

RESTRICTED

Air Historical Branch

Translation VII/122

**SITUATION REPORTS ISSUED BY
LUFTWAFFE FÜHRUNGSSTAB IC**

Part II

14th July - 31st July, 1940

TRANSLATED BY

AIR MINISTRY, A.H.B. 6

April, 1953

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R E S T R I C T E D

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LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.313 (15 July 1940)

Operations on 14 July and during the night of 14/15 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Between 2300 and 0300 hours incursions were made over Belgium by at least 24 enemy aircraft, about 20 of which passed on into the Reich (some of these aircraft then flew into Holland). In Belgium aircraft operated as far as the line Antwerp - Brussels - Ghent - Bruges. Bombs were dropped at five places, but no damage of any consequence resulted.

AA defence was put up at Termonde, Ghent, Bruges, Brussels and Antwerp. One Blenheim was brought down at Ghent and another was probably destroyed at Evergem.

Luftgau Holland

A few aircraft were operational over Holland (see above).

AA defence at Harlingen, Den Helder and Nijkerk had no apparent effect.

The Reich

Between 2345 and 0300 hours there were at least 21 enemy incursions over the frontiers of Belgium and Holland as far as the line Minden - Karlshafen - Coblenz. Bombs were dropped at ten places, but no damage of any importance resulted.

Night fighters were operational from midnight until dawn, but no enemy aircraft were encountered.

AA defence throughout the area had no apparent effect.

Between midnight and 0330 hours there were 22 incursions from Heligoland Bay and northern Holland over Denmark and the Reich as far as the line Loekken - Copenhagen - Luebeck - Celle - Minden, with the main effort over Hamburg and Nienburg. Bombs were dropped at five places, but no damage of any importance resulted.

AA defence was put up along the North Sea coast at Hamburg, Bremen and Uelzen. A Wellington was brought down at Vegesack at about 0200 hours.

Altogether 35 British aircraft (of 12 squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

On 14 July reconnaissance observed the following:

Morning Reconnaissance:

Shipping Movements:

25 km ESE of
Gt. Yarmouth,
0620 hours:

4 large merchant ships on W course.

Wash to
Gt. Yarmouth
0700 hours:

No shipping movements.

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40 km E of
Gt. Yarmouth
to 50 km SE
of Lowestoft,
0700 hours:

7 patrol boats.

Between Hastings
and Dungeness,
0700 hours:

10 ships.

12 km ESE of
Dungeness,
0715 hours:

17 merchant ships (?) on NE course.

10 km N of
Gt. Yarmouth,
0725 hours:

1 merchant ship at anchor.

50 km SE of
Lowestoft,
0800 hours:

Convoy comprising
7 merchant ships and
4 destroyers on SW course.

80 km SE of
Lowestoft,
0810 hours:

Convoy comprising
4 merchant ships and
1 warship

40 km NE of
Margate,
0810 hours:

8 small merchant ships on SW course.

Off Dover,
0835 hours:

7 warships,
6 small merchant ships at anchor,
10 small merchant ships on NNE course.

There was no shipping in the ports of Peterhead, Stonehaven and Montrose. Off Peterhead, Aberdeen and Montrose there were about 20 coastal vessels (up to 1,000 tons) moving singly on northerly and southerly courses along the coast. Apart from this there were no warship or merchant ship movements.

Afternoon and Evening Reconnaissance:

Shipping Movements:

25 km SSE of
Harwich,
1235 hours:

Convoy comprising
60 ships and
1 cruiser on N course.

25 km W of
Southend,
1355 hours:

Convoy comprising
7 merchant ships and
3 small warships moving slowly on WSW course.

75 km ENE of
Gt. Yarmouth,
1524 hours:

4 small merchant ships on S course.

60 km NNE of
Gt. Yarmouth,
1532 hours:

11 small merchant ships on S course.

Off the Wash,
1539 hours:

2 merchant ships on S course.

50 km NE of
Gt. Yarmouth,
1540 hours:

Convoy comprising
5 medium merchant ships,
4 small merchant ships and
3 warships on SE course.

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75 km E of Gt. Yarmouth, 1600 hours:	Convoy comprising 9 merchant ships on S course.
60 km SSE of Gt. Yarmouth, 1610 hours:	Convoy comprising 32 merchant ships and 3 warships.
35 km E of Southend, 1625 hours:	Convoy comprising 7 merchant ships and 3 warships
20 km ENE of Southend, 1920 hours:	2 small warships on SSW course.
Off Margate, 1920 hours:	4 large merchant ships and 9 small merchant ships, all stationary.
Off Dover, 1920 hours:	4 patrol boats at anchor.
Off Deal, 1928 hours:	9 patrol boats at anchor.
10 km SE of Southend, 1940 hours:	1 patrol boat (stationary).
20 km E of Southend, 1940 hours:	2 destroyers on SE course.
Thames Estuary, 1940 hours:	5 patrol boats at anchor, 2 destroyers (?) on SE course.
Thames Estuary, 1948 hours:	2 small warships moving at full speed on N course in line ahead.
10 km N of Herne Bay, 1948 hours:	2 cruisers on N course.
15 km N of Margate, 1955 hours:	6 merchant ships on W course.
Off Gt. Yarmouth, 2025 hours:	7 patrol boats at anchor (1 km off the coast).
60 km ENE of Cromer, 2025 hours:	3 small ships at anchor.
About 120 km E of Spurnhead, 2058 hours:	Convoy comprising 31 merchant ships on WNW course.

