engined aircraft.

Cardiff Coal Harbour

- 2 tankers totalling 16,000 tons,
- 1 tanker of about 8,000 tons in dry dock,
- 40 freighters totalling 120,000 tons,
- 4 freighters totalling about 23,000 tons in dry dock, no bomb hits identified in harbour and locks,
- 1 freighter of about 7,000 tons off the harbour entrance,
- 1 freighter of about 4,000 tons on SSW course SSE of city centre.

/2 km

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2 km east of Ilchester; 7 km north of Yeovil

Airfield under construction. Number of aircraft not identified. Covered for first time.

About 7 km NE of Dorchester

Camp with huts and tents. Area 1,300 x 620 metres.

Camp 8 km SE of Andover

115 Nissen huts,
17 barracks (approx.),
13 square tents (approx.),
72 bell tents (approx.),
3 barrack buildings.

Camp being extended; about 12 barracks and further Nissen huts and tents being put up.

Cardiff Airfield

About 7 aircraft - types could not be identified.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.302 (4 July, 1940)

Operations on 3 July and during the night of 3/4 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Norway

At about 1440 hours 3 Skuas bombed and shot up the seaplane base at Bergen and the oil storage installation at Eidsvag. Only slight damage was caused. The aircraft approached in close formation under cover of the clouds and then split up to make glide attacks. Directly AA guns opened fire the enemy aircraft released their bombs and withdrew into the clouds. According to an unconfirmed report, one aircraft was shot down. Twin-engined fighters did not encounter any enemy aircraft.

Luftgau Holland

Early on the morning of 3 July an enemy aircraft flew in the direction of Amsterdam without dropping any bombs. It was engaged by an Me 109 which had to break off owing to its engine catching fire.

At about 1100 hours an enemy aircraft approached from Schiermonnikoog and flew as far as the Meppel area. No bombs were dropped.

At about 1400 hours a number of incendiary bombs were dropped on Ypenburg airfield. A Ju 86 and a Ju 52 were set on fire.

Between 2330 and 0330 hours there were 16 incursions. Seven of the aircraft passed on into Germany and two into Belgium.

Bombs were dropped at three places in Holland. No damage was caused.

/Luftgau

R E S T R I C T E D

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Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Between 1900 and 0330 hours there were several incursions by enemy aircraft. Bombs were dropped at seven places - mainly airfields. An attack on Antwerp-Doerne airfield caused no damage of any importance. At Evere airfield a hangar was hit and a few aircraft were damaged.

In many instances intense AA fire compelled the enemy aircraft to turn back. No enemy aircraft reported shot down.

Between 2200 and 2400 hours there were several incursions over France as far as the line Rouen - Paris. Bombs were dropped at four places without causing any damage.

The Reich

At about midday several British aircraft approached Hamburg flying at a great height above the clouds. They throttled back their engines and dived out of the clouds to drop bombs on Barmbeck (13 killed and several injured) so that even sound ranged AA defence was not possible. Five fighters which were operational did not encounter any enemy aircraft. Bombs were also dropped in the Muenster area (Warendorf) by aircraft which dived out of the clouds. AA defence at Osnabrueck had no apparent effect. Fighters which were operational encountered no enemy aircraft.

At about 1400 hours 2 British aircraft flew in the direction of Kiel and the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal. No bombs were dropped. Strong AA defence had no apparent effect.

Between 0030 and 0230 hours there were five incursions from Heligoland Bay reaching the western coast of Laaland. Bombs dropped on the southern tip of Langeland caused no damage. Enemy aircraft circled over the Small Belt and Langeland Belt (mine-laying?).

Between 0045 and 0225 hours there were 10 incursions from the Belgium - Holland area as far as the line Meppen - Hamm - Arnsberg - Siegen. Bombs dropped at one place caused neither casualties nor damage.

Altogether 20 British aircraft (of 8 Squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Weather reconnaissance was carried out over the Channel in the morning.

Aircraft sent out in the afternoon to reconnoitre ground organisation in southern England made the following observations:

Bristol Channel:	a large number of warships.
Salisbury:	strong AA position.
Bristol area:	about 15 balloons just below the clouds (about 800 metres).
Southampton area:	strong balloon barrage at about 800 metres.
Seine Bay:	fighters approaching from the direction of Le Havre attacked at an altitude of about 100 - 200 metres (cloud base 200 - 300 metres) The fighters attacked from below, in front and behind.

/Civil

R E S T R I C T E D

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Civil Airport at Cowes: Airfield 250 x 450 metres. The number of
(I. o. Wight) aircraft could not be identified.

Martin: (7 km west of Salisbury) ammunition dump.

The following attacks were carried out during armed reconnaissance
on 3 July:

Aldershot:	2 bomb hits on drill square.
Reading:	7 bomb hits on aircraft works.
N. of Seafort:	2 searchlights and a light AA position were effectively bombed and shot up.
Darlington or Catterick airfield:	4 250 kg bombs dropped. Effect not observed.
North Sunderland:	Large factory. 4 250 kg bombs dropped. Increasing volume of smoke observed.
Brighton:	2 hits scored on ship with two funnels in harbour (size not stated).
White Waltham airfield:	5 aircraft set on fire. Hit scored on hangar. Smoke observed.
Faversham:	Powder factory. Effect not observed.
Dover:	Harbour. Effect not observed.
S. of Aldershot:	Hut encampment. Effect not observed.
Lympne airfield:	Hits on hangar and billets.
Dover-Manston road:	Factory. Effect not observed.
Manston airfield:	Effect not observed.
Harwich airfield:	Effect not observed.
Harwich:	Coastal defences. Effect not observed.
Ipswich:	Fuel storage installation. Effect not observed.
I. o. Wight:	Convoy comprising 18 transports on course 70° west of Isle of Wight. Attack unsuccessful.
Lymne Bay:	Convoy on north-westerly course comprising a passenger ship (size not stated), 3 destroyers and 2 submarines in Lymne Bay (25 km south- east of Lymne). The passenger ship received two direct hits with 500 kg bombs, one hit being scored on the stern and the other amidships. (evaluation of photos.)
Portishead:	Docks. Bombs fell south and south-west of the target.
Leith:	Harbour. Shipyard probably hit by one 250 kg bomb.

/Thameshaven:

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Thameshaven: 20 50 kg bombs dropped in night attack. Effect could not be observed.

In the areas which were attacked there were barrage balloons up to 2,000 metres. Our formations encountered well-placed heavy AA fire and were attacked by fighters. At Harwich fighters appeared, but did not attack. In the Newcastle - Sunderland area fighters patrolled above the clouds at 3,000 metres. No AA or barrage balloons observed in this area.

NORTH SEA and BALTIC APPROACHES

Reconnaissance off the Norwegian coast, night patrols over Skagen, escort operations and submarine searches were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 3 July, 1940

GERMAN:

Missing:	8 aircraft
In the air:	1 Me 109 1 Ju 88
On the ground:	1 Ju 86 } 1 Ju 52 } Ypenburg
	4 Me 109's } 2 Kl 35's } Evere
	<u>18 aircraft</u>

ENEMY:

In the air:	1 Whitley over Haarlem
By AA:	1 aircraft over Bergen (not confirmed)
On the ground:	<u>5 aircraft on White Waltham airfield</u> <u>7 aircraft</u>

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Mediterranean

No change in the amount of shipping at Malta was observed by reconnaissance on 3 July. An S.79 and an enemy fighter were shot down in an air battle over Marsa Scirocco.

Nothing of particular importance was observed by reconnaissance carried out along the northern and eastern frontiers of Kenya on 30 June.

Warships on a south-westerly course were observed 10 sea miles north-west of Perim Island (Bab el Mandeb Straits).

/Libya

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Libya

Nothing of particular importance was observed by reconnaissance carried out over the Bir el Gobi frontier area and from Giarabub to the coast on 1 and 2 July.

Photographic reconnaissance was carried out over Alexandria harbour.

Italian Operations

East Africa

A squadron of bombers attacked the naval and air base of Aden during the night of 30 June/1 July. Reports on results are not yet available.

An effective attack was made on Fort Kassala during armed reconnaissance over the Upper Sudan.

Libya

On 1 July 5 S.79's attacked a convoy. Reports on results are not yet available.

Aircraft shot up equipment dumps and vehicles at Melfa Oasis (east of Giarabub) and El Shegga.

On 2 July 3 S.79's attacked a motorised column east of Sollum.

Enemy Operations

East Africa

On 30 June 2 enemy aircraft attacked Gheleb (50 km north-west of Massaua).

GROUND SITUATION

No reports available.

SITUATION AT SEA

At 1800 hours on 3 July (German time) an action took place north of Oran between the British Squadron which put out from Gibraltar and French warships which, in accordance with orders, were on the way to French ports.

The cruiser "Duquesne" reports from Alexandria that it is preparing to scuttle as it is not possible to leave port immediately.

It is reported that at 1230 hours on 3 July British aircraft laid magnetic mines in the Oran Channel at Mers El Kebir.

MISCELLANEOUS

GREAT BRITAIN

In spite of their night camouflage 2 German aircraft flying at 4,500 metres were picked up by searchlights in the Thameshaven area.

/LUFTWAFFE

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LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.303 (5 July, 1940)

Operations on 4 July and during the night of 4/5 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Holland

At about 1500 hours incursions were made by 8 aircraft, five of which flew on into the Reich. Bombs were dropped on two airfields, but no damage of any importance was caused. On the return flight 2 Lockheed Hudsons were shot down by fighters over Terschelling.

Between 2345 and 0115 hours there were approximately 32 incursions by enemy aircraft, about 16 of which flew on into the Reich. No bombing was reported.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Towards midnight about 5 aircraft flew over the Scheldt estuary as far as the Termonde area. No bombing was reported.

The Reich

At about 1500 hours an enemy aircraft approaching from Heligoland Bay flew as far as Wangerooge. No bombs were dropped, but the aircraft circled over Spiekeroog and Wangerooge (mine-laying?).

Between 1110 and 1500 hours 5 enemy incursions were made as far as the line Celle - Peine - Hildesheim. Bombs were dropped at Hamm, Paderborn and Peine. No damage of any importance was caused.

Between midnight and 0400 hours there were 26 enemy incursions from Heligoland Bay as far as the line Sylt - Langeland - Fehmarn - Peine. Most of the aircraft operated over the Elbe estuary, Hamburg and Hannover. Bombs were dropped at Hamburg, Kiel, Wilhelmshaven, Wardenberg, Dollbergen and Grosse-Ilse. At Hamburg oil tanks of the Rhenania-Ossag were hit and two houses were destroyed. Apart from this, there was no damage of any importance.

At Kiel AA succeeded in bringing down an enemy aircraft.

In an attack on the Georgs-Marien-Huette at Gross-Ilse the enemy was prevented from aimed bombing by strong AA fire.

No enemy aircraft were encountered by night fighters operating over Muenster.

Between midnight and 0300 hours there were about 24 incursions from the Holland/Belgium area as far as the line Soltau - Celle - Wiesbaden. Most of the aircraft were active over Hannover and north-west of Coblenz. Bombs were dropped at Rossbach and on Coblenz. No damage of any importance resulted.

Night fighters encountered an enemy aircraft at about 4,000 metres, but it immediately flew into the clouds.

Between 0004 and 0219 hours there were 10 enemy incursions between the Schnee-Eifel and the Rhine up to 30 km north-west of Wiesbaden. Bombs were dropped west of Bonn and at Siegen without causing any appreciable damage.

/AA

R E S T R I C T E D

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AA fire and searchlight activity at Traben-Trarbach, north-west of Wiesbaden and west of Mayen had no noticeable effect.

Altogether 21 British aircraft (of 8 Squadrons) were definitely identified.

G R E A T B R I T A I N

Results of reconnaissance carried out in the morning:

Airfields: Bembridge - number of aircraft not observed.

There were two more well camouflaged airfields on the Isle of Wight; number of aircraft not observed.

Cowes (west): No aircraft.

At Plymouth a balloon barrage was observed at 1,300 - 1,500 metres.

Extensive shipping movements in an east-west direction were observed in the Channel.

In Plymouth harbour there was a cruiser and several destroyers and apparently a battleship in dock.

Results of reconnaissance carried out in the afternoon:

A convoy of 25 ships (each of up to 8,000 tons) on a south-westerly course was observed between Folkestone and Dungeness. Four ships were observed moving in the opposite direction.

There were about 20 ships (10 of them over 5,000 tons) in Dover harbour. At Deal there were 6 ships at anchor and four moving on a southerly course.

A freighter on a westerly course was sighted 10 km south of Weymouth. There was a convoy of about 35 ships on an easterly course 15 km south of Weymouth. About 25 km south of Weymouth there were 5 stationary freighters, three of them on fire.

Bomber formations carried out the following operations on 4 July and during the night of 4/5 July:

Day

A freighter was attacked 30 km south-east of Pembroke. The bombs fell close to the target.

A convoy between Cherbourg and Weymouth was attacked. Two merchant ships each of 5,000 tons were sunk and hits were scored on several other ships.

Attacks were made on a convoy on course for Torquay 60 km north-west of Alderney Island. Hits were scored on 6 merchant ships (each of 5,000 tons), one of which sank. A hit was scored on the stern of an 8,000 ton merchant ship. A fire was observed.

A medium-sized merchant ship in a convoy off Dover was hit with a 250 kg bomb. Escorting fighters shot down 2 Hurricanes and 1 Spitfire. 5 enemy fighters carried out defensive operations over Dover. AA defence was slight.

/An

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An attack was made on warehouses at Weymouth. Two hits with 500 kg bombs were scored.

Driffield airfields was attacked. Four hits with 250 kg bombs were scored on buildings east of the hangars. Two explosions were observed.

A convoy north of Portland was attacked. One ship (apparently an old warship of 8 - 10,000 tons) received six direct hits, following which fire broke out. A 5,000 ton freighter received three direct hits. Fire broke out.

The aircraft factory at Brough (Hull) was attacked. A 250 kg bomb fell near the first shed.

In the last two attacks there was no fighter defence. AA fire of all calibres was put up, particularly by the warship which was hit.

Night

Two 250 kg and six 50 kg bombs were dropped on Cardiff harbour. The effect could not be observed.

Two 250 kg and six 50 kg bombs were dropped on the harbour area north of Bristol. The target was not clearly identified and the effect could not be observed.

Harbour installations and an AA position at Hull were attacked. The bombs fell in the target areas. However, the effect could not be observed owing to haze.

Seven 50 kg bombs were dropped on searchlight positions east of Middlesborough. The effect was not observed. 17 50 kg bombs and two incendiary canisters were dropped on Hartlepool (?) airfield. The stick of bombs fell on the eastern end of the airfield. A few minutes after the attack explosions were observed in the area in which the bombs were dropped.

Harbour installations and AA positions at Hubert were attacked. The bombs fell in the target area. The effect could not be observed owing to thick haze and clouds.

One night fighter was observed. Searchlight activity was intense.

At Hubert the searchlights were set out in two rews running in a north-west direction. Usually a draught-board type of formation was observed. Some of the searchlights tried to pick up the aircraft while the others shone vertically. The aircraft was picked up several times and observed searchlights throughout its flight over land.

16 250 kg bombs, 16 50 kg bombs and eight sticks of incendiaries were dropped from 5 - 6,000 metres in an attack on the fuel storage installation at Thames Haven. Several large fires were observed. Searchlight activity was intense and two night fighters were observed.

NORTH SEA, CHANNEL and BALTIC APPROACHES

A special operation (mine-laying?) was carried out according to plan off Harwich and the Downs. (9 Fl.Div.)

Defence: 10 searchlights at Harwich,
12 searchlights between Dover and North Foreland.

Submarine searches, escort operations and evening reconnaissance over Skagen were uneventful.

/TOTAL

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TOTAL AIRCRAFT LOSSES on 4 July, 1940

GERMAN:
1 Me 109 (crashed in Channel ?)
1 Do 17
1 Ju 52 (destroyed on ground)
1 Ju 87 (crashed in Channel)
2 Ju 52's (destroyed on ground at Evere)
6 aircraft

ENEMY:

In Air Combat: 2 Lockheed Hudson's (over Terschelling)
2 Hurricanes } (over Dover)
1 Spitfire }
1 Blenheim (over Waalhaven)

By AA: 1 aircraft (over Kiel)
7 aircraft

GROUND SITUATION - France

In accordance with the armistice, enemy troops handed over the remaining sectors of the Maginot Line to German forces. Clearing and occupation were carried out according to plan and are still in progress only in places where the clearing of minefields is taking some time.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Mediterranean

Aircraft on reconnaissance over sea areas on 4 July observed the following warships:

0430-0730 hours: 2 cruisers and 3 destroyers on course for Oran between Algiers and Mallorca.
1120 hours: 1 battleship and 3 destroyers on a south-easterly course 150 km west of Cape Teuleda (southern tip of Sardinia).
1730 hours: Another naval formation 40 km west of Asinara Island (north Sardinia).

As the nationality of the reported warships could not be established beyond all doubt no attacks were made.

Libya

No fresh observations were made by Italian reconnaissance over the Libya-Egypt frontier area. The results of photographic reconnaissance over Alexandria harbour, Sollum and Bir el Gobi are not yet available.

Italian Operations

On 4 July 6 Italian Cr.42 fighters made a low-level attack on Halpar airfield (Malta) and damaged 8 aircraft on the runway. None of the Italian aircraft was lost in spite of strong ground defence.

R E S T R I C T E D

/Enemy

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Enemy Operations

East Africa

On 1 July enemy aircraft made an unsuccessful attack on Condar airfield (north of Lake Tana).

GROUND SITUATION

Libya

Enemy armoured cars which had advanced as far as El Cuasc (5 km south of Bir el Gobi) were driven back on 2 July.

East Africa

On 30 June several hundred insurgents supported by a battalion of Sudanese irregulars attacked the Italian strong-point at Ridotta Metemma on the Sudan frontier. However, they were driven off and left behind 54 dead, a machine-gun and a large amount of ammunition.

SITUATION AT SEA

The British formation comprising the "Hood", "Resolution", "Valiant", "Arethusa", "Enterprise", "Ark Royal" and 13 destroyers which carried out the raid on the French fleet at Oran has returned to Gibraltar. No information on British losses is available yet.

Apart from warships at French home bases, no more reliable information has been received about French naval formations in Mediterranean ports such as Algiers, Bizerta, Alexandria and Beirut.

MISCELLANEOUS

GREAT BRITAIN

The two Lockheed Hudsons shot down at Terschelling belonged to 206 Squadron (long-range reconnaissance) based at Bircham Newton which therefore appears to be equipped with this type of aircraft.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.304 (6 July, 1940)

Operations on 5 July and during the night of 5/6 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Norway

At 0645 hours on 5 July a Lockheed Hudson which approached Stavanger-Sola airfield at an altitude of 600 metres turned back before reaching its objective when AA guns opened fire. Several bombs which were dropped fell harmlessly in the harbour waters. Fighters sent up on defensive operations did not make contact with the enemy.

At about 1600 hours another Lockheed Hudson flying at 800 metres approached the coast about 40 km south-west of Stavanger. No bombs were dropped. Fighters which took off to intercept made contact, but the enemy aircraft immediately flew into the clouds.

At about 1650 hours fighters on an interception sortie sighted a Lockheed Hudson about 20 km west of the entrance to Hardanger Fjord. This aircraft also avoided combat by flying into the clouds.

R E S T R I C T E D

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Luftgau Holland

At about 1230 hours a twin-engined enemy aircraft flying at 500 metres dropped 2 HE and 15 incendiary bombs on Vlissingen airfield in weather conditions favouring an attack. Apart from craters on the runway, no damage was caused.

Between 2345 and 0400 hours about 21 enemy incursions from the direction of the Channel were made over the coasts of Holland and Belgium. No bombs were dropped. AA brought down one enemy aircraft at Amsterdam and another at Haarlem. Some of the aircraft may have flown on into the Reich.

The Reich

Between 1630 and 1700 hours 3 enemy aircraft coming from the direction of Heligoland Bay approached the East Frisian Islands. Four bombs were dropped on the Lemwerder airfield at Bremen. A hangar under construction and a track were slightly damaged. Several people were killed and injured.

A Blenheim was shot down by fighters 40 km west of Amrum.

Between 2345 and 0300 hours 25 enemy incursions were made from Heligoland Bay as far as the line Ribe - Fehmarn - Lueneburg - Nienburg. Most of the aircraft operated over the Elbe and Weser estuaries, Kiel Bay, Luebeck Bay and Hamburg. Bombs were dropped at five places, but no damage of any importance resulted. AA guns and searchlights were impeded by an unbroken layer of cloud at 1,000 metres. However, the enemy was prevented from carrying out aimed bombing everywhere.

Between midnight and 0230 hours there were 19 enemy incursions over the frontiers of Holland and Belgium as far as the line Lemgo - Wipperfuert - Neuwied. No bombs were dropped.

Altogether 42 British aircraft (of 22 squadrons) were identified for certain.

G R E A T B R I T A I N

Aircraft sent out to reconnoitre shipping movements in the Channel and along the east coast of England and airfields in southern England reported the following:

Morning reconnaissance over the Channel and the south-east coast:

Apart from two large convoys, one of which was escorted by aircraft and the other by warships, nothing of importance was observed.

Afternoon reconnaissance of airfields in southern England could not be carried out owing to bad weather.

Details of Morning Reconnaissance over the
Channel and along the South-East Coast

One large convoy in the Channel escorted by about 20 fighters.

One large convoy (about 30 merchant ships and 5 destroyers) east of Whitby on course 140°.

One merchant ship (3,000 tons) in Lyme Bay on north-westerly course.

/Small

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Small coastal vessels in Torquay harbour.

Exmouth harbour empty.

One merchant ship (4,000 tons) on northerly course 25 km south of Lorient.

One stationary merchant ship 50 km south-west of St. Nazaire.

One merchant ship (5,000 tons) on easterly course 50 km north of Alderney.

Small ships 60 km west of Alderney on westerly course.

Five small ships off Dover on north-easterly course.

Ten ships in Dover harbour.

Evaluation of Photographic Reconnaissance
carried out on 2 July, 1940:

Army camp about 7 km north-east of Dorchester:

Huts and tents. Area about 1,300 x 620 metres.

Yeovilton Airfield (Target Number GB 10 334):

Covered for first time (new target number).

Number of aircraft could not be identified. 9 hangars
35 x 35 metres. 3 hangars under construction. Airfield
being extended to an area of about 800 x 1,500 metres.
No rail link.

Cardiff Harbour

2 tank-ships totalling about 20,000 tons,
1 tank-ship of about 10,000 tons in dry dock,
35 freighters totalling about 160,000 tons,
3 freighters totalling about 21,000 tons in dry dock,
also barrage ballons.

Cardiff Airfield (Target Number GB 10 37)

3 hangars. 7 single-engined aircraft (types could not be
identified). The hangars and runway have been camouflaged
since the photograph of 23 August 1939.

Swindon-Watchfield Airfield (Target Number GB 10 293)

Covered for first time.

Number of aircraft could not be identified. 3 hangars
27 x 50 metres and another two under construction. Air-
field being extended to an area of about 750 x 800 metres.
No rail link.

Southampton Harbour

5 passenger ships totalling about 110,000 tons,
20 freighters totalling about 80,000 tons,
1 white-painted transport of the "War" class with
coffer deck (hospital ship?),

/3

R E S T R I C T E D

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Southampton Harbour (Cont'd)

3 passenger ships (Channel steamers) of about 9,000 tons,
destroyers in the Thornycroft shipyard (apparently undergoing alteration) and in the dry dock and inner harbour (possibly French destroyers of the "Bourrasque" class), part of a ship (damaged by mine?) with other part (?) in dry dock,
1 monitor ("Erebes"),
1 submarine (?) in dry dock,
barrage balloons,
also various harbour and coastal vessels.

Civil Flying-Boat Base Southampton-Woolston (GB 10 206, 74 33)

No flying-boats observed.
Searchlight position.
5 barrage balloons.

4 km SE of Southampton (Southampton Water)

4 fast Channel steamers totalling about 18,000 tons at anchor.

Army Camp 8 km SE of Andover

Camp comprising approximately the following:

115 Nissen huts,
17 other huts,
13 square tents,
72 bell tents,
3 barrack buildings.

Camp being extended; further Nissen huts and tents being set up.

Works Airfield at Southampton (GB 10 205, 74 43, 74 46, 74 59)

3 multiple-engined aircraft, types could not be identified,
20 single-engined low-wing monoplane fighters, types could not be identified,
29 single-engined aircraft, types could not be identified,
barrage balloons,
2 heavy AA positions with 4 guns.

Works Airfield at Hamble (North) (GB 10 95, 74 34)

3 hangars,
9 Blenheims Marks I - III,
17 single-engined aircraft, types could not be identified,
no structural changes since the photograph of 20 June 1940.

Works Airfield at Hamble (South) (GB 10 94, 74 38)

No aircraft identified (seaplanes).
No structural changes since the photograph of 20 June 1940.
Barrage Balloons.

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Fuel Storage Installation at Fawley

1 tanker of about 6,000 tons at the oil discharging stage.

Calshot Castle Seaplane Base (GB 10 31)

4 hangars,
1 Lerwick,
7 London II's
1 Singapore III,
6 Sea Foxes (?),
5 barrage balloons.

Cowes Harbour

1 destroyer ("Lightning" - formerly Polish "Blyskawica"),
apparently damaged or half-completed French destroyer
(or possible being built under foreign contract),
5 ships on the slipways,
2 tankers totalling about 10,000 tons moving on SE course.

Works Airfield at Cowes (Seaplanes) (GB 10 51, 74 41)

No aircraft identified.

Works Airfield at Cowes (West) (GB 10 52)

1 single-engined aircraft, type not identified,
1 heavy AA position with 4 guns under construction.

On 5 July and during the night of 5/6 July bomber formations were sent out on armed reconnaissance over the Channel and on nuisance raids on airfields, harbour installations and fuel storage installations in southern and central England. The following attacks were carried out:

Day

Yeovil: 4 250 kg bombs were dropped over the airfield and aircraft factory. The bombs fell just in front of the factory.

Leconfield airfield: the effect was not observed owing to thick clouds.

West Plymouth: 2 500 kg bombs were dropped on the fuel storage installation. An oil tank was hit and much smoke observed.

Hull: 4 250 kg bombs were dropped on the fuel storage depot. The effect could not be observed owing to low cloud.

Falmouth: 8 500 kg bombs were dropped on harbour installations. The bombs hit two warehouses.

Shipping:

1 merchant ship (of about 10,000 tons) south of Torquay.
Four near misses; ship sinking.

1 merchant ship (of about 4,000 tons) in Falmouth harbour.
One hit with 500 kg bomb.

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Shipping (Cont'd)

1 merchant ship (5,000 tons) in Falmouth harbour. One hit with 500 kg bomb. Damage to stern observed.

1 merchant ship in convoy in Channel. Two 500 kg bombs dropped. Effect not observed.

Night:

North Killingholm: The fuel storage installation was attacked. An explosion and a large fire were observed in the area in which the bombs were dropped. There was a large number of powerful searchlights all along the Humber estuary.

Thames Haven: A stick of 10 50 kg bombs was dropped from 5,000 metres on a concentration of lights (factory or railway station?). The effect was not observed. There was intense searchlight activity.

Canvey Island: As the fuel storage installation could not be located, 20 50 kg bombs were dropped from 4,500 metres on searchlights. The effect was not observed. AA guns were active.

Faversham: Searchlights in the vicinity of an ammunition dump north-west of Faversham were attacked. 20 50 kg bombs were dropped from a height of 4,000 metres. The effect was not observed.

NORTH SEA and BALTIC APPROACHES

At about midnight an enemy submarine was attacked (2 50 kg bombs) about 130 km south-west of Stavanger. The submarine was destroyed after being hit on the bows.

About 50 km west of Stavanger an enemy submarine was unable to dive after being hit. The submarine surrendered and is being towed into Stavanger.

Escort operations, submarine searches and evening reconnaissance over the Skagerrak were uneventful.

During the night of 5/6 July 9 Fl. Div. carried out a special operation (mine-laying?) according to plan off the ports of Blyth, Newcastle, Sunderland, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough. Searchlights were active at all the ports and there was strong AA fire at Newcastle.

Total Aircraft Losses on 5 July, 1940

GERMAN: 1 He 111 missing

ENEMY:

In Air Combat: 3 Blenheims - one each over Amrun, Muenster and the English coast.
2 Spitfires - one each over Etaples and Dover.

By AA: 1 Wellington - over Haarlem
1 Hampden - over Kiel
1 aircraft (type not known) over Amsterdam
8 aircraft

/Note

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Note

On and after 19 June enemy aircraft dropped about 30 drifting mines in the canals from Bruges to Paschendael and Ostend.

Description: The mines float under the surface of the water and are about 45 x 25 cm in size. The fuzes are extremely sensitive. So far it has not been possible to disarm and salvage the mines without endangering the lives of those concerned. Hand grenades, rifle or machine-gun fire appear to be the most practical methods of dealing with the mines. The best means of defence are fishing nets and baulks, especially when used from bridges and barges.