On 14 July and during the night of 14/15 July bombers and dive-bombers - mostly escorted by single-engined and twin-engined fighters - attacked the following targets:

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Day

Shipping:

250 km SW
of Brest:

1 merchant ship of 3,000 tons: several direct hits scored with 250 kg bombs. The ship caught fire and listed heavily. The lifeboats were lowered.

Off Dover:

11 500 kg bombs and
15 250 kg bombs were dropped in an attack on a convoy.

1 destroyer: hit on quarter-deck with 500 kg or 250 kg bomb. Much smoke observed. Destroyer towed to Dover.

1 merchant ship of 7,000 tons: direct hit with 500 kg bomb. Flames observed. Ship towed to Dover.

1 merchant ship of 4,000 tons: one hit, effect not observed. Ship probably sunk.

2 merchant ships each of 5,000 tons: damaged. One ship towed to Dover; whereabouts of the other not observed.

240 km W of Brest:

14 250 kg bombs were dropped in an attack on a convoy comprising
2 merchant ships and
2 destroyers.
Both merchant ships definitely observed to be damaged.

240 km NW of Brest:

1 merchant ship of 10,000 tons: hit scored with 250 kg bomb and 6 - 8 near misses. An intense fire broke out and the ship was observed to be sinking slowly by the stern.

Night

Ramsgate Airfield:

4 250 kg bombs,
4 50 kg bombs and
1 incendiary canister dropped. Effect not observed.

2 250 kg bombs,
4 50 kg bombs and
1 incendiary canister were dropped in a second attack causing large fires and explosions.

Faversham,
Explosives Works:

2 250 kg bombs were dropped. The attacking aircraft could not observe the effect owing to cloud. Half an hour later another aircraft observed large fires and explosions.

Chatham,
Naval Dockyard:

4 250 kg bombs,
4 50 kg bombs and
1 incendiary canister were dropped. Large fire observed.

London,
nuisance flight:

Intense searchlight activity, no night fighters, no AA fire.

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Large Fuel Storage
Installation at
Royal Edward Dock,
Avonmouth:

Explosions and much smoke observed.

Large Fuel Storage
Installation (Shell
Mex and B.P. Co. Ltd.)
Hamble (South):

The bombs fell in the north-western part of
the target area. Effect not observed.

Refinery and Large Fuel
Storage Installation at
Fawley, Southampton:

Effect could not be observed owing to
weather conditions.

Searchlight Position S
of Bristol:

Effect could not be observed.

In the last four attacks a total of
6 250 kg incendiary oil bombs and
72 50 kg (HE) bombs were dropped.

During the night of 14/15 July 9th Fliegerdivision carried out a special
operation according to plan.

At 1615 hours an air battle between 49 Me 109's and 20 Hurricanes took
place south of Deal. Four Hurricanes were shot down.

Defence

Fighters:

A large number of Spitfires and Hurricanes was observed over the convoys
in the Dover area.

Night fighters were encountered over the Thames estuary and Chatham.

AA Artillery, Searchlights and Barrage Balloons:

Dover:

Badly placed medium AA.

S. of Dover:

Intense heavy AA fire from warships and
merchant ships and from batteries on the
coast.

Ramsgate:

Slight AA fire but intense searchlight
activity.

Balloon barrages were observed at Hemswell
and Scampton airfields.

NORTH SEA and BALTIC APPROACHES

Morning reconnaissance over the Skagerrak and escort operations were
uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 14 July, 1940

GERMAN:

2 Ju 87's

ENEMY:

In air combat:

4 Hurricanes at Dover

By AA:

1 Blenheim at Ghent

1 Wellington at Bremen

6 aircraft

The destruction of a further Blenheim
has not yet been confirmed.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Italian Operations

On 10 July aircraft attacked an airfield in the vicinity of Buramo (Somaliland), enemy troop concentrations at Mojale (southern frontier of Abyssinia on 39th degree of longitude) and the port of Berbera (British Somaliland).

On 11 July attacks were made on Wajir airfield (in the vicinity of Perim Island), where three enemy fighters were shot down, and on Mojale, where two enemy fighters were shot down.

Enemy Operations

In an enemy attack on Assab airfield a hut and two fighters in the taxiing area were set on fire. An enemy attack on Asmara was unsuccessful.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO. 314 (16 July 1940)

Operations on 15 July and during the night of 15/16 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Western France

At 1845 hours an aircraft appeared out of the clouds and dropped four bombs on the northern edge of the taxiing area at Evreux-Fauville airfield. No damage was reported.

A flying-boat, apparently with French markings, opened fire with two cannon guns 160 km north-west of Brest. It was engaged with machine-gun fire and hits were probably scored. The flying-boat made off in an easterly direction.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Between 0802 and 0900 hours there were several incursions from St. Malo in a north-easterly direction, over Regneville - St. Malo as far as 10 km north-west of Bayeux, from the south-east into Luftgau Belgium, from Dinant over Bacilly (6 km west of Arranches) and along the coast from Dives s. Mer as far as Arromanches - Les Bains. No bombs were dropped.

There were several enemy incursions at about 1050 hours. Bombs were dropped at Senarpont (south-east of Le Treport) and at Poix (south-west of Amiens), but no damage of any importance resulted.

Luftgau Holland

Between 2350 and 0430 hours incursions were made by 18 enemy aircraft, 17 of which passed on into the Reich. Bombs were dropped at four places, but no damage of any importance resulted.

The Reich

Between 2330 and 0105 hours there were about 25 enemy incursions from Heligoland Bay and northern Holland into the Reich and Denmark. The maximum penetrations made reached the lines Uelzen - Braunschweig - Kassel and Paderborn - Hamm - Duisberg. Only a few bombs were dropped.