GROUND SITUATION - France

Information on the French Army :

In compliance with a request, the French Armistice Commission in Wiesbaden provided a survey on the remainder of the French Army. According to this, the French Army still has the following personnel at its disposal:

France

Field Army	500,000 men
Home Defence Forces	300,000 men

The Field Army comprises mainly formations produced from remnants, but these formations have apparently not yet been reorganised into new units.

Deployment of the Field Army in the Unoccupied Area:

Western Area	250,000 men
Alpine Army	200,000 men
Area between Clermont-Ferrand and the Mediterranean coast	50,000 men

North Africa:

Regular troops	200,000 men
Irregular troops	200,000 men

Syria: 18,000 men

The Colonies (Equatorial Africa, Indo-China, Madagascar) 250,000 men

As the figures provided are almost identical with the strengths calculated by O.K.H. Fremde Heere West on the basis of other data, it is assumed that they are correct. It is possible that owing to the Italian threat the strength of irregular units in North Africa has been somewhat exaggerated. The figures given for strengths in the colonies (Equatorial Africa, Indo-China and Madagascar) cannot be checked at the moment, but these could be correct if the large number of irregular and recruit units are included.

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There is little likelihood of more than very limited number of these troops being transferred to a European or North African theatre of operations. These units should not be regarded as effective fighting formations outside their own country.

The amounts of material stated by the French Commission to be still at the disposal of the French Army have been found to be far below the actual amounts.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Italian Air Operations

on 5 July, Italian air activity was limited to fighter patrols and reconnaissance flights.

Enemy Operations

At 2100 hours on 5 July six enemy aircraft made a low-level attack on Catania airfield. A hangar caught fire. Casualties amounted to 15 killed and 15 wounded.

GROUND SITUATION

No fresh reports.

SITUATION AT SEA

The British warship formation which returned to Gibraltar from Oran on 4 July put out from Gibraltar on a westerly course on 5 July. The formation comprises the following warships: "Hood", "Valiant", "Ark Royal", 2 cruisers and 10 destroyers.

The battleship "Resolution", a light cruiser of the "Delhi" class and a few destroyers remained in Gibraltar.

At 1400 hours on 4 July a French fleet tender was torpedoed (presumably by a British submarine) north of Algiers.

The French battleship "Strassbourg" and three destroyers arrived at Toulon on the evening of 4 July.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.305 (7 July, 1940)

Operations on 6 July and during the night of 6/7 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Norway

At Eidsvaag 8 Skuas made high and low-level attacks on a tank ship and a fuel storage installation. About 25 bombs were dropped. The enemy aircraft also shot up a gun position. When AA guns opened fire the enemy aircraft made off into the clouds. No damage was caused.

/Luftgau

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Luftgau Holland

During the morning of 6 July there were several enemy incursions over Holland. Bombs were dropped at the following places:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Effect</u>
0800 hours (approx.)	Deventer	Slight damage to buildings. A few people were injured.
0920 hours (approx.)	The Hague	No damage.
1125 hours (approx.)	Delft	No damage.

At about 1800 hours Het Zoute airfield, which was clear of aircraft, was bombed and shot up (3 bombs were dropped). No appreciable damage resulted.

At about 1515 hours an enemy aircraft flew over Amsterdam, Deventer and Lingen. The aircraft's homeward route was not plotted. No bombs were dropped.

Between 2200 and 0218 hours incursions were made by 16 enemy aircraft, 14 of them passing on into the Reich.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

At about 1930 hours a Blenheim was brought down by AA over Calais.

During the night of 6/7 July bombs were dropped south-west of Courtrai. No damage was caused.

Luftgau Western France

A Blenheim dropped 6 bombs on empty hangar at Evreux-Fauville airfield.

An enemy aircraft flew over Chartres at a great height. No bombs were dropped.

The Reich

Between 2330 and 0330 hours there were 24 enemy incursions from the direction of Heligoland Bay and northern Holland as far as the line Gjedser - Warnemuende - Harburg - Bremen. The aircraft circled over the Great Belt, Kiel Bay and Heligoland Bay (mine-laying?). Bombs were dropped at eleven places. No appreciable damage or casualties resulted.

AA shot down a Wellington at Jever and forced a Whitley to land north of Kiel.

AA defence was put up at Wilhelmshaven, Wesermuende, Cuxhaven, Luebeck, Neumuenster, Kiel, Sylt, Pellworm and Neuwerk.

At about 1445 hours a Blenheim made an incursion over Bocholt. The enemy aircraft circled over Muenster, Osnabrueck and Rheine and flew out of the area over Meppen. No bombs were dropped.

GREAT BRITAIN

Aircraft sent out on reconnaissance over southern and central England and to observe shipping movements in the Channel reported the following:-

/Morning

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Morning Reconnaissance

A convoy on course 300° about 200 km north-west of Brest.

Afternoon Reconnaissance

About 27 km north-west of Peterhead: 1 battleship, 2 heavy cruisers and 5 destroyers with fighter escort moving at high speed on course 200°.

No shipping was observed at Edinburgh or Rosyth.

One transport (6,000 tons) at anchor observed east of the Firth of Forth bridge.

About 70 km east of the Firth of Forth estuary: one battleship, three heavy cruisers and four destroyers moving at high speed on changing course (1620 hours).

One freighter (4,000 tons) 10 km east of Torquay.

One small freighter east of Torquay.

30 km west of Weymouth: one freighter on course for Torquay.

50 km south-south-west of Portsmouth: two freighters (each of 5,000 tons). There was a large number of patrol ships guarding Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.

In Weymouth harbour: 30 - 40 ships.

No shipping movements were observed in the area Cherbourg - Plymouth - Weymouth - Portsmouth.

Nine Spitfires were observed parked on Abbotsinch airfield.

A Sunderland flying-boat was observed taking off from Greenock seaplane base.

40 - 50 transports of all sizes were observed 10 km south of Lochgilphead.

50 - 60 stationary transports were observed north of Greenock.

Clyde: one passenger ship (25,000 tons) putting out with two smaller ships.

Bombers carried out the following attacks on 6 July:

Morning:

19 aircraft attacked light warships, scoring two hits on one destroyer and one hit on another (250 kg bombs).

Taunton railway station: two hits with 500 kg bombs were scored on the tracks.

Falmouth harbour: direct hit on quay (250 kg bomb).

A direct hit with a 250 kg bomb was scored on a merchant ship of 8,000 tons in the harbour.

Altogether four 250 kg bombs were dropped over Falmouth.

/Afternoon

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Afternoon

British warships were attacked about 250 km east of Aberdeen. The effect could not be observed owing to weather conditions and strong defence.

In an attack on British warships about 350 km east of Dundee a hit with a 500 kg bomb was scored on a 10,000 ton cruiser.

Reigate railway station: hits in target area.

Redhill airfield: hits were scored on the taxiing area. An aircraft was destroyed and several others probably destroyed.

Hut encampment near Redhill: three hits with 50 kg bombs.

Harbour installations at Dartmouth: two direct hits with 50 kg bombs were scored on a fuel storage installation.

Fuel storage installation on the southern shore of Plymouth harbour: two direct hits with 500 kg bombs on warehouses. There was a battleship at anchor in Plymouth harbour. AA defence was put up (probably by the battleship). Balloon barrage around the city at 2,500 metres.

80 km south of Portsmouth: a tug with a large wreck and patrol boats were attacked. Effect not observed.

In the Channel two coastal patrol ships were sunk and an auxiliary warship was set on fire (British radio report).

During the night of 6/7 July

Harbour installations at West Hartlepool: four 250 kg bombs fell in the south-eastern part of the target area.

The steel works at Middlesbrough: hits were scored in the target area. Effect not observed.

A searchlight position between Edinburgh and Glasgow was attacked. Result not reported.

A special operation (mine-laying ?) was carried out according to plan on the eastern coast of England by 9 Fl. Div.

On 6 July and during the night of 6/7 July the following observations were made regarding enemy defences:

No defence observed in the Redhill area.

Particularly intense searchlight activity in the Hartlepool - Middlesbrough area. Aircraft were continually picked up. Four night fighters flying in formation did not attack. There was no AA fire.

Newcastle: 6 - 8 searchlights, light AA fire, one night fighter.

Sunderland: 20 searchlights. Slight fire by heavy and light AA.

NORTH SEA and BALTIC APPROACHES

The British submarine reported unable to dive in yesterday's situation report has sunk.

/Reconnaissance

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Reconnaissance over the northern part of the North Sea, escort operations, submarine patrols over Skagen and reconnaissance over the Skaggerak were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 6 July, 1940

GERMAN:

1 He 111
1 Me 110
2 aircraft

ENEMY:

In air combat: 1 Blenheim
1 Lockheed Hudson

By AA: 1 Blenheim at Calais
1 aircraft (type not known) at Jever
1 aircraft (type not known) at Kiel

Destroyed on
Ground: 1 aircraft (type not known) at Redhill
6 aircraft

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

No change in the warships in Maltese harbours was observed on 6 July. With the exception of a destroyer 5 sea miles from La Valetta, there were no shipping movements in the vicinity of the island.

Reconnaissance over the sea areas Gulf of Taranto - Kephallonia (west of Gulf of Corinth) - Crete and Elmas (Sardinia) - Marsala (Sicily) - Lampedusa - Tripoli was uneventful. Photographic reconnaissance was carried out over Alexandria harbour and the Bug-Bug - Sollum sector.

Nothing of particular importance was observed during reconnaissance flights over Somaliland and north-eastern Kenya.

During a reconnaissance flight to central Sudan and the Blue Nile anti-personnel bombs were dropped on an enemy troop concentration.

Italian Operations

Mediterranean

On 6 July 30 S.79's escorted by two fighter "squadriglie" attacked the naval base at La Valetta and Micaba and Halfar airfields (Malta) as a reprisal for the air attack on Catania.

After the attack large fires could be seen in the vicinity of the arsenal up to 50 km away. Six aircraft took off to attack a steamship south-east of Malta. As the vessel could not be found they made an extremely effective low-level attack on the arsenal. All the aircraft returned to base.

Libya

On 3 July aircraft shot up an enemy armoured formation between Amseat and Sidi Azais.

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In an air battle between six Glosters and five Cr.42's which took place over Monastir (40 km north-west of Sollum) four Cr 42's were shot down.

East Africa

On 3 July Italian fighters shot down an enemy aircraft north of Massaua.

On 4 July two bomber "squadriglie" assisted in the capture of Gallabat by carrying out an attack. While Cassala was being taken three bomber "squadriglie" with fighter escort bombed and shot up enemy motorised forces approaching from the direction of Krashm el Girbi (40 km south-west of Cassala). Hits were scored on trains and on two tanks. Fighters were operational over the Cassala area throughout the day.

GROUND SITUATION

Libya

On 3 July an enemy attack with 20 tanks on Ridotta Capuzzo was driven back at Amseat. An Italian motorised column reached Musaid (Sollum area) and pushed back enemy armoured forces. A column of 1st Libyan Division on reconnaissance drove off enemy armoured attacks.

East Africa

An enemy armoured attack on Galsa (Egyptian frontier, south-east of Cassala) was driven back by artillery. In the Tacasse area a smallscale action developed between rebels and Italian troops. A small British fortress at Mojale (frontier of Kenya) was taken in a surprise attack.

SITUATION AT SEA

Report on positions of warships, 1700 hours 6 July:

French Warships

Dakar area:

- 1 battleship ("Richelieu")
- 1 aircraft-carrier ("Bearn" ?)
- 1 light cruiser ("E.Bertin")
- 2 destroyers
- 4 submarines
- 2 fleet tenders
- 1 auxiliary cruiser

Casablanca area:

- 1 battleship ("Jean Bart")
- 2 heavy cruisers ("Dupleix" and "Foch")
- 1 light cruiser ("G.Leygues")
- 7 destroyers
- 13 submarines
- 2 fleet tenders
- 1 auxiliary cruiser

The above formations are at sea.

Gibraltar:

4 destroyers

Algiers area:

5 submarines

Oran:

- 3 battleships ("Dunkerque", "Bretagne" and "Provence" - reported to have been sunk)
- 2 light cruisers ("Gloire" and "Montcalm")
- 1 aircraft transport ("Cdt.Teste")
- 10 destroyers
- 3 fleet tenders

/Toulon

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Toulon:
2 battleships ("Strassbourg", other not known)
3 heavy cruisers ("Algerie", "Colbert" and "Tourville")
4 light cruisers ("Marseillaise", "Galissonniere", "J. de Vienne" and "Primauguet")
12 destroyers
4 torpedo boats
13 submarines

Bizerta area:
3 torpedo boats
4 destroyers
10 submarines
3 fleet tenders

Beirut area:
1 net layer ("Gladiateur")
4 submarines
2 fleet tenders

Alexandria:
1 battleship ("Lorraine" ?)
2 heavy cruisers ("Suffren" and "Duquesne")
1 light cruiser ("Trouin")

British Warships

Gibraltar:
1 battleship ("Resolution")
1 light cruiser ("Arethusa")
17 destroyers
2 submarines

W. of Gibraltar:
2 battleships ("Hood" and "Valiant")
1 light cruiser ("Enterprise")
1 aircraft-carrier ("Ark Royal")
8 destroyers
1 auxiliary cruiser

Algiers area:
1 submarine

Malta:
3 destroyers
4 E-boats
1 auxiliary cruiser

Malta area:
3 submarines
1 auxiliary cruiser

Alexandria:
4 battleships ("Malaya", "Warspite", "R. Sovereign" and "Ramillies")
4 light cruisers ("Orion", "Neptune", "Sydney", "Gloucester" and "Capetown")
1 aircraft-carrier ("Eagle")
18 destroyers
3 submarines
1 auxiliary cruiser

Alexandria area:
3 submarines

Port Said:
2 light cruisers ("Liverpool" and "Caledon")
2 destroyers

Aden:
1 light cruiser ("Ceres")
4 destroyers
1 submarine

Aden area:
2 light cruisers ("Carlisle" and "Hobart")
2 auxiliary cruisers

/Reports

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Reports have been received that the British squadron in the eastern Mediterranean is planning a major attack on the sea routes between southern Italy and Tripoli, and may also bombard the coast in the Tobruk area.

Miscellaneous

Great Britain

The number of fighters on defensive operations over the Bristol Channel has been increased by one squadron.

Formations have apparently been put into operation recently to carry out defensive patrols west of Southampton.

The railway station at St. Austell was attacked at about midday on 6 July. The bombs were well placed. (Supplement).