AA fire at Copenhagen and in the rest of the area had no apparent effect.

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Between 2350 and 0300 hours there were 9 enemy incursions from Heligoland Bay into Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein as far as the line Copenhagen - Ploen - Cuxhaven. Bombs were dropped at Copenhagen. Aircraft circled over the Small Belt, Langeland Belt and Kiel Bay (mine-laying?). A lighthouse and a ship were shot up at Copenhagen, but no damage resulted.

AA defence was put up at Copenhagen.

Between 2350 and 0400 hours there were 17 enemy incursions over the Dutch frontier as far as the line Jever - Uelzen - Braunschweig - Osterode a. Harz - Kassel - Duisberg. Bombs were dropped at eight places, including Hanomag and Ilseder Huette, but no damage of any importance resulted.

AA defence at Oldenburg, in the northern part of the Ruhr and in Hannover province had no noticeable effect. A German aircraft was apparently fired on in the central German industrial area.

Between 0058 and 0139 hours there were three enemy incursions between Schnee Eifel and Remagen and two at Quorbach (west of Kassel).

AA defence at Trier, Pruem, north of Hildesheim and south of Remagen had no apparent effect.

Altogether 16 aircraft (of four squadrons) were definitely identified.

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

On 15 July reconnaissance observed the following:

Morning Reconnaissance:

Shipping Movements:

Brighton Harbour,
0535 hours:

Only ships of up to 1,000 tons.

Portsmouth Harbour,
0535 hours:

Several large merchant ships.

S. of Dungeness,
0600 hours:

1 steamship moving at low speed.

Dover Harbour,
0600 hours:

14 ships (six large).

N of Dover,
0600 hours:

9 small patrol boats.

20 km NE
of Dover,
0605 hours:

Convoy comprising
5 steamships and
2 destroyers moving at medium speed on
NE course.

Off Dungeness,
0645 hours:

2 patrol boats.

Channel,
0630 hours:

No shipping movements in whole of
Channel area between Dungeness and
Isle of Wight.

Intense shipping movements (single ships
and convoys) along the east coast and
in the Thames estuary. Movements on
smaller scale in the Channel.

Afternoon and Evening Reconnaissance:

Shipping Movements:

30 km E of Harwich,
1225 hours:

Large convoy in two sections as follows:

first section E of Harwich comprising:
11 ships,
1 destroyer and
4 large ships of about 8,000 tons on
E course.

second section about 30 km SE of
Harwich comprising:
19 ships of medium size including
3 destroyers, on NE course.

About 5 km S of
Ramsgate:

2 patrol boats and
1 freighter of about 4,000 tons sunk.

15 km S of Lowestoft,
1349 hours:

2 merchant ships moving at high speed on
SSW course.

About 90 km ENE
of Gt. Yarmouth,
1410 hours:

1 submarine - diving.
Nationality not identifiable; on
WSW course.

About 30 km E of
Gt. Yarmouth,
1445 hours:

1 large merchant ship moving at medium
speed on S course.

60 km ENE of
Orfordness,
1448 hours:

3 large merchant ships on W course.

About 30 km ESE
of Lowestoft,
1450 hours:

1 small warship (patrol boat) at
anchor.

Milfordhaven,
1500 hours:

5 large and
20 medium merchant ships.

60 km SE of
Plymouth,
1500 hours:

1 battleship and
6 light cruisers or destroyers on
WNW course, probably approaching
Plymouth.

About 50 km SW
of Lindesnes,
1515 hours:

1 submarine.

Bristol Channel,
1603 hours:

Intense shipping movements in both
directions.

SE of Swansea,
1603 hours:

2 large stationary freighters inshore.

Plymouth Harbour,
1748 hours:

(photographic reconnaissance)

4 battleships,
4 heavy cruisers,
1 light cruiser,
6 destroyers,
1 mine-sweeper,
3 submarines,
2 patrol boats.

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1 passenger ship of 30-40,000 tons,
1 " " " 20,000 tons,
1 " " " 18,000 tons,
1 " " " 4,500 tons,
9 freighters each of 4,400-7,000 tons,
18 " " " 3,000 tons.

Portland Harbour,
1830 hours:

(photographic reconnaissance)

In the harbour:

1 freighter of 7,500-10,000 tons,
2 light cruisers each of 5,540 tons,
1 tanker of 10,000 tons and
6 destroyers.

Sunk outside the harbour:

1 freighter of 7,500-10,000 tons,
4 freighters of 2,500 - 4,000 tons,
1 passenger ship of 9,000-10,000 tons.

Airfields

Directly NW
of St. Athan,
1603 hours:

Airfield with
6 - 10 twin-engined or three-engined aircraft.
20 aircraft in SW area of St. Athan airfield.
Aircraft activity on field.

Mount Batten,
1748 hours:

6 Sunderlands.

Teignmouth,
1800 hours:

No aircraft observed.

Exeter,
1805 hours:

42 aircraft.

Breston-Plucknett,
1817 hours:

Camp with about 165 huts
(2 km W of Yeovil).

Aberdeen,
1845 hours:

(visual reconnaissance)

15 twin-engined aircraft.

On 15 July and during the night of 15/16 July bombers and dive-bombers - mostly escorted by single-engined and twin-engined fighters - attacked the following targets:

Day

Shipping:

About 10 km SE
of Orfordness:

1 merchant ship of about 4,000 tons;
exploded after being hit.

Same area:

1 merchant ship of about 3,000 tons;
listed heavily after being hit.

About 220 km
W of Brest:

1 merchant ship of 3,000 tons;
direct hit amidships in front of funnel.

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About 260 km
W of Brest:

1 merchant ship of 3-4,000 tons;
listed heavily after being hit.
Crew took to boats.

180 km WSW
of Brest:

1 burning freighter sighted. Bows
completely gutted. Ship apparently
abandoned.

About 120 km
S of Cork:

1 patrol boat. Direct hit on stern.
Ship sank in 30 seconds.

1 patrol boat. Bombs fell near target.
Ship observed to be listing.

Altogether 20 250 kg bombs were dropped.

30 km SE of
Orfordness:

Convoy comprising
20 medium-sized ships.
1 ship stopped with list.

230 km W
of Brest:

1 merchant ship of 5,000 tons.
8 250 kg bombs dropped, one falling five
metres from the port side.

Same position:

1 steamship of 2,000 tons.
20 250 kg bombs dropped. Ship sunk by
three direct hits.

Directly S of
above ships:

1 merchant ship of 1,000 tons.
Near miss scored. Ship on fire before
attack.

160 km NW
of Brest:

1 freighter of 2,000 tons.
Two hits amidships and on stern and six
near misses. Much smoke observed.
Ship sinking.

36 km W of Brest:

1 freighter of 2,000 tons.
Hit amidships, much smoke.
Ship badly damaged.

In Portland Harbour:

1 merchant ship of 10,000 tons sunk by
four 250 kg bombs.

S of Portland:

2 destroyers.
4 250 kg bombs dropped.
Effect not observed.

In Dartmouth Harbour:

4 250 kg bombs dropped on ships.
Effect not observed.

Night

Brighton Harbour:

Two sticks of ten 50 kg bombs dropped.
Bombs well placed on sheds and harbour
installations.

Cardiff Harbour:

8 250 kg bombs dropped. Hit on
Alexandria Dock. Further effect not
observed.

Bicester Airfield:

20 50 kg bombs dropped.
Taxying area hit.

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St. Athan Airfield:	4 250 kg bombs dropped. One hit on a hangar, three hits on the taxiing area.
Pembroke Airfield:	4 250 kg bombs dropped. Hangar hit.
Plymouth Airfield:	Effect not observed.
Pembroke Seaplane Base:	Approach road hit.
Yeovil Aircraft Factory:	4 50 kg bombs dropped. Hangars hit.

During the night of 15/16 July 9th Fliegerdivision carried out a special operation according to plan.

Defence

Fighters:

Ramsgate:	Night fighters.
Over London:	Several night fighters.
20 km SE of Harwich:	4 fighters over a large transport.
15 km E of Lowestoft:	12 - 15 fighters.
10 km E of Orfordness:	5 Spitfires.
	Night fighters (probably 2 Spitfires and 2 Blenheims) were observed at two other places, but did not intercept.

Over Cardiff & Plymouth coast:	Fighter patrols.
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Brighton:	5 Spitfires.
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AA Artillery, Searchlights and Balloon Barrages:

Orfordness:	Light AA from two warships.
S of Plymouth:	AA
Cardiff:	Heavy AA
Mersey Estuary:	Isolated AA, apparently from ships, and single searchlights.
Margate:	AA
Ramsgate:	Slight AA fire and a large number of searchlights.
E coast to central England:	Massed searchlights, thinning out towards the west coast.
I.o.Wight, Southampton & Portsmouth:	Searchlights and slight, badly-placed AA.
Bristol:	Intense searchlight activity extending to the Avon estuary.
In and around London:	Intense searchlight activity.
Scampton and Hemswell:	Balloon barrages.

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NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

Morning reconnaissance over the Skagerrak and escort operations were uneventful.

A submarine was destroyed by two 500 kg bombs about 50 km south-west of Lindesnes (oil-spout two or three metres high and pool of oil photographed).

Total Aircraft Losses on 15 July, 1940

<u>German:</u>	1 He 111
	<u>1 Ju 88</u>
	<u>2 aircraft</u>

Enemy: None.
Destruction of an enemy flying-boat not yet confirmed.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

15 July: Aircraft on reconnaissance over the central Mediterranean, fighters on patrol and anti-submarine aircraft made no observations and had no contact with the enemy.

According to the evaluation of photographic reconnaissance of Alexandria harbour, the following ships are in port (excluding French warships):

- 4 battleships,
- 8 cruisers,
- 10 destroyers,
- 14 merchant ships,
- 4 seaplanes.

East Africa

Nothing of particular importance was observed by reconnaissance over the northern part of the Red Sea and north-western Somaliland.

Italian Operations

15 July: An attack by bombers based on Rhodes on the oil storage tanks and refineries at Haifa resulted in violent explosions and pillars of smoke and fire visible from far off.

In northern Kenya four enemy tanks were damaged in bombing attacks on an M/T column in the Buna area and an infantry detachment on the Sudan frontier in the vicinity of Kashin el Girba (60 km south-west of Cassala).

Enemy Operations

On 15 July enemy aircraft attacked the seaplane base at Massaua and damaged a hangar. Two enemy aircraft were shot down.

GROUND SITUATION

Between 10 and 15 July, detachments advancing from the north and east in the north-eastern corner of Kenya captured Terkali (20 km south of the frontier on 40° 20' east longitude) and Tagaba (80 km south of Terkali). Detachments advancing from the east occupied Danisa and Kokaya (both east of Tagaba).

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LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO. 315 (17 July, 1940)

Operations of 16 July and during the night of 16/17 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

On the morning of 16 July there were four enemy incursions into Luftgau Belgium. No bombs were dropped and the aircraft penetrated only as far as points west of Brussels.

At 0650 hours fighters shot down a Blenheim over Bruges.

An enemy aircraft (type not known) was brought down by AA at Cherbourg.