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.306 (8 July, 1940)

Operations on 7 July and during the night of 7/8 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Holland

Between 2210 and 0400 hours there were 44 incursions into Luftgau Holland by enemy aircraft, 35 of which passed on into the Reich. Bombs were dropped at three places. Slight damage to the taxiing area of Rotterdam-Waalhaven airfield was quickly repaired.

AA defence at various places had no noticeable effect.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Between 1700 and 0400 hours single enemy aircraft made incursions into Luftgau Belgium/Northern France. A few bombs were dropped at Ostende, Dunkirk and north of Bruges without causing any damage. Several bombs were dropped on Brussels--Evere and Beauvais airfields but no damage resulted. In the afternoon an aircraft was brought down by AA fire in the Bruges area.

The Reich

At about 1200 hours one enemy aircraft passes over Den Helder and another over the Hague. Both aircraft flew on into the Rhur. At 1245 hours one of the aircraft was brought down by AA at Duesseldorf. The other aircraft dropped a number of high explosive and incendiary bombs on Eschwege airfield. A fuel dump was hit and burnt out and several aircraft and a hangar were slightly damaged by bomb splinters.

Between 2330 and 0305 hours there were 17 enemy incursions from Heligoland Bay as far as the line Laaland - Gadebusch - Hamburg - Brake. Bombs were dropped at Wangeroege and Wilhelmshaven causing negligible damage in the Wilhelmshaven city area.

Between midnight and 0330 hours there were about 35 enemy incursions as far as the line Hamlin - Bad Orb - Mannheim - Weissenburg. Most of the aircraft operated over Muenster, Cologne and Coblenz. Bombs were dropped at six places. Electricity and gas supply lines were damaged when a bomb hit the road bridge in Coblenz. Traffic over the bridge was not affected.

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At 0138 hours an aircraft of unknown type was shot down west of the Nuerburgring. At 0217 hours AA also brought down a Hampden at Nordhorn.

Altogether 34 aircraft of ten British squadrons were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Reconnaissance reported the following:

Morning Reconnaissance (Shipping):

1 tanker (6 - 8,000 tons) on NE course between Dover and Calais,
1 merchant ship (12,000 tons) on NE course between Dover and Calais,
several small ships 15 km south of Folkestone on course for Dover,
1 tanker (8,000 tons) on NE course between Dover and Calais,
2 warships on NE course between Dover and Calais,
1 destroyer on southerly course off Cap Gris Nez,
1 large transport on southerly course between Dover and Calais.

Shipping in Ports:

Dover: 7 warships, presumably destroyers

Hartlepool: No shipping

Weymouth: 30 ships including a few very large vessels (warships?)

Falmouth: 50 ships

Portland: 30 ships

No shipping movements were observed along the French Atlantic coast.

Afternoon Reconnaissance (Shipping):

On the east coast, 40 - 50 km south-east of the Humber estuary

1800 hours: 4 destroyers
1 light cruiser
2 merchant ships

with changing course, general direction south-east.

Off Lowestoft

1800 hours: 1 light cruiser on southerly course

Straits of Dover:

Normal warship and merchant ship traffic in east-west and west-east directions between Ramsgate and Hastings at 1400, 1600, 1700 and 1900 hours.

Shipping in Ports

Dover:

1400 hours: 6 large warships
12 large merchant ships

1700 hours: 7 destroyers
7 patrol boats
2 transports

/Folkestone

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Folkestone:

1400 hours: 1 freighter of 10,000 tons

Southend on Sea:

1925 hours: A large number of ships of various sizes at anchor.

Falmouth: 50 ships
2 Sunderlands on coastal reconnaissance

The Wash: A series of artillery positions was observed on the southern shore.

Sunderland: 1 aircraft-carrier (?)
2 light cruisers
9 destroyers

Whitby: 2 merchant ships at anchor

about 25 km N
of Newcastle: Red beacon flashing "ZU"

directly W of
Sunderland: Red beacon flashing "G"

Airfields

Bircham Newton: 12 twin-engined aircraft

Newquay-
Trebelzue: 25 Blenheims

Kinnloss: 21 aircraft, probably Whitleys and Hampdens

Lossiemouth: 5 Beauforts,
13 Wellingtons

Inverness: 3 small single-engined aircraft.
Runway under construction.

During the night the following defences were observed:

AA: Slight AA fire at Newcastle, Sunderland, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough.

Searchlights: 6 - 8 at Newcastle,
20 at Sunderland,
intense searchlight activity in the
Hartlepool - Middlesbrough area.

Night
Fighters: 1 aircraft at Newcastle,
4 aircraft at Hartlepool,
4 aircraft at Middlesbrough.

Barrage
Balloons: 13 balloons along the coast between Ramsgate and Deal.

Bombers carried out the following attacks on 7 July:

Brighton Rail-
way Station: The stick of ten 50 kg bombs fell on the installation.

/Shipping

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Shipping:

S. of Plymouth: 1 large merchant ship hit on stern by 250 kg bomb.

S. of Plymouth: 1 medium merchant ship hit amidships by 250 kg bomb.
Ship sunk.

Weymouth Harbour: 4 ships - all hit. 72 50 kg and 6 250 kg bombs
dropped. One large ship on fire.

Convoy near
Dover: 1 merchant ship of 3,000 tons and
1 merchant ship of 2,000 tons hit and sunk.
1 light cruiser; stick of 50 kg and 250 kg
bombs fell across the warship which was
probably hit.

The attack was covered by 18 Me 109's.
In an air battle with ten Spitfires, six
of the enemy aircraft were shot down.

Exmouth Harbour: 1 tanker - bomb fell 10 metres away.
Two hits with 250 kg bombs scored on quay.

Falmouth Harbour: 1 merchant ship of 8,000 tons. Ten 50 kg
bombs dropped. Ship caught fire.

10 km E of Eddy-
stone Island (SE
of Plymouth): 3 merchant ships. Four 250 kg bombs dropped.
Large patch of oil on water observed near
one of the ships.

Dover Harbour: Stick of ten 50 kg bombs fell across the
harbour basin. No hits observed on the ships
in the harbour.

E. of Sunderland: Convoy of 42 warships and merchant ships.
On the morning of 8 July a hit (250 kg bomb)
was scored on the bows of a merchant ship of
about 8,000 tons. Smoke and fire observed.

E. coast of
I. of Wight: Two 250 kg bombs dropped on coastal batteries.
Effect could not be observed.

NW of Truro: Four 250 kg bombs were dropped on a well
camouflaged but encampment (about 20 km north
of Falmouth). All the bombs scored hits.
Much smoke observed.

Falmouth: Eight 250 kg bombs were dropped on harbour
installations. A warehouse was set on fire
and hits were scored on shipyards.

Plymouth: One 250 kg bomb fell on the edge of a fuel
storage installation.

Bircham-Newton
Airfield: Four 250 kg bombs fell between the edge of a
wood and four aircraft on the northern
perimeter. Effect not observed.

Middlesbrough: Four 250 kg bombs were dropped on the iron
works. Four explosions were observed, one
with an intense blaze of fire. Further
observations were not possible as night
fighters forced the aircraft to fly into
the clouds.

/ Middlesbrough

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Middlesbrough: The iron and steel works was attacked. Three explosions were observed in the northern part of the target area.

Newcastle-
Elswick: The Vickers engineering works was attacked 24 50 kg bombs and 288 incendiaries were dropped. Large fires and sheets of flame were observed east of the target.

A special operation (mine-laying ?) was carried out according to plan off Newcastle, Sunderland, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough (9 Fl.Div.).

NORTH SEA and BALTIC APPROACHES

Owing to bad weather, morning reconnaissance over the northern part of the North Sea had nothing to report.

Submarine patrols over Skagen and escort operations were limited owing to bad weather.

Total Aircraft Losses on 7 July, 1940

German:
2 Do 17's
1 Ju 88
3 aircraft

Enemy:

In air Combat: 1 Spitfire over the Firth of Forth
1 Blenheim at Bruges
4 Spitfires at Boulogne
6 Spitfires at Dover

By AA: 1 Blenheim at Duesseldorf
1 Hampden at Nordhorn
1 aircraft, type not known, west of Nuerburgring
15 aircraft

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Mediterranean

In spite of the bad weather (low clouds and rough sea) prevailing throughout the Mediterranean, Italian aircraft carried out reconnaissance according to plan to the east, west and south.

In the eastern Mediterranean six British destroyers on course for Alexandria were observed about 70 km west of Alexandria.

In the western Mediterranean the presence of the battleship and two destroyers already reported was confirmed by reconnaissance at 0930 hours on 7 July. The warships were moving on an easterly course north of La Bougie (east of Algiers).

No changes were observed in the amount of shipping in the Malta area.

/Photographic

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Photographic reconnaissance was carried out over the Libya-Egypt frontier area.

East Africa

Nothing of particular importance was observed by reconnaissance carried out on 5 July over north-eastern Kenya and along the coast of Eritrea.

To ascertain enemy aircraft strength in the Cassala area, reconnaissance was carried out over the following enemy airfields:

Adarama (220 km north-west of Cassala)
Goz-Regeb (110 km north-west of Cassala)
El Damer (no aircraft).
Atbara (no aircraft)

In bombing attacks hits were scored on seven aircraft at Goz-Regeb and on one aircraft at Adarama.

Italian Operations

Mediterranean Area

On 5 July Italian bombers carried out the following attacks in the battle area on the Libya-Egypt frontier:

Three S.79's attacked an M/T depot at El Hamra (50 km south-east of Sollum) and a column of tanks with good results.

Eight S.79's attacked Tegedida airfield (20 km south-east of Sollum). Results not known.

Three S.79's attacked an M/T convoy on the Bug-Bug - Tegedida road.

Three S.79's attacked Bir Enba airfield (20 km south-east of Sollum).

On 7 July 10 S.79's with fighter escort made a further attack on the arsenal at the Malta naval base. Much smoke was observed. One Italian aircraft was shot down.

On 6 July six S.79's made a successful attack on the British airfield at Mersa Matruh. Between four and six British aircraft on the ground were hit and a hangar and a fuel dump were set on fire. The fire could still be seen twenty minutes after the attack.

East Africa

On 4 July four tanks and four trucks were destroyed in the Cassala area and troop formations were effectively shot up.

A camel caravan was bombed in the vicinity of the Angareb estuary (Atbara).

Bombs were dropped on the port of Akik (Red Sea, north of the Eritrean frontier). Results not known.

Enemy Operations

Only slight material damage was caused when bombers attacked Tobruk on 5 July.

Torpedo-bombers carried out low-level attacks on the naval base at Tobruk. Details are not yet available.

/GROUND

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GROUND SITUATION

On 3 July an enemy frontier security force mounted on camels was attacked and overpowered in the Tarnidda area (20 km north of Gat - 400 km south of Gadames - on the Tunisian frontier). Enemy patrols were forced to withdraw.

Egyptian Front

Only slight casualties were caused by enemy artillery fire on Ridotta Capuzzo (Libya).

In the Sollum area Italian troops are in contact with enemy tanks supported by artillery.

SITUATION AT SEA

The Italian fleet is at sea. The British squadron located at Alexandria is reported to be assembled as follows for a special operation:

- a) the light cruiser "Caledon",
- b) "Warspite" and four destroyers,
- c) "R.Sovereign", "Malays", "Eagle" and five destroyers,
- d) four destroyers,
- e) in reserve: "Ramillies".

It is believed that elements of this formation left port at 1500 hours on 7 July.

On the morning of 6 July a British destroyer and a seaplane were observed 70 sea miles south-west of Tangier.

MISCELLANEOUS

GREAT BRITAIN

Spitfires equipped with cannon-guns were encountered over Cornwall.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.307 (9 July. 1940)

Operations on 8 July and during the night of 8/9 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

The Reich

Between 2335 and 0310 hours there were 24 enemy incursions from Heligoland Bay and northern Holland as far as the line southern tip of Fuehen - southern tip of Lealand - Wismar - Uelsen - Hannover. Single aircraft circled several times over Flensburg Bay, Kiel Bay and Luebeck Bay and over the Elbe and Weser estuaries (mine-laying?). Bombs were dropped at eight places, in particular at Kiel, Aalborg and Wilhelmshaven. At Kiel a number of bombs fell on the naval dockyard. A hit was scored on dry dock number 5 which was unoccupied at the time. The lock gate was damaged and the dock filled with water. The cruiser "Luetzow" was hit forward on the starboard side by a turret. The bomb exploded between decks, but the effect was slight and there were no casualties.

/At

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At Aalborg the town and harbour were attacked. Three bombs damaged the mole and set a shed on fire. One soldier was killed and two persons were injured.

At Wilhelmshaven three bombs fell on entrance channel number four in the shipyard area. No damage of any importance resulted. The other bombs fell into the waters of the Jade.

AA guns went into action at a number of places, particularly in the North Sea coastal area and on the islands.

Night fighters made contact once and shot down a Handley Page aircraft between Hooe and Heligoland.

Between 2345 and 0145 hours there were about 20 incursions over the Holland-Belgium frontier as far as the line Osnabrueck - Hamm - Cologne. So far bombs have been reported at only two places and these caused no damage of any importance. The dummy installation at Grevenbroich was attacked again. AA guns and searchlights were very active in Luftgau VI.

Night fighters were operational over Luftgau VI, but there was no contact with enemy aircraft.

Luftgau Holland

At about 1400 hours 4 Blenheims approached over the Hook of Holland. Bombs were dropped south of Rotterdam, but no damage resulted. One of the enemy aircraft was shot down by fighters.

Between 2330 and 0200 hours incursions were made by 24 enemy aircraft, 20 of which passed on into the Reich. Bombs were dropped at two places, one of them being Schiphol airfield. Eleven bombs damaged the taxiing area, causing the airfield to be closed temporarily.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

At about 1000 hours a Blenheim attacked Merville airfield. Three bombs fell on the western edge of the airfield, but no damage of any importance resulted.

Between 2320 and 0025 hours three incursions were made from the direction of the Scheldt estuary. Bombs were dropped at two places, but no damage resulted.

Luftgau Norway

At 0200 hours on 9 July 3 Lockheed Hudsons attacked Flatoy Island (near Bergen) from about 200 - 300 metres, dropping 15 - 20 HE and incendiary bombs. Hits were scored on an oil dump (wooden sheds). About 20 barrels of oil were burnt. A Norwegian fishing boat was shot up, one man being wounded.

Altogether seven aircraft of four British squadrons were definitely identified during the night.