GREAT BRITAIN

Reconnaissance was extensively impeded by the weather and morning reconnaissance had nothing to report.

Late Reconnaissance

Aberdeen (photographic reconnaissance of 15 July,
Airfield: 1845 hours)

14 twin-engined aircraft.

Greenock (16 July, 0210 hours)
Seaplane Base:

Training activity as in time of peace.

About 220 km NW
of Peterhead,
1620 hours:

Enemy naval formation comprising
2 heavy cruisers ("Cumberland" class),
2 light cruisers ("Birmingham" class) and
7 destroyers moving at about 20 knots on course
120°. At 1720 hours the formation split into
two groups, both of which proceeded at 25 knots
on course 280°.

Scapa Flow:

1 battleship,
2 heavy cruisers,
5 - 6 smaller warships.

A number of barrage balloons were observed
S and N of Scapa Flow.

At about 1700 hours bombers carried out the following attacks:

Thurso: 2 250 kg bombs and
20 50 kg bombs were dropped on harbour
installations. Hits were observed. In
addition, a merchant ship was hit by a
50 kg bomb and caught fire.

Scapa Flow:

Aircraft dropped
24 250 kg bombs and shot up a camp on the
southern tip of Scapa Flow. Hits on barrack
huts were observed.

9th Fliegerdivision carried out a special operation at Hartlepool,
Middlesbrough and Newcastle according to plan.

R E S T R I C T E D

Defence

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Fighters:

At 0145 hours night fighters (probably Spitfires and Blenheims) were observed at two places between Liverpool and the coast.

AA Artillery and Searchlights

At 0145 hours aircraft observed single searchlights and slight AA fire, probably from ships in the Mersey estuary. In addition, light AA from patrol boats and three heavy AA batteries on the coast at Middlesbrough opened fire.

There were massed searchlights all along the east coast, thinning out towards the west coast.

NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

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

Total Aircraft Losses on 16 July, 1940

German: 1 Ju 88
1 He 111

2 aircraft

Enemy:

In Air Combat: 1 Blenheim at Bruges

By AA: 1 aircraft (type not known) at Cherbourg

2 aircraft

Special Observations and Experiences

In reports on enemy fighter defence and on enemy fighters which have been shot down the Spitfire is predominant although incontestable data from captured documents indicates that British first-line fighters comprise at least 60% Hurricanes and at most 40% Spitfires. Thus, there is reason to believe that Hurricanes are frequently claimed as Spitfires.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Nothing of particular importance was observed by reconnaissance over Malta on 16 July, over Giarabub and the Amseat area (Egyptian frontier) on 15 July and over the area Sollum - Amseat - Bir el Gobi on 14 July. Two enemy fighters were shot down during reconnaissance over Malta. One Cr 42 is missing.

On 13 and 14 July reconnaissance was carried out over north-east Kenya, the Sudan frontier between Cassala and Gallabat, north-west Somaliland and the central Red Sea. Nothing of particular importance was observed. Enemy reconnaissance aircraft were sighted over Aiscia (100 km south-west of Djibuti).

Italian Operations

13 July: An effective attack was made on the harbour and airfield at Aden. Enemy troop concentrations, the airfield and the equipment dump at Buna (north-east Kenya) were bombed and shot up on 13 and 14 July. Two aircraft were destroyed on the ground.

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Enemy Operations

During the night of 14/15 July the harbour and ships at Tobruk were attacked. There was no damage. On the same day three Blenheims attacked Ain Gazala airfield (70 km west of Tobruk). One Blenheim made a forced landing at Tobruk.

GROUND SITUATION

On 13 July enemy artillery was active against Ridotta Capuzzo and Sidi Azeis. Fire was intensified during the night of 14/15 July in support of enemy armoured attacks in this area and was also maintained on 15 July.

On the Sudan frontier the town of Kurmuk (between 10th and 11th parallels) was finally taken by Italian troops.

SITUATION AT SEA

In a supplementary report the Navy announced the sinking of an enemy destroyer and a submarine by an Italian submarine on 15 July.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO. 316 (18 July, 1940)

Operations on 17 July and during the night of 17/18 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Between 1600 and 1930 hours there were three enemy incursions into the Cherbourg area. No bombs were dropped.

Between 2315 and 0240 hours there were several enemy incursions as far as the line Antwerp - Brussels - Lille. Bombs were dropped at four places (in particular at Ghent), but no damage resulted. Well-directed, flexible, predicted fire by AA artillery forced the enemy aircraft in every case to turn back or drop their bombs at random.

Between 2000 and 0100 hours there were at least eight enemy incursions along the coast between Dieppe and Cherbourg. No bombs were dropped.

Luftgau Holland

Between 2300 and 0300 hours incursions were made by 15 enemy aircraft, of which 11 passed on into the Reich and 4 into Belgium. No bombs were dropped on Dutch territory.

AA defence had no apparent effect.

The Reich

Between 0100 and 0300 hours incursions were made by 11 enemy aircraft as far as the line Bramsche - Dortmund - Remscheid - Neuss, with the main effort west of Muenster. Bombs were dropped at six places (in particular west of Muenster).

Intense AA defence throughout the area had no apparent effect.

Denmark

Between midnight and 0230 hours there were two enemy incursions as far as the line Aalborg - Silkeborg. No bombs were dropped.

Altogether nine British aircraft (of seven squadrons) were definitely identified.

R E S T R I C T E D

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GREAT BRITAIN

Morning reconnaissance was extensively impeded by weather conditions and had nothing to report.

Afternoon Reconnaissance

Shipping Movements:

W of Brest, 1200-1500 hours:	No shipping movements in the area
1415-1500 hours:	No shipping movements in the area Lannion - Torquay - Land's End. Several ships in Plymouth Bay.
30 km SE of Harwich, 1435 hours:	20 ships (some large) on SW course.
42 km WNW of Land's End:	1 submarine - diving. (1520 hours)
30 km SE of Eastbourne; 1545 hours:	2 merchant ships of 8-10,000 tons on SW course.
10 km E of Dungeness, 1555 hours:	1 merchant ship of 4,000 tons on WSW course.
10 km SE of Dungeness, 1557 hours:	2 merchant ships of 5-8,000 tons on N course.
Off Thames Estuary, 1557 hours:	No shipping movements.
On the Clyde at about 1600 hours:	Intense shipping activity. About 30 armed merchant ships and 1 submarine. No shipping at Greenock.
55 km S of Weymouth, 1630 hours:	1 merchant ship of W course.
15 km SSW of S tip of I.o.W., 1635 hours:	3 mine-sweepers on E course.
About 15 km SE of S tip of I.o.W., 1645 hours:	2 small merchant ships on E course.
In Portland Harbour, 1835 hours:	Several small ships. No shipping movements between S tip of I.o.W. and Swanage.
About 40 km E of Peterhead, 2100 hours:	2 light cruisers on S course.

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Bombers and dive-bombers - mostly escorted by single-engined and twin-engined fighters - carried out the following attacks:

Day

Shipping:

240 km NW of Brest:		1 merchant ship of about 3,000 tons. Two hits with 250 kg bombs. Fire observed on board.
70 km W of Land's End:	3	1 patrol boat. 250 kg bombs were dropped. The ship became out of control.
420 km WSW of Brest:	8	1 merchant ship of about 2,000 tons. 250 kg bombs were dropped and fell in the immediate vicinity of the ship which was abandoned by its crew.

Other Targets:

Reading-Woodley Airfield:	8	50 kg bombs were dropped. the effect could not be observed owing to weather conditions.
Op. airfield E of Mayfield (12 km S of Tunbridge Wells)	5	50 kg bombs were dropped. Two barrack huts were set on fire.
Aldershot Military Camp:	12	50 kg bombs were dropped. The effect could not be observed.
Industrial Plant NW of Eastbourne:	4	50 kg bombs were dropped and fell in the target area. Clouds of smoke were observed.
Torpedo Factory 1 km W of Greenock:	4	250 kg bombs were dropped. One direct hit on a works shed was observed.
Portland Harbour Installations:	6	500 kg bombs were dropped. Fires were observed.

During the night of 16/17

Searchlight Positions:

Edinburgh and Glasgow:	10 24	250 kg bombs and 50 kg bombs were dropped. The effect could not be observed owing to weather conditions.
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During the night of 17/18 July

Thames Haven:	20	50 kg bombs were dropped on a fuel storage installation.
Chatham:	20	50 kg bombs were dropped on a shipyard.

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Swansea Harbour 4 250 kg bombs were dropped.
Installations: Only minor explosions observed in
W part of the harbour.

During the night of 17/18 July special operations in the Thames estuary and the harbours of Cardiff, Swansea, Plymouth and Fowey were carried out according to plan by 9th Fliegerdivision.

Defence

Fighters:

E of Portland, 2 twin-engined fighters
afternoon:

Centre of Channel to French coast: 9 Hurricanes

20 km N of French coast: 3 Blenheims

40 km W of Plymouth 3 fighters

Reading: Intense defence by
4 Spitfires

AA Artillery and Searchlights:

Portland: AA defence

Thames Estuary (London area and along coast): Intense searchlight activity on the coast. No AA fire and no night fighters.

In addition, aircraft observed red lights at wide intervals and red flashing beacons on both sides of the Thames.

NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

Escort operations and morning and evening reconnaissance over the Skagerrak were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 17 July, 1940

German: 1 Ju 88
2 He 111's
3 aircraft

Enemy:

In Air Combat:

	1 Blenheim	(north of Cherbourg)
	1 Spitfire	(over the Channel -
	<u> </u>	late report from 17 July)
	2 aircraft	

R E S T R I C T E D

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SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Nothing of particular importance was observed by reconnaissance over the Red Sea on 15 July, along the Egyptian frontier on 16 July and over the Mediterranean on 17 July.

Italian Operations

Mediterranean

On 16 July 12 S.81's based on the Dodecanese attacked ships in Alexandria harbour. Several hits were observed.

During the night of 17/18 July 3 S.82's, each carrying 2,000 kg of bombs, attacked Gibraltar. Report on results has not yet been received.

Libya

On 16 July attacks were made by 10 S.79's on the camp and airfield at Sidi Barrani and by 22 S.79's on the seaplane base and equipment dump at Mersa Matruh. The bombs fell in the target area and the attack was observed to be effective.

Enemy Operations

East Africa

On 15 July the enemy carried out attacks on the fuel dumps and the radio station at Assab. Fighters prevented an enemy attack on Direidaua airfield.

GROUND SITUATION

On 16 July an attack by strong enemy forces supported by more than 50 tanks on the positions north of Ridotta Capuzzo (on the Libya-Egypt frontier) was driven off.

On 15 July, Moyale on the frontier of Kenya was captured.

SITUATION AT SEA

On 17 July a British convoy with three motor tankers coming from the direction of the Black Sea passed through the Dardanelles.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO. 317 (19 July, 1940)

Operations on 18 July and during the night of 18/19 July

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Western France

At 1310 hours four Blenheims made an unsuccessful attack on harbour installations at Le Havre. Three aircraft were shot down, one of them by AA.