GREAT BRITAIN

Aircraft sent out to reconnoitre shipping movements in the Channel and along the east coast of England and airfields in southern England reported the following:

Convoy east of Sunderland at 0800 hours:
42 large merchant ships and warships, course 150 - 160°

/Convoy

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Convoy 50 km north-east of the Humber estuary at 1322 hours:
3 merchant ships (over 8,000 tons) and a light cruiser.

Convoy north of The Wash at 1420 hours:

3 warships and 4 merchant ships.

Convoy south-east of Orfordness at 1148 hours:

18 ships escorted by warships on southerly course.

Convoy off Harwich at 1324 hours:

26 ships (including two large vessels of about 10,000 tons) on course 20°.

Convoy 10 km east of Deal at 1230 hours:

13 ships on course for Deal.

No shipping movements observed between Brest and Bordeaux between 1400 and 1600 hours

Much activity by shipping on the east coast of England (seven convoys).

Slight shipping activity in the Channel (one convoy and a few single ships).

Airfields had normal aircraft complements.

Night-fighters were observed in the vicinity of the Humber and Thames estuaries, between Dungeness and Dover and over South Foreland, Portland and Lyme Bay.

Convoy south of Folkestone on south-westerly course at 1700 hours:

18 merchant ships.

Convoy off Portsmouth harbour at 0932 hours:

1 light cruiser and 5 - 6 merchant ships.

Convoy directly south-west of the Isle of Wight at 0930 hours:

6 merchant ships.

Convoy south of Plymouth at 0955 hours:

9 merchant ships and 4 warships on SSW course.

On 8 July and during the night of 8/9 July bombers carried out armed reconnaissance over the Channel and made nuisance raids on airfields, industrial plants and harbour and fuel storage installations in southern and central England.

The following attacks were carried out:

Day

1 merchant ship (6 - 8,000 tons) in a convoy at Sunderland.

One hit on bows with 250 kg bomb. Smoke and fire observed; ship turned about.

3 merchant ships south-east of the Humber estuary. No noticeable effect.

1 small cruiser 50 km north-east of the Humber estuary. The four 250 kg bombs fell 30 metres from the warship's starboard side.

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1 merchant ship (8 - 10,000 tons) 40 km north-east of the Humber estuary. The four 250 kg bombs fell a shipsbreadth away from the starboard side.

1 convoy of 5 merchant ships and 2 destroyers 70 km east of the Wash. 16 50 kg bombs were dropped. No noticeable effect.

Convoy between Dungeness and Dover:

1 merchant ship (5,000 tons); one hit on stern and another on gunwale with 50 kg bombs.

1 merchant ship (3,000 tons) 10 km east of South Foreland. One 250 kg bomb fell close to side of ship, which was unable to move.

1 destroyer off Folkestone. Hit scored on stern with one 250 kg bomb; explosion observed.

Ships at the quay in Falmouth harbour:

1 merchant ship (7,000 tons) hit twice by 250 kg bombs.

1 merchant ship (6,000 tons) hit by one 250 kg bomb.

Much smoke observed.

Other Targets:

North Coates Fitties airfield (12 km south-east of Grimsby).

4 50 kg, 1 250 kg, 4 incendiary canisters and 1 250 kg incendiary bomb dropped. The aircraft made two runs. On the first run 4 - 6 aircraft were damaged. The effect of the second attack was not observed.

Fuel storage installation at Ipswich. One 250 kg and 10 50 kg bombs were dropped. Hits were scored in the target area. Large fires and much smoke were observed.

Explosives factory south of Harwich. One 250 kg bomb, 16 50 kg bombs and 2 incendiary canisters were dropped. Effect not observed.

Fuel storage installation at Portland. 10 50 kg bombs were dropped, but fell too short.

Devonport naval dockyard. 4 50 kg bombs were dropped, scoring direct hits on workshops.

Yeovil airfield. 4 250 kg bombs were dropped, but fell too short.

St. Mawes harbour. 4 250 kg bombs were dropped. Effect not observing owing to clouds.

Night:

Fuel storage installation at Glasgow. Bomb hits started fires.

Airfield 40 km west of Glasgow. Effect not observed.

Searchlight position in Glasgow area. One 50 kg, 4 250 kg and incendiary bombs dropped. Fires observed.

/Searchlight

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Searchlight position in the vicinity of Donibristle airfield.
Four 250 kg bombs dropped.

Tranent airfield (east of Edinburgh). Four 250 kg, 12 50 kg and incendiary bombs dropped. Effect not known.

Skinningrove iron works, Middlesbrough. Effect not observed.

Billingham chemical works. Four 250 kg bombs dropped. Hits in eastern part of works. Small fire observed.

Fuel storage installation at North Killingholme. 90 50 kg bombs dropped. Two fires observed.

Fuel storage installation at Ipswich. Two 250 kg and 20 50 kg bombs dropped. Fires caused.

Fuel storage installation on Canvey Island. Four 250 kg bombs, four 50 kg bombs and one incendiary canister dropped. Fires were observed.

Fuel storage installation at Tilbury. Two 250 kg bombs dropped. Fires caused.

Fuel storage installation at Thameshaven. Four 250 kg bombs, four 50 kg bombs and one incendiary canister dropped. Fires observed.

Chatham dockyard. Four 250 kg bombs, four 50 kg bombs and one incendiary canister dropped. Effect not observed.

Harbour installations at Newport, Portland and Exeter.

Factory at Tenby (Pembrokeshire). 16 50 kg bombs dropped. Bombs fell on the target and on a factory at Milfordhaven. Effect observed only at latter target, where two large explosions resulted.

Searchlights in the Swansea and Bristol areas. Effect not observed.

Power station at Bristol. Four 250 kg bombs dropped. Fires were observed.

Silos at Bristol. Four 250 kg bombs dropped. Effect not observed.

Two illuminated ships in the Bristol Channel (apparently warships). 250 kg bombs were dropped, scoring a direct hit and a near miss on one ship.

An air battle between British and German fighters took place in the Dover area. Three Spitfires and a Hurricane and three Me 109's of J.G.51 were shot down.

NORTH SEA and BALTIC APPROACHES

Submarine patrols carried out at night over sea area Skagen were uneventful, as were escort operations.

During the night of 8/9 July aircraft of 9 Fl. Div. carried out a special operation (mine-laying ?) in the Thames estuary and on a smaller scale in the Elbow buoy area.

/Total

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Total Aircraft Losses on 8 July, 1940

German: 6 aircraft including
1 Do 17 (F. 120)
1 Ju 88 (K.G. 4)
1 He 111 (K.G. 1)
3 Me 109's (J.G. 51)

Enemy: 5 aircraft including
3 Spitfires and
1 Hurricane (Shot down in an air battle over Dover)
1 Blenheim (shot down by fighters)

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

8 July 1940: Nothing of importance was observed by reconnaissance over the Ionian Sea. Reconnaissance carried out over the Mediterranean throughout the day reported the following:

at about 1000 hours two aircraft flying on a south-westerly course at 800 metres were observed over Ia Galita Island (north-west of Bizerta),

at about 1200 hours three 10,000 ton ships, probably tankers, with two auxiliary vessels were observed moving on an easterly course about 50 km north of Philippeville.

An aircraft on reconnaissance over Malta, where strong fighter defence was encountered, again reported no changes since the previous day.

Italian Operations

Report on attacks by Italian aircraft based on Rhodes and Libya on British warships:

Rhodes: On the morning of 8 July a strong enemy warship formation was located between Crete and Sollum Bay.

At 0940 hours S.79's of 34th Gruppo attacked the formation and scored hits on a heavy cruiser.

At 1410 hours an attack was made by S.79's of 41st Gruppo. A number of hits with 100 kg bombs were observed on an aircraft-carrier. A heavy cruiser which was also hit stopped and appeared to be on fire.

At 1700 hours S.81's of 92nd Gruppo carried out an attack in the vicinity of Gavdos Island (south of Crete). A warship with a heavy list and surrounded by large patches of oil was observed 5 miles south-west of Gavdos. Fire was observed aboard other warships. A battleship was hit by three 250 kg bombs.

At 1730 hours 5 S.79's of 41st Gruppo made another attack.

An Italian aircraft was forced to land on Crete. Apart from this there were no losses in spite of strong fighter and AA defence.

Altogether 190 100 kg bombs and 28 250 kg bombs were dropped.

/Libya

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Libya: At 1000 hours 4 battleships and an aircraft-carrier were located and attacked south of Crete, as were 6 cruisers 12 sea miles north of this formation. Hits with 100 kg bombs were scored on two battleships by a Squadriglia of 14th Stormo.

At 1130 hours a Squadriglia of 15th Stormo made an unsuccessful attack with 250 kg bombs on the 4 battleships, which were accompanied by 4 destroyers.

At 1430 hours 6 aircraft of 10th Stormo carried out an attack. The first two aircraft dropped 100 kg mines, two of which fell ten metres away from the aircraft-carrier, causing it to change course sharply. The second pair of aircraft dropped 250 kg bombs, one of which hit the deck of the carrier, while two more fell close to the side of the ship. Much smoke was observed on deck.

On 6 July bombs were dropped on enemy ships off Sidi Barrani. Hits were observed on the bows of one ship.

On 8 July aircraft based on the Dodecanese attacked Alexandria harbour. Bombs fell in the target area and explosions were observed. Very strong AA defence was encountered.

Six warships, presumably part of the Alexandria squadron, were bombed about 200 km north of Alexandria. One aircraft did not return to base.

East Africa: During armed reconnaissance on 6 July the following were attacked: Malakal airfield (on the White Nile), a number of tanks in the Cassala area, enemy artillery positions and 9 lorries, a large warship in Perim Bay and airfield installations on Perim Island.

Enemy Operations

Enemy aircraft made an unsuccessful attack on Zula airfield (about 40 km south of Massaua).

GROUND SITUATION

Libya

On 4 July enemy armoured attacks on Ridotta Capuzzo supported by artillery and aircraft were driven off after an action lasting two hours.

The force holding Ridotta Capuzzo was reinforced by a motorised unit.

East Africa

On 4 and 5 July forces holding the Cassala area received further reinforcements.

On 5 July an enemy armoured attack on the Italian bridgehead at Cassala was driven off.

SITUATION AT SEA

An Italian convoy arrived at Benghazi during the evening of 8 July.

The Italian fleet is still at sea between Sicily and the Peloponnese. Its further intentions are not known.

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The British Squadron is believed to be still in the sea area south of Crete.

French warships at Alexandria include the battleship "Lorraine", 4 cruisers, 2 torpedo-boats and 2 submarines.

The French destroyer "Frondeur" is reported to have been sunk on 5 July by British warships while returning to France.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.308 (10 July, 1940)

Operations on 9 July and during the night of 9/10 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Norway

At 1030 hours on 9 July 13 Blenheims attacked Stavanger -Sola airfield, dropping 18 bombs. A few aircraft on the ground were damaged and an A. A. gunner was killed. All of the enemy aircraft were shot down by single-engined fighters, twin-engined fighters and AA.

Luftgau Holland

During the afternoon there were several enemy incursions over Luftgau Holland. Bombs were dropped at Dordrecht, Bussum and Zwolle. Enemy aircraft which approached Schiphol airfield dropped no bombs and made off into the clouds when AA guns opened fire.

Between 2300 and 0115 hours enemy aircraft made about 20 incursions over Luftgau Holland. About 12 aircraft flew on into the Ruhr and a few into northern Holland. Bombs were dropped at three places in Holland. At Rotterdam buildings were damaged, four Dutch civilians killed and another four injured. No military installations were damaged.

The Reich

Between 0020 and 0315 hours enemy aircraft made 20 incursions from Heligoland Bay and northern Holland as far as the line Tondern - Stade - Rotenburg - Vechta, the main effort being made over Jade and Dollart bays (minel-aying?). Bombs were dropped at two places, but no military installations were damaged.

Between 2345 and 0205 hours there were 12 enemy incursions over the frontiers of Belgium and Holland as far as the line Muenster - Arnsberg - Wipperfuert - Honnef. Bombs were dropped at two places, but no military installations were damaged.

Altogether 16 British aircraft (of 5 squadrons) were definitely identified over the central and southern areas of the North Sea.

GREAT BRITAIN

Reconnaissance

Morning reconnaissance reported the following:

/Shipping

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Shipping in Ports:

Dover: 1 cruiser,
4 escort vessels,
10 torpedo-boats (?).

Hastings Bay: 3 large ships,
4 small ships.

Weymouth: 50 ships at anchor.

Shipping Movements:

15 km SW of
Portland: 2 patrol boats on an easterly course.

20 km SW of
Portland: 1 patrol boat on a westerly course.

25 km SW of
Portland: 1 tanker (1,000 tons) on a westerly course.

10 km E of
Torquay: 1 freighter on a north-easterly course.

20 km SW of
Dover: 6 merchant ships on a north-easterly course.

off Dover: 3 destroyers and
3 merchant ships on a north-easterly course.

Convoy comprising
8 merchant ships and
4 destroyers on course for Deal.

Afternoon Reconnaissance:

Airfields:

Airfield E of
Swansea: 2 aircraft.

Shipping in Ports:

Swansea: A number of medium and large transports.

Shipping Movements:

40 km SE of
Harwich: Convoy comprising
48 ships and
15 escort vessels on course 250°.

30 km SE of
Orfordness: Convoy comprising
28 ships on course 15°.

60 km SE of
Harwich: Convoy comprising
45 ships on course 30°.

15 km SE of
Lowestoft: 2 destroyers

30 km NE of
Orfordness: 3 large warships on course 210°.

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/On

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On 9 July and during the night of 9/10 July bombers carried out the following attacks:

Airfields:

N of Norwich
at 1800 hours: About 20 50 kg bombs were dropped.
Hits were scored in the taxiing area.

Pembroke airfield: 4 250 kg bombs were dropped. The
fuelling point was set on fire.

Shipping:

Off Gt. Yarmouth
at 0900 hours: 1 medium merchant ship. One hit
scored with 50 kg bomb.

S of I. of Wight
at 1600 hours: 1 small merchant ship in convoy south
of I. of Wight. One hit scored with
a 250 kg bomb. Fire observed.

S of Swansea
at 1600 hours: 1 merchant ship of about 5,000 tons.
One hit with 250 kg bomb. Fire
observed.

Thames Estuary
at 1700 hours: 1 merchant ship of about 10,000 tons sunk.
1 merchant ship of about 4,000 tons sunk.
1 merchant ship of about 4,000 tons.
One hit on stern with 50 kg bomb.
1 merchant ship of 6,000 tons. One hit
amidships with 50 kg bomb.
1 merchant ship of 3,000 tons. One hit
on stern with 50 kg bomb. Explosion
observed.

Off Middlesbrough
at 1800 hours: 1 merchant ship of 10,000 tons in convoy.
On hit scored with 250 kg bomb.

S of I. of Wight
at 2045 hours: 1 patrol boat sunk

Altogether, 26,000 tons of shipping were sunk and about
40,000 tons damaged.

Industrial and Supply Installations:

Swansea,
1600 hours: One hit with 250 kg bomb scored on
industrial installation. Further
effect not observed.

S of Norwich
at 1800 hours: 20 50 kg bombs dropped on industrial
installation. Fire and explosion
observed.

Norwich,
1800 hours: 20 50 kg bombs dropped on supply dump.
Two sheds caught fire and 5 - 6 more
exploded.

During the night the following nuisance attacks were carried out:

Leeds: 8 50 kg HE bombs, 1 250 kg incendiary bomb
and 144 stick incendiaries were dropped
on industrial installations.

/Norwich

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Norwich: An industrial installation was attacked.

Ipswich: 30 50 kg bombs and 3 250 kg bombs were dropped on a fuel storage installation.

Ipswich: 1 250 kg bomb and 10 50 kg bombs were dropped on a large silo.

The effect of the above night attacks was not observed.

Middlesbrough: 24 50 kg bombs and 8 incendiary canisters were dropped on a searchlight position. The searchlight was extinguished.

Thames Haven and Canvey Is. 40 50 kg bombs were dropped on the fuel storage installation. Hits were scored in the target area. A dull red fire and a shower of sparks were observed.

Tilbury: 20 50 kg bombs were dropped on a badly blacked-out factory. About 1/3 of the bombs fell in the target area. A sheet of flame was observed.

Franclingham area: 20 50 kg bombs were dropped on a badly blacked-out works (probably blast furnaces). A small fire in the target area was observed.

E of London: 20 50 kg bombs were dropped on a searchlight battery. The effect was not observed.

Off Newcastle & Humber Estuary: A 9 Fl. Div. special operation (mine-laying ?) was carried out according to plan.

Defence

Night fighters were observed over the Humber estuary and Killingholme. Slight fighter defence over the Thames estuary.

Generally slight AA defence of all calibres was encountered over the southern mole at Newcastle, the Humber estuary, Kilusea, Ashford, Maidstone, Chatham, in the Gravesend - Thames Haven - Canvey Island area and at Swansea. There was heavy AA over London and south of Chatham.

There was intense searchlight activity in and east of London (250 searchlights observed in this area). About 80 searchlights were directed vertically and were not moved about. There was a large number of searchlights along the whole of the south-east coast of England, particularly at Southend. In addition, there were 20 - 30 searchlights at Ipswich and a few north-east of Hull.

NORTH SEA and BALTIC APPROACHES

Twin-engined fighters shot down a Sunderland 250 km west of Stavenger at 1500 hours and a Lockheed about 75 km north-west of Newcastle at about 1730 hours. Escort operations, morning reconnaissance over the Skagerrak and submarine patrols were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 9 July, 1940

GERMAN:

1 Me 109
1 Me 110
1 He 111
<u>3 aircraft</u>

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/ ENEMY

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ENEMY:

In air combat: 1 Whitley (by fighters on night of 8/9 July)
13 Blenheims (at Stavanger)
6 Spitfires (at Dover)
3 Spitfires (Isle of Wight)
1 Lockheed (Newcastle)
1 Sunderland (North Sea)

By AA: 1 Blenheim (Stavanger)
26 aircraft

In addition, three enemy aircraft made forced landings in the North Sea and Channel.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Italian Reconnaissance

Mediterranean

Throughout 9 July reconnaissance was carried out as far as the line Crete - Cyrene in the east and Ibiza - Algiers in the west.

East Africa

On 7 July aircraft on armed reconnaissance over the lower Sudan attacked the railway station and airfield at Atbara (on the Nile at 17° 40' north).

Enemy aircraft carried out reconnaissance over the Massawa - Zula area (Eritrea).

Italian Operations on 9 July

Mediterranean

At 1416 and 1630 hours aircraft based on Sardinia bombed the British warships which sailed from Gibraltar in the direction of Genoa. Attacks were made by 6 S.79's east of Majorca and by 47 S.79's east of Minorca. Several hits were observed. One S.79 was shot down.

British warships between Sicily and Greece were attacked by 150 aircraft based on Apulia and Sardinia while in action against elements of the Italian fleet. The attacks were carried out in waves. Several hits were scored on enemy warships. One Italian aircraft was shot down.

Enemy Operations

East Africa

In an attack on Assab airfield a few fighters on the ground were damaged. One Italian aircraft is missing.

GROUND SITUATION

Libya

There were no attacks by either side on 8 July. During the last few days the British lost about 50 tanks and lorries in action.

/SITUATION

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SITUATION AT SEA

On the evening of 9 July an Italian naval formation from Libya encountered British warships from Alexandria off the Calabrian coast and an action of about 15 minutes duration ensued. The following warships participated:

Italian: 2 battleships ("Cesare" and "Cavour"),
 14 cruisers,
 26 destroyers.

British: 3 battleships,
 4 cruisers,
 12 destroyers,
 1 aircraft-carrier ("Eagle").

In addition, 150 Italian bombers took part in the action, but only part of this force was able to attack owing to the visibility (smoke screens).

After a brief exchange, in which no serious damage was sustained by the Italian warships, the two formations disengaged. Details of losses suffered by the British formation are not yet available. The Italian warships put into Sicilian ports and the British formation withdrew on a south-easterly course.

Since the air attack east of Minorca at 1630 hours on 9 July no reports have been received regarding the whereabouts of the Gibraltar Squadron (strength: 3 battleships, 2 cruisers, 8 destroyers and an aircraft-carrier).

MISCELLANEOUS

GREAT BRITAIN

See following report on British night fighters.

Report on British Night Fighters

Spitfires, Hurricanes and Blenheims are the principal types of aircraft in use as night fighters. According to prisoners' statements, even the oldest types in the Blenheim series (Mark I) have been converted and used for night fighter operations. The Gladiator, which used to be seen operating as a night fighter, has not been observed of late. In one instance a twin-engined aircraft with in-line engines was identified and was believed to be the new twin-engined fighter "Bristol Beaufighter", as no other twin-engined aircraft is known to be in use as a fighter.

The employment of the Defiant as a night fighter must be expected. As it is very difficult to differentiate between the Defiant and Hurricanes and Spitfires at night, occasional surprise attacks must be expected when the enemy aircraft is in a position in which a single-engined fighter would normally not be dangerous.

The Blenheims which have been converted for use as auxiliary twin-engined fighters are generally equipped with four fixed machine-guns (in a blister under the fuselage). Some Blenheims are reported to be equipped with cannon-guns, and this is confirmed by cannon bursts which have been observed occasionally at night.

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It is very probable that the new twin-engined fighter, the Beau-fighter, is invariably equipped with cannon-guns. In general, cannon fire should not be expected from Spitfires and Hurricanes as only limited experimental series comprising a few aircraft of these types have been equipped with cannon guns.

Night fighters have been encountered all along the east and south-east coasts and occasionally inland. The main areas of night fighter effort were found over the Humber, the Wash and the London area. Attacks were made at all heights up to 5,000 metres.

The results of the last air manoeuvres before the war indicated that the British did not favour the establishment of permanent night fighter areas and preferred to use night fighters wherever they were needed. Thus, signal lights seen on the ground may not signify the limits of night fighter areas, but may be only an aid to navigation, e.g. markers for bomber landing lanes. As British fighters are controlled by ground stations using R/T, and AA is used only on a very limited scale at night, it is very probable that this procedure has been adopted. It must be assumed that searchlights, AA artillery and night fighters are controlled from one command post and that the searchlights and night fighters take the major roles, while the AA is used only when the night fighters have not yet contacted the enemy aircraft. Occasionally the AA appears to fire to guide the night fighters towards their target. Night fighters and searchlights co-operate as follows: when an enemy aircraft is picked up the searchlight concerned signals and is joined by all its neighbours, thus completely blinding the aircrew and preventing the attacking night fighters from being observed until they open fire. Up to three night fighters operate together, the aircraft attacking singly. Navigation lights are switched on when several aircraft co-operate. Some night fighters have occasionally been observed attempting to pick up an enemy aircraft with their landing lights or spotlights.

According to prisoners' statements, the Blenheim is preferred as a night fighter because of its stability and the wide field of vision which it affords. However, the perspex below the cockpit exposes the pilot to the blinding effect of his own searchlights, and this has been described as extremely disturbing and dangerous.

It has been observed that at this time of the year the nights are so light, particularly in the north of the British Isles, that aircraft silhouetted against the bright northern sky are already distinguishable at a distance of about two kilometres. On dark nights attacks are usually made on aircraft not picked up by searchlights only when light of any type (exhaust, interior lighting, navigation lights) betrays their position to the enemy.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.309 (11 July, 1940)

Operations on 10 July and during the night of 10/11 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

At 1430 hours 7 Blenheims attacked Amiens-Glisy airfield. AA defence forced the enemy aircraft off course and bomb loads were dumped without

/causing

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causing any damage. All seven British aircraft were shot down by fighters 20 km west of Amiens.

Towards evening single enemy aircraft attacked airfields in the Cambrai area and St. Omer airfield. Enemy bombing runs were upset by heavy AA fire to such an extent that no damage was done.

GREAT BRITAIN

Early morning reconnaissance reported the following:

Airfields:

Leuchars: 14 Hudsons
Donibristle: Number of aircraft not observed.
Grangemouth: 16 single-engined aircraft.

Shipping in Ports:

Rosyth: 2 destroyers and
7 ships in dock.
1 submarine,
several destroyers and
small warships at the quay.
2 light cruisers ("Belfast" and "Aurora" class)
on the roadstead.

Greenock: 2 light cruisers,
2 destroyers,
2 escort vessels and
merchant ships under construction.
2 submarines,
1 destroyer and
a number of small warships and
merchant ships in the harbour.
1 heavy cruiser ("London" class),
1 heavy cruiser (?),
1 light cruiser ("Aurora" class)
1 destroyer,
5 tank ships and
a number of small merchant ships on the
roadstead.

Dumbarton: 1 freighter,
2 escort vessels (?) and
4 destroyers under construction.

Grangemouth: A few merchant ships.

Methil: A few merchant ships.

Morning and afternoon reconnaissance reported the following shipping movements:

A few merchant ships and small warships on a north-easterly course in the Straits of Dover between 0027 and 0900 hours.

/Several

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Several small merchant ships, guard-ships and patrol boats were observed sailing out of the Thames at 0710 hours. At 1240 hours two convoys were observed moving on a southerly course.

There was much shipping activity off Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft throughout the morning:

0705 hours: 1 convoy (26 merchant ships and 4 warships)
25 km east of Lowestoft on a south-easterly course.

0840 hours: 2 convoys (each with 25 ships) 50 km east of Gt. Yarmouth
on a south-westerly course.

1345 hours: 1 convoy 60 km north-east of Gt. Yarmouth on a
north-easterly course.

1425 hours: 1 convoy (7 ships) 110 km north-east of Gt. Yarmouth
on a southerly course.

At about 0900 hours two convoys (each of 50 ships) on a south-westerly course were observed 100 km east of Middlesbrough.

The heavy convoy traffic on the south-east coast and in the Channel indicates that west coast ports are operating at full capacity. It must be assumed that the west coast ports are not able to cope with the in-coming traffic and that the enemy is therefore making every effort to exploit to some extent the harbour facilities on the east coast.

On 10 July bomber formations - some of them escorted by single-engined and twin-engined fighters - carried out the following attacks:

Airfields:

Martlesham Heath,
0600 hours: No noticeable effect.

West Raynham:
0620 hours: Hits with 50 kg bombs on hangars and
and quarters.

Marham,
0620 hours: Hits with 50 kg bombs on hangars
and quarters.

N of Christchurch,
0530 hours: No noticeable effect.

Fuel Storage Installations:

Plymouth,
0530 hours: Hits scored with 50 kg bombs.
Explosions observed.

Portland,
1300 and
1620 hours: 4 250 kg bombs dropped in each attack.
Fires observed.

Swansea,
1630 hours: One hit scored with 250 kg bomb.

Pembroke,
1135 hours: 2 250 kg and
10 50 kg bombs dropped.
Hits and fires observed.

Cardigan,
1130 hours: 2 250 kg and
10 50 kg bombs dropped.
Four direct hits and fires observed.

/Other

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Other Targets:

Fulham, Air park attacked. Effect not observed.
0620 hours:

Gt. Yarmouth, 2 250 kg and
0830 hours: 16 50 kg bombs dropped on a barracks.
Four hits observed.

Pembrey, 4 250 kg bombs dropped on an ammunition
1300 hours: dump. A fire and explosions were observed.

Cardiff, 2 250 kg and
1140 hours: 10 50 kg bombs dropped on a steel works.
Hits observed. A barrage balloon was
shot down.

Harbour Installations:

Plymouth, Hits with a few 50 kg bombs scored on a
0530 hours: warehouse.

Salcombe, 2 250 kg and
1222 hours: 10 50 kg bombs dropped.
Direct hit on quay installations
observed.

Plymouth, 2 250 kg and
0955 hours: 10 50 kg bombs dropped.
Hits observed on warehouses and loading
installations.

Looe, 2 250 kg and
1145 hours: 10 50 kg bombs dropped.
Effect not observed.

Swansea, 4 250 kg bombs dropped.
1320 hours: Direct hits on quay installations and fires
in warehouses were observed.

Shipping:

At 1400 hours a convoy was attacked in the Channel with the following results:

1 cruiser (about 7,000 tons) with three funnels sunk by hits forward and amidships.

1 merchant ship (7,000 tons) sunk by hits on the quarter-deck and several near misses.

1 freighter (about 3,000 tons) set on fire and sunk by several hits on deck and about ten near misses.

At the same time the following were hit:

1 merchant ship (4,000 tons). One hit on side, ship listed heavily.

1 merchant ship (7,000 tons): Six hits on side, ship caught fire.

1 light cruiser (about 6,000 tons). Hit on bows, effect not observed.

/At

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At 1600 hours a hit with a 250 kg bomb was scored on a merchant ship (6,000 tons) in a convoy 60 km north-east of Great Yarmouth. The ship caught fire.

At 1620 hours a merchant ship (4,000 tons) in a convoy 120 km east-north-east of Great Yarmouth was hit and set on fire.

At 1818 hours a merchant ship (6,000 tons) in a convoy off the Humber estuary was hit by a 250 kg bomb. At the same time a merchant ship (about 6,000 tons) in a convoy was hit by a 250 kg incendiary oil bomb.