At about 1600 hours there was one incursion at Barfleur by an enemy twin-engined monoplane and another at Isigny. In both cases no bombs were dropped and there was no AA fire.

Between 2115 and 2400 hours there were four enemy incursions between Le Havre and Cherbourg. The aircraft did not penetrate very far inland. Bombs were dropped at four places, but no damage resulted.

AA defence had no apparent effect.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Between 1500 and 1700 hours there were several enemy incursions between Ostende and Boulogne. The aircraft did not penetrate very far inland. Bombs were dropped south of St. Omer, but no damage resulted.

At 1930 hours 9 Blenheims escorted by 20 fighters attacked Boulogne under cover of low cloud. Owing to strong AA defence the enemy aircraft turned back immediately and dropped the majority of their bombs into the water. A few oil storage tanks in Boulogne harbour were slightly damaged. A Blenheim was brought down by AA. The enemy fighters remained beyond the range of heavy AA.

Luftgau Holland

Between 0945 and 1420 hours there were three enemy incursions. The enemy penetrations were not very deep. Bombs were dropped at Spijkenisse and Flushing. Fighters shot down a Blenheim at Flushing.

At 1730 hours 4 Blenheims dived out of the clouds at Flushing, dropped bombs without causing any damage and withdrew into the clouds again immediately AA opened fire.

The Reich

Between midnight and 0250 hours there were 16 enemy incursions as far as the line Pymont - Paderborn - Hagen - Siegburg, with the main effort at Paderborn and Cologne. Bombs were dropped at ten places, but only slight damage resulted.

No enemy aircraft were encountered by night fighters.

AA defence throughout the area had no apparent effect.

Between midnight and 0340 hours there were 21 enemy incursions as far as the line Fehmarn - Wittingen - Schoeningen - Pymont. Bombs were dropped at 13 places, but no damage of any importance resulted. A few people were killed and injured.

AA was active throughout the area. A Blenheim was shot down at Delmenhorst.

Altogether 33 British aircraft (of 8 squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Morning Reconnaissance

Shipping in Ports:

Dover,	10 merchant ships and probably
0700 hours:	2 warships.

Shipping Movements:

S. of Littlehampton,	Convoy comprising
0624 hours:	16 ships on W course.

Off Cromer,	2 coastal patrol boats.
0830 hours:	

Channel,	(centre of Channel between
1145 hours:	Cherbourg and Bournemouth)

Thames Estuary	10	Convoy comprising
1200 hours:		ships on NW course.
		Intense shipping activity.
		Single merchant ships moving
		in the direction of Great
		Yarmouth.

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Afternoon Reconnaissance

Shipping Movements:

S of Hythe, 1228 hours:	18 ships (including several warships) close inshore on SW course.
About 10 km S of Folkestone, 1228 hours:	British warships firing.
32 km SE of Harwich, 1550 hours:	Convoy comprising 20 ships on W course.
40 km SE of Harwich, 1555 hours:	4 small ships (mine-sweepers?) on E course.
25 km SW of Dungeness, 1640 hours:	2 merchant ships on E course.
1645 hours:	Slight shipping activity about 25 km off the coast between Orfordness and Harwich.
5 km SW of Dungeness, 1650 hours:	1 destroyer (?) on E course.
Off Bristol, 1830 hours:	4 passenger ships (each of 10 - 15,000 tons) at anchor.
5 km S of Portland, 1845 hours:	4 freighters and 2 destroyers on W course.
Off Aberdeen, 2300 hours:	Two convoys together comprising about 50 ships. One on N course, the other on S course.

On 18 July bombers and dive-bombers - mostly escorted by single-engined and twin-engined fighters - attacked the following targets:

Day

Airfields:

Saltfleet (20 km SE of Grimsby):	2 250 kg HE bombs and 2 250 kg incendiary oil-bombs were dropped and the airfield was shot up. The effect could not be observed owing to weather conditions.
Wick:	32 50 kg bombs and 4 incendiary canisters were dropped. The bombs fell on houses and on the taxying area.
Montrose:	28 50 kg bombs and 4 incendiary canisters were dropped. The bombs fell on the N perimeter of the airfield and on the taxying area.

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St. Athan: 4 250 kg bombs were dropped. Hits were observed on a storage shed and on the N part of the airfield.

Donibristle: The bombs fell near the hangars and on the runway.

Harbour Installations:

Cardiff: 4 250 kg bombs were dropped. The effect could not be observed owing to fighter attacks.

Swansea: 4 250 kg bombs were dropped. Three hits on quay installations and a near miss on an 8,000-ton freighter were observed.

Dundee: Harbour and railway installations were attacked. A large fire was observed in the railway station.

Shipping:

Between Ramsgate and Deal: 1 merchant ship of 3 - 5,000 tons. Four direct hits (one 500 kg, two 250 kg and one 50 kg) were observed. The ship broke up and sank.

Between Ramsgate and Deal: 1 merchant ship of 5,000 tons. Two direct hits with 50 kg bombs. Stern under water, large patch of oil observed.

35 km SE of Harwich: 2 merchant ships each of 1,000 tons. Shot up with cannon-guns and set on fire.

35 km ENE of Harwich: 1 merchant ship of 1,500 tons. Sunk by two 500 bombs.

Off Thames Estuary: 1 coastal patrol boat shot up with cannon-guns and set on fire.

I. o. Wight. 1 patrol boat. Explosion and smoke observed.

25 km NE of Wick: 1 merchant ship of 3,000 tons in a convoy. One hit on stern with 250 kg. bomb. Thick clouds of smoke observed.