NORTH SEA and BALTIC APPROACHES

Submarine patrols off the Norwegian coast, escort operations and reconnaissance off the Skagerrak were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 10 July, 1940

GERMAN:
2 Do 17's
3 Me 110's
1 Me 109
1 He 111
7 aircraft

ENEMY:

In air combat: 8 Bristol Blenheims
14 Spitfires
1 Spitfire (on 9 July)
1 Hurricane
12 fighters (Spitfires and Hurricanes)
36 aircraft

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

At 0830 hours on 10 July two formations of the Alexandria Squadron were sighted:

1st Formation: 1 battleship, 2 destroyers and an aircraft-carrier. Position about 110 km east of Malta, course 90°.

2nd Formation: 4 cruisers and 6 destroyers. Position about 75 km south-east of Malta, course 45°.

Italian Operations:

9 July: The following hits scored in air attacks on the Gibraltar Squadron were confirmed by photographic reconnaissance:

"Hood" one hit by heavy bomb amidships, fire on board.

Battleship: ("Resolution" class) one hit amidships.

Aircraft-carrier: ("Ark Royal") five hits.

/Air

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Air reconnaissance observed ten warships in Pireaus harbour. It is assumed that these are Greek vessels.

10 July: At 2100 hours 9 S.79's attacked Malta. Fire was observed aboard a warship ("Royal Sovereign" ?) lying in the harbour.

11 July: An attack in the morning by aircraft based on Sicily on a convoy escorted by the Alexandria Squadron is still in progress.

GROUND SITUATION

No reports have been received.

SITUATION AT SEA

The Gibraltar Squadron was located between Majorca and Minorca at 2330 hours on 10 July.

A convoy of five ships each of 10,000 tons which succeeded in passing Pantelleria was reported to have met the Alexandria Squadron during the night of 10/11 July. Position not known.

MISCELLANEOUS

GREAT BRITAIN

A German who returned home from overseas at the beginning of May made the following statements:

- (a) The Tilbury Docks are supposed to have particularly strong AA defences. He saw only three machine-guns near where his ship was berthed, and these were not on harbour installations but in their immediate vicinity.
- (b) Directly opposite Tilbury Docks on the Gravesend side there is, among other industries, a paper mill in which large amounts of cellulose are stored. The cellulose store is illuminated at night, although very dimly.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.310 (12 July, 1940)

Operations on 11 July and during the night of 11/12 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Holland and Belgium/Northern France

Between 2342 and 0330 hours incursions were made by at least 22 enemy aircraft, about 12 of which passed on into the Ruhr. Bombs were dropped at three places (Schiphol, Waalhaven and Antwerp), but owing to AA defence no damage of any importance resulted.

West of Rotterdam a low-flying Blenheim was shot down by the AA machine-guns of a searchlight unit.

A Whitley was brought down by AA west of Antwerp.

/The Reich

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The Reich

Between 2320 and 0318 hours there were 11 enemy incursions from Heligoland Bay and northern Holland as far as the line Fehmarn - Guestrow - Soltau - Meppen. One of the aircraft flew on to Stettin. No bombs were dropped.

AA defence was active in north-western Germany, in the Wismar area and at Stettin.

An enemy aircraft was found to be shot down north of Papenburg.

Between midnight and 0300 hours incursions were made by 25 enemy aircraft over the frontiers of Holland and Belgium as far as the line Borken - Limburg - Crailsheim - Strassburg, with the main effort at Cologne, Mannheim and Karlsruhe. Bombs were dropped at seven places, but only slight damage resulted.

AA defence, which was active throughout the area, had no noticeable effect.

Altogether 18 British aircraft (of 9 squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Reconnaissance reported the following:

Morning Reconnaissance:

Shipping Movements:

Off Dover, 0635 hours:	16 merchant ships } 2 small warships } stationary
	1 medium warship } on N course 1 large merchant ship } S. of Dover
10 km E of Folkestone, 0632 hours:	1 large merchant ship and 1 medium warship on N course.
10 km E of Lowestoft, 0645 hours:	Convoy moving south.
Lowestoft, 60 km radius, 0710 hours:	1 cruiser N of Cromer on W course.
13 km E of Whitby, 0729 hours:	1 medium and 1 small merchant ship moving at low speed on W course.
25 km SW of Weymouth, 0733 hours:	3 small merchant ships moving at low speed on W course.
45 km SW of Dartmouth, 0736 hours:	1 medium merchant ship moving at low speed on E course.

/Portsmouth:

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Portsmouth: 20 ships including one stationary and low in the water, apparently damaged in yesterday's attack.

Humber Estuary
and sea area to E:

0615 hours: Convoy moving in direction of Humber.

0700 hours: 1 heavy and
2 light cruisers.

0700 - About 15 small ships
0800 hours: (probably mine-sweepers).

About
0700 hours: 4 convoys on different courses.

0700 -
0920 hours: 15 single merchant ships
on different courses.

Thames Estuary,

0745 -
1145 hours: No shipping movements.

S of Eastbourne,
0625 hours: 2 small merchant ships (stationary)

0648 hours: 2 medium ships on E course.

30 km SE of
Bournemouth
at about
0700 hours: 4 medium merchant ships on SW course.

Afternoon Reconnaissance:

Airfields:

Ipswich,
2030 hours: 4 multiple-engined aircraft (?).

Folkestone &
Harwich,
2040 hours: No aircraft observed.

Shipping in Ports:

Dover,
2010 hours: 5 large and
4 small merchant ships at anchor
outside the harbour.

Lowestoft,
2020 hours: No shipping in port or off coast.

Folkestone,
2040 hours: 7 medium warships in harbour,
3 medium and
4 small warships off the harbour on N course
and
2 medium warships on WSW course.

/Shipping

RESTRICTED

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Shipping Movements:

1430 hours: Convoy comprising 21 ships off Thames Estuary moving at low speed on W course.

1512 hours: Convoy comprising 30 ships S of Orfordness on S course.

1731 hours: Convoy comprising 51 ships E of Orfordness on NE course.

1745 hours: Convoy comprising 38 ships 60 km E of Gt. Yarmouth. Course not observed.

1840 hours: 4 medium and small ships 40 km E of Lowestoft, medium speed, course NNE.

1845 hours: Convoy of several ships SE of Lowestoft on NE course.

1900 hours: 3 armed steamships 20 km E of the Humber Estuary. Course not observed.

1920 hours: 19 small ships E of Hull moving at high speed on S course.

1920 hours: A few small merchant ships S of Portsmouth. Course not observed.

2040 hours: 6 ships N and NW of Harwich. Type and course not observed.

2045 hours: 19 coastal vessels and 2 large ships (apparently ferries) between Grimsby and the Humber estuary.

Evaluation of Photographic Reconnaissance
carried out on 11 July, 1940

St. Ishmael
(3 km SE of
Milford Haven): 2 tankers totalling 20,000 tons, }
15 freighters totalling 54,000 tons } (at anchor)

2 escort vessels (in motion).

(Not completely covered)

Pembroke
Seaplane Base: 4 Sunderlands,
2 aircraft, types not identified.

Cloud obscured part of landing area.

Pembroke,
Fuel storage
Installation: 16 tanks observed (diameter about 34 metres).
Part of installation obscured by cloud.
2 tanks pressed in, apparently damaged.
Further effect of bombs not observed owing to cloud.

Pembroke, Fuel
Storage Inst. S of
royal dockyard: 17 tanks (diameter about 34 metres).

/Visual

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Visual Observation:

In Pembroke - About 20 seaplanes and
Milford Harbour: 40 ships of all sizes.

The following attacks were carried out by bombers on 11 July and during the night of 11/12 July:

Day

Shipping:

Portland Harbour: 1 tanker of 15,000 tons and
1 tanker of 8,000 tons.
Both ships hit and observed to be sinking.

200 km W of Brest: 1 merchant ship of 3,000 tons.
Hits on bows and stern; much smoke.
Ship observed to be sinking.

50 km N of Norwich: 1 patrol boat of 1,500 tons.
Ship stopped after 250 kg bomb fell 30 metres astern.

60 km E of Ipswich: Convoy comprising 35 ships:
1 ship of 3,500 tons;
one hit on stern with 250 kg bomb.
1 ship of 2,500 tons;
one hit amidships with 250 kg bomb.
Much smoke observed.

15 km SE of Portland: Convoy:
1 merchant ship of 3,000 tons and
1 merchant ship of 1,000 tons sunk.
1 warship of 2,500 tons (gunboat ?).
Direct hit.
1 merchant ship of 1,000 tons;
several near misses.

30 km SE of Torquay: 1 merchant ship of 5,000 tons;
one hit on port side and
several near misses.

Other Targets:

Plymouth: 10 50 kg bombs were dropped on the outer
harbour installations. A fighter attack
prevented observation of bomb strikes.

Cromer: 1 250 kg and
10 50 kg bombs were dropped on the railway
station and an M/T park.
Hits and smoke observed in station.

Stalham: 1 250 kg and
10 50 kg bombs were dropped on the railway
station and factories. Two hits observed on
installations in station.

/Lowestoft

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Lowestoft
Harbour: 2 250 kg and
20 50 kg bombs were dropped,
some falling in the harbour and
others on harbour installations.

Burton on Trent: 3 250 kg and
4 50 kg bombs were dropped on industrial
installations. One 250 kg bomb hit
resulted in a dull red sheet of flame.

Portsmouth
Harbour: Direct hit (250 kg) on harbour.
Direct hit and several near misses
(250 kg bombs) on a floating dock.
Three or four direct hits (250 kg) on
two medium merchant ships in the harbour.
A gasometer received a direct hit and
caught fire.
Several hits on quay installations.

Bridlington: 2 250 kg and
5 50 kg bombs were dropped on the
railway station. Hits observed.

Catfoss Airfield
(N of Hull) 7 50 kg bombs dropped.
Effect not observed.

Night (10/11 July)

Sheerness: 20 50 kg bombs dropped.
Explosions observed.

Harwich
Airfield: 15 50 kg bombs dropped in the target area.
Violent explosions and a fire observed.

The effect of the following attacks was
not observed:

Middlesbrough: 24 50 kg bombs and
8 incendiary canisters were dropped
on blast furnaces.

Billingham: 24 50 kg bombs and
8 incendiary canisters dropped.

Ipswich: 20 50 kg bombs were dropped on the
fuel storage installation.

E. Anglia: 25 50 kg bombs were dropped on a
searchlight position between London
and Harwich.

Night of 11/12 July:

Milford Haven
and Pembroke: Explosions and a fire observed.

The effect of the following attacks was
not observed:

Humber: Searchlight position S of the estuary.

/Milford

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Milford Haven: Airfield in area.
Swansea: Searchlight position in area.
Exeter and
Exmouth: Harbour installations were attacked.
A fire was observed.

Supplement to Situation Report of 11 July, 1940

At about 1100 hours on 10 July an attack was made on a factory north-west of Worthing. Four 250 kg bombs were dropped. A fire was observed (confirmed by photographic reconnaissance).

Defence:

On 11 July and during the night of 11/12 July the following was observed concerning enemy defences:

Fighters:

Almost all convoys up to 150 km from the coast were escorted by fighters.

Fighters were observed as follows:

0700 hours: 3 - 5 aircraft, apparently fighters, over the Humber estuary. No attack observed.
0700 hours: Several Spitfires over Cromer.
0800 hours: 1 fighter with cannon-gun (type not known) over Gt. Yarmouth.
0900 hours: 1 fighter (type not known) over Grimsby.
1845 hours: Several fighters 50 km NE of Gt. Yarmouth.
1900 hours: 3 Spitfires 50 km SE of Lowestoft.
0100 hours,
12 July: 4 night fighters S of the Humber estuary.
The aircraft flew with navigation lights on and flashed ES.

AA Artillery, Searchlights and Barrage Balloons:

All of the convoys which were sighted were protected by AA of greatly varying accuracy.

0600 hours: Well-placed AA at Gt. Yarmouth.
0700 hours: Well-placed heavy AA on both sides of the Humber estuary.
0800 hours: Well-placed heavy AA at 2,000 metres at Dover
About 15 land-based barrage balloons at 1,500 metres between Portsmouth and Selsey.
0800 hours: Medium AA between Cromer and Mundesley.
2300 hours: AA and searchlight activity at the Ipswich fuel storage installation.
Intense AA and searchlight activity over London, Sheerness and the south coast.

/0100 hours

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0100 hours,
12 July:

Searchlight positions S of the Humber
estuary. Further brisk searchlight
activity extending far inland.

NORTH SEA and BALTIC APPROACHES

An enemy submarine was attacked 60 km west-south-west of Stavanger. On the first run a hit was scored amidships, but the bomb was a dud. On the second run the submarine probably received a hit on the bows while it was diving and disappeared quickly under the water.

Morning reconnaissance over the Skagerrak and escort operations were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 11 July, 1940

German:

4 He 111
1 Ju 87
1 Ju 88
4 Me 110
1 Do 17
1 He 59

12 aircraft

Enemy:

In Air Combat:

8 Spitfires
1 Hurricane
1 Blenheim at St. Homer

By AA:

1 Blenheim at Rotterdam
1 Anson at Antwerp
1 aircraft (type not known) at Papenburg

13 aircraft

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

On 11 July Italian reconnaissance over the Mediterranean and the Libyan frontier area observed nothing of particular importance.

Italian Operations

Mediterranean

According to a report of 11 July, a formation of Italian bombers attacked a transport escorted by warships at 1530 hours. At the time of the attack the transport was moving on an easterly course about 240 km south-east of Syracuse. The attack resulted in the sinking of the transport and two other merchant ships were damaged. Of the escorting warships, an aircraft-carrier received several hits, including a direct hit with a 500 kg bomb from 900 metres, and fire was observed on board. Two destroyers were also hit and damaged. During the attack four enemy fighters were shot down. All but two of the Italian aircraft returned to base. The attack was carried out by 87 S.79's and about 12 Z.506's.

/Libya

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Libya

Italian attacks were directed against the camp and airfield at Sidi Barrani. An enemy fighter was shot down; one Italian aircraft is missing.

Enemy Operations

On 11 July enemy bomber activity was limited to an attack on an equipment dump at Tobruk. Only slight damage resulted.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.311 (13 July, 1940)

Operations on 12 July and during the night of 12/13 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

During the night of 11/12 July between 2330 and 0130 hours 5 single enemy aircraft approached Boulogne harbour. Bombs were dropped, but no damage resulted. AA and searchlight activity was intense. Two enemy aircraft were shot down for certain and another was probably destroyed.

At about midday a Blenheim dropped bombs 10 km east of Dunkirk. No damage resulted.

Luftgau Holland

Between 2300 hours and midnight incursions into Luftgau Holland were made by a number of enemy aircraft, five of which flew on into the Reich. Flares were dropped at several places on the coast. In addition, high explosive bombs which were dropped on two villages had little effect.

Defence by light and heavy AA had no noticeable effect.

The Reich

Between midnight and 0315 hours there were about 20 enemy incursions from Heligoland Bay as far as the line Flensburg Fiord - Luebeck - Celle - Bremen - Papenburg, with the main effort at Hamburg, Wesermuende and Emden. Bombs were dropped at three places (40 bombs at Emden), resulting in damage to some buildings. Several people were killed or injured.

Altogether 15 British aircraft (of four squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

The following shipping movements were observed by early morning reconnaissance:

Off the Firth
of Forth:

2 merchant ships each of
3,000 tons on SE course.
5 patrol boats on E course.
4 patrol boats on SE course.

70 km NE of
Lowestoft,
0615 hours:

Convoy comprising
30 ships on SW course.

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/SW

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SW of Portland,
0740 hours:

33 warships and merchant ships.

Thames Estuary,
0915 hours:

Convoy comprising about
20 ships putting out on NE course.

Afternoon and Evening Reconnaissance:

30 km E of
Gt. Yarmouth,
1940 hours:

Convoy comprising
30 merchant ships and
5 warships on SSW course.

34 km S of
Harwich,
1235 hours:

Convoy comprising
31 merchant ships and
2 cruisers moving at full speed
on SW course.

24 km E of
Gt. Yarmouth,
1255 hours:

4 large cruisers moving at full speed
on S course.

About 120 km W
of Esbjerg,
1308 hours:

1 large and
2 small warships moving at
full speed on ESE course.

About 80 km SW
of Lindesnes,
1320 hours:

4 large and
4 small warships moving at
full speed on S course.

On 12 July and during the night of 12/13 July bombers attacked the following targets:

Day:

(Most of the bombers operating by day were escorted by single-engined and twin-engined fighters)

Airfields:

Newquay:

Effect could not be observed.

St. Merryn:

12 50 kg bombs were dropped. Ten bombs fell among 8 Wellingtons parked on the W perimeter and two hit the fuel dump on the S perimeter.

Shipping:

Portland
Harbour:

3 250 kg bombs hit quay installations.
A merchant ship of 8,000 tons was
probably damaged.

Falmouth
Harbour:

4 250 kg bombs hit quay installations.
1 250 kg bomb hit the bows of a merchant
ship of 10,000 tons. Severe damage
observed.
2 250 kg bombs hit a merchant ship of
8,000 tons. Several fires observed.
3 250 kg bombs were dropped on a tanker
of 6,000 tons. One bomb fell directly
in front of the bows and the other two
fell on either side of the ship, which
lay still after the attack.

/The

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The effect of the following attacks was not observed.

15 km S of
I. of Wight: 1 patrol boat.

30 km SW of
I. of Wight: 1 patrol boat.

E. of Torquay: 1 merchant ship of 8,000 tons and
other ships in Falmouth harbour.

20 km SW of
Portsmouth: 1 merchant ship of 5,000 tons

Dundee: Harbour installations between Dundee and
Broughty Ferry: the target could not be
exactly located owing to mist and clouds.
Explosions and smoke were observed.

Exeter: 4 250 kg bombs were dropped.
Attack unsuccessful.

Night:

The effect of the following attacks was not observed.

Newcastle: 3 250 kg DA bombs and
4 incendiary canisters were dropped on the
Vickers Armstrong shipyard.

Billingham: 24 50 kg bombs and
8 incendiary canisters were dropped on a
chemical factory.

Swansea &
Cardiff: Searchlight positions.

During the night 9 Fl. Div. carried out a special operation (mine-laying?) at the Firth of Forth and Newcastle harbour according to plan.

Defence

The following observations were made:

Fighters:

The district north of Sunderland appears to be a night fighter area.

The convoy off Lowestoft was escorted by 15 Hurricanes.

Exeter: 3 fighters

W of Portland: 3 Spitfires

St. Merryn: A number of fighters.

AA Artillery, Searchlight and Barrage Balloons:

Newcastle: Light AA and about 25 searchlights.

Billingham: No AA fire.
16 searchlights.

/Firth

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Firth of Forth: No AA fire.
30 searchlights.

Tyne Estuary: No AA fire.

Bristol: Balloon barrage at 1,000 metres
SW of the city.

Newport: Heavy and medium AA.

N of Sunderland: A complete circle of searchlights.
On particularly powerful searchlight
was directed vertically.

NORTH SEA and BALTIC APPROACHES

Escort operations, reconnaissance over the Skagerrak and submarine patrols were uneventful.

A patrol vessel of 1,000 tons was hit by a 250 kg bomb and sunk on the south-east coast of Iceland.

Total Aircraft Losses on 12 July, 1940

GERMAN: 2 Do 17's
5 He 111's
7 aircraft

ENEMY:

In Air Combat: 3 Spitfires (east coast and Channel)

Forced Landing
on Sea: 1 aircraft (type not known)

Destroyed on
Ground: 8 Wellingtons
12 aircraft

Late Report:

Night of
11/12 July, 3 aircraft (type not known) at Boulogne
by AA: 1 Hampden at Venlo
4 aircraft

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

Nothing of particular importance occurred.

MISCELLANEOUS

According to a Reuter report the submarine-chaser "Warrior" (530 tons) was sunk in the Channel by bombers on 11 July.

/LUFTWAFFE

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LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.312 (14 July, 1940)

Operations on 13 July and during the night of 13/14 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Western France

At about 1330 hours there were several enemy incursions east of Cherbourg and at St. Malo. Bombs were dropped west of Cherbourg, but no damage resulted. AA defence at Cherbourg had no noticeable effect.

At about 1930 hours a high-wing monoplane flew over St. Brieux, circled and then made off. No bombs were dropped and AA did not open fire.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

At 0800 hours an enemy aircraft attacked Brussels-Evere airfield. No damage resulted.

Between 2300 and 0300 hours a number of enemy aircraft made incursions into Luftgau Belgium, most of them passing on into the Reich. Bombs were dropped at three places, but no damage of any importance resulted.

AA defence at Zeebrugge, Bruges, Maldegheem, St. Nicolas, Antwerp and Brussels had no noticeable effect.

Luftgau Holland

Between 2300 and 0300 hours incursions were made by about 20 enemy aircraft, 18 of which passed on into the Reich. Bombs were dropped at five places, but no damage of any importance resulted.

AA defence at Groeningen, Utrecht, Amsterdam and Rotterdam had no noticeable effect.

The Reich

Between midnight and 0230 hours incursions were made by 18 enemy aircraft as far as the line Bielefeld - Siegen - Schnee Eifel. Bombs were dropped at twenty places, in particular at Hamm railway station. Apart from this, no damage of any importance resulted.

Night fighter operations and AA defence throughout the area had no apparent effect.

Between 1200 and 2100 hours incursions were made from Heligoland Bay as far as the line Kiel - Hamburg by 6 enemy aircraft, which encountered strong AA defence on the lower Elbe.

Fighters shot down one Blenheim at Brunsbuettelkoog and another about 100 km north-west of Borkum. An enemy aircraft was prevented by AA from making an attack at Borkum and made off in a south-westerly direction.

Between midnight and 0330 hours incursions were made by 28 enemy aircraft from Heligoland Bay as far as the line Bad Doberan - Salzwedel - Celle - Hannover - Hameln - Bielefeld with the main effort at Bremen. Bombs were dropped at four places, but no damage of any consequence resulted.

/AA

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AA defence was put up at the Frisian Islands, Oldenburg, Wesermuende, Bremen and Schwerin.

Altogether 34 British aircraft (of 13 Squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Reconnaissance made the following observations:

Early Morning Reconnaissance:

Airfields:

Tilshead: No aircraft observed. Tents and huts occupied.
Larkhill: 1 aircraft.
Tents and huts occupied.
Netheravon: 100 aircraft.
Upavon: Obscured by cloud. Tent encampment
S of Upavon.

Shipping Movements:

Off Harwich,
0630 hours: 1 warship and
3 small merchant ships on S course.

Thames Estuary,
0630 hours: 1 large warship and
7 small and medium merchant ships arriving.

Off Gt. Yarmouth,
0700 hours: 11 small merchant ships,
some at anchor, some on SW course.

Off Orfordness,
0725 hours: 1 merchant ship at anchor.

50 km ENE of
Orfordness,
0800 hours: Convoy comprising
4 destroyers and
7 merchant ships on SSW course.

80 km E of
Harwich,
0810 hours: 4 merchant ships and
1 warship moving at full speed
on SSW course.

Dover,
0835 hours: 7 warships and
6 small merchant ships
in the harbour.

7 medium and
10 small merchant ships
off Dover on NNE course.

0915 hours: No shipping movements between
Portland Bill and Swanage.

25 km SSW of
Poole,
0925 hours: 5 small ships on W course;
2 small ships on E course.

1 medium ship, stationary and with stern
under water, WSW of the Needles.

/0940

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0940 hours: No shipping movements off the
Isle of Wight and Selsey.

Afternoon and Evening Reconnaissance:

Airfields (1800 - 1900 hours)

North Coates
Fitties: 16 aircraft.

Orfordness: 18 aircraft.

Shipping Movements:

Thames Estuary,
1235 hours: Convoy comprising
31 merchant ships and
2 warships arriving.

Off Gt. Yarmouth,
1300 - 4 heavy cruisers and
12 merchant ships travelling
1400 hours: singly on S courses.

Off the Wash,
1320 hours: 5 large warships,
6 small warships and
4 merchant ships on various courses.

Portland,
1400 hours: 20 ships, several of them large,
in the harbour.

20 km N of
Margate,
1850 hours: 18 large and
18 small warships
moving slowly on W course.

10 km S of
Colchester,
1853 hours: 12 large and
10 small warships
moving slowly on W course.

Harwich,
1900 hours: 10 large and
6 small warships
moving slowly on NNW course.

10 km off
Colchester,
1955 hours: 30 small warships at anchor.

Off Harwich,
2003 hours: 3 large and
5 small warships moving at
full speed on E - SE course.

About 30 km SW
of Harwich,
2010 hours: 7 large and
4 small warships moving
slowly on SSE course.

In the afternoon and evening intensive shipping
movements in both directions, mainly by small
warships (mine-sweepers ?), were observed on
the south-east and south coasts.

/on

R E S T R I C T E D

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On 13 July bombers and dive-bombers, mostly escorted by single-engined and twin-engined fighters, attacked the following targets:

Day:

Shipping:

30 km SE of
Harwich:

Two convoys, one on NE course the other
on SW course. The following ships were
hit:

1 merchant ship of 8,000 tons by one 250 kg bomb,
1 merchant ship of 8,000 tons by one 500 kg bomb,
1 merchant ship of 5,000 tons by one 250 kg bomb,
1 merchant ship of about 5,000 tons by one
250 kg bomb.

9 km SE of
Portland:

1 patrol boat; bombs fell close to target.
Smoke observed.

The effect of the following attacks was not
observed:

300 km W of
Brest:

Convoy on N course.

320 km SWS
of Brest:

Convoy on NW course.

Between I. of
Wight and Swanage:

Convoy.

SE of Portland:

1 merchant ship of 3,000 tons.

Between Swanage
and Portland:

Small ships (200 - 300 tons).

45 km NE of
Gt. Yarmouth:

1 cruiser.

Night of 12/13 July (supplement):

Montrose
Airfield:

Three explosions and four fires
were observed.

Dumbarton,
Airframe Works:

Two fires observed.

Glasgow, Harbour
Installations:

Several large fires were observed.

Leith, Harbour
Installations:

Fire among harbour installations and
warehouses visible from far off.

Dundee, Harbour
Installations:

Large fires observed directly E of Dundee.

During the night of 13/14 July 9 Fl.Div. carried out a special
operation (mine-laying ?) according to plan over the Thames estuary.

Dover,
1830 hours:

An air battle took place between 10 Me 109's
and 18 Spitfires. Two Spitfires and one
Me 109 were shot down.

/E of

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E of Dover,
1930 hours:

An air battle took place between 19 Me 109's
and 45 Hurricanes. Six Hurricanes were
shot down.

Defence

Fighters:

50 km E of
Southwold:

Fighter defence over the convoy.

NE of Orfordness:

3 fighters intercepted and
3 fighters carried out defensive patrol.

N of Portland:

1 Spitfire.

S. of Portland:

2 fighters on patrol.

Glasgow:

1 fighter (biplane).

AA Artillery, Searchlights and Barrage Balloons:

Glasgow
& Dundee:

Searchlights.

Glasgow
& Montrose:

Slight heavy AA

Dundee:

Heavy and light AA.

Southampton:

Heavy, badly-placed AA.

NW of

Southampton:

4 barrage balloons.

NORTH SEA and BALTIC APPROACHES

Escort operations, reconnaissance over the Skagerrak and submarine
patrols were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 13 July, 1940

German:

1 Me 109

1 He 115

1 Ju 88

1 Do 17

1 Me 110

5 aircraft

Enemy:

In Air Combat:

2 Spitfires

2 Spitfires at Dover

6 Hurricanes at Dover

1 Blenheim at Brunsbuettelkoog

1 Blenheim 50 km NW of Borkum

12 aircraft

/SITUATION

R E S T R I C T E D

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Reconnaissance carried out over the naval base at Malta by 11 Cr 42 fighters on 13 July showed no recent changes.

Italian Operations

12 July: According to interim reports, the determined pursuit by Italian bombers of the British naval formations withdrawing eastwards has resulted in the following successes.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Type of Warship</u>	<u>Number of bombs dropped</u>		<u>Remarks</u>
		<u>100 kg</u>	<u>250 kg</u>	
1025	1 cruiser	?	?	Hit on bows with one 250 kg bomb.
1130	2 battleships, 1 cruiser	27	6	One hit on each ship with 250 kg bombs.
1350	2 warships, type not identified	?	?	One hit on each ship.
1530	2 battleships, 5 cruisers	40	112	Two hits on a battle-ship with 250 kg bombs.
1710	1 cruiser	?	?	Several hits with 100 kg bombs.

According to an unconfirmed report, the British naval formations put into Alexandria during the night of 13/14 July.

13 July: The naval base at Malta was attacked during the night of 13/14 July. Fires were observed.

Details of an attack on the British airfield and dump at Marsa Matruh (east of Tobruk) have not yet been received.

GROUND SITUATION

Nothing of particular importance occurred.

SITUATION AT SEA

Nothing of particular importance occurred.

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