120 km NE of Wick: 1 patrol boat. Two near misses with 250 kg and 50 kg bombs. The ship had a heavy list after the attack.

15 km NW of Kinnaird Head: 1 escort vessel of 2,000 tons. Two hits with 250 kg bombs. List and smoke observed. Crew took to the boats.

Southampton: Two barrage balloons were shot down.

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Night

Shipping along the Scottish Coast:

- 1 merchant ship of 10,000 tons. One hit with 250 kg bomb. Explosion observed.
- 1 merchant ship of 6,000 tons. Two 250 kg bombs fell just in front of bows. Effect not observed.
- 1 tanker. One hit on stern with 250 kg bomb. Explosion observed.
- 1 freighter of 4,000 tons. One hit on stern with 250 kg bomb. Thick smoke observed.
- 1 ship of 10,000 tons. One hit on stern with 250 kg bomb. Thick smoke and explosion observed.
- 1 freighter of 500 tons. One hit with 250 kg bomb. Ship caught fire.
- 1 freighter. One hit with 50 kg bomb. Thick smoke observed.
- 1 merchant ship of 10,000 tons. Two hits on stern with 250 kg bombs. Explosion and smoke observed.
- 1 ship of 2,000 tons. Probably hit with one 50 kg bomb.
- 1 freighter of 3-4,000 tons. One hit with 250 kg bomb. Intense fire observed.
- 1 merchant ship of 1,000 tons. One hit with 250 kg bomb. Effect not observed.

Defence

Fighters:

15 km W of Orfordness, 1300 hours:	2 Blenheims
N of Cherbourg, 1600 hours:	2 Spitfires
Bristol Channel, 1600 hours:	Fighter patrol of up to 8 aircraft.
N of Swansea, 1600 hours:	3 fighters
Aberdeen, 1030 hours:	1 fighter
Aberdeen, 2200 hours:	Night fighter operations by Hurricanes and Spitfires.
Over the convoy off Aberdeen, 2200 hours:	4 Glosters and Spitfires.

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AA Artillery, Searchlights and Barrage Balloons:

Southampton, 1300 hours:	Intense well-placed AA fire.
E of Alford & E of Grimsby, 0700 hours:	Light AA and machine-gun fire.
Swansea and Cardiff, 1600 hours:	Heavy and light AA.
NW of Bridgewater, 1600 hours:	40 - 50 balloons at 1,500 metres.
Montrose, 1030 hours:	Heavy and medium AA.
Aberdeen, 1030 hours:	Machine-gun fire.
Dundee, 2200 hours:	Heavy AA.

At 1045 hours an air battle between 28 Me 109's and 15 Spitfires developed east of Deal. One Spitfire was shot down.

During the night of 18/19 July special operations were carried out according to plan by 9th Fliegerdivision at Belfast, the Mersey estuary, Morecambe Bay and the Humber estuary.

Long-range night fighters encountered a Wellington over the English coast. After the first attack the enemy aircraft fired a recognition signal (two red stars)..

NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

Escort operations, reconnaissance over the central North Sea and submarine searches were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 18 July, 1940

<u>German:</u>	2 Ju 88's
	1 Do 17
	<u>1 Me 109</u>
	<u>4 aircraft</u>

Enemy:

In Air Combat:	1 Spitfire at Deal
	1 Blenheim off Orfordness
	1 Blenheim at Flushing
	1 Blenheim at Harwich
	2 Blenheims at Le Harve

By AA:	1 Blenheim at Le Havre
	1 Blenheim at Boulogne
	2 Blenheims at Ghent
	<u>1 Blenheim at Delmenhorst</u>
	<u>11 aircraft</u>

Two barrage balloons were shot down at Southampton.

Special Observations and Experiences

It was learned from captured British documents that, in addition to the Hampden, aircraft types such as the Beaufort and Swordfish are being used for mine-laying operations.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

On 18 July reconnaissance over the western Mediterranean observed two merchant ships between Sardinia and the Balearic Islands.

Own Operations

On the afternoon of 17 July a large merchant ship was attacked in the vicinity of Lampedusa Island and a hit was scored on its stern. The crew took to the boats. It was later discovered that the ship was Finnish.

All of the three aircraft which took part in the attack on Gibraltar reported yesterday returned to base.

On 16 July an enemy native detachment of about 100 men was attacked with light bombs and machine-gun fire at Gallabad (Sudan frontier, Monte Cuora area).

An enemy M/T convoy of about 60 vehicles moving back between Buna and Moyale (north-east Kenya) was bombed and shot up.

A successful attack was made on airfield installations at Wajir (eastern frontier of Kenya between 1st and 2nd degrees north).

Enemy Operations

On 16 July an attack was made on Agordat airfield (120 km west of Asmara). A hangar and three aircraft on the ground were destroyed.

An enemy aircraft was shot down while making an unsuccessful attack on Asmara airfield.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO. 318 (20 July, 1940)

Operations on 19 July and during the night of 19/20 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Western France

At about 0930 hours an enemy aircraft flew along the coast from a point east of Cherbourg as far as Bayeux. No bombs were dropped.

At about 1115 hours there was another enemy incursion north of St. Brieux along the coast to 50 km north-east of Brest. Again no bombs were dropped.

At 1145 hours bombs were dropped at Blainville and Gisors. No damage of any importance resulted. The aircraft were not plotted.

Luftgaue Holland and Belgium/Northern France

Between 2315 and 0400 hours there were incursions by about 24 enemy aircraft, most of which flew on into the Reich. Bombs were dropped at Den Helder, but no damage resulted. There was AA in area north of the Lek, but without apparent effect.

The Reich

Between midnight and 0330 hours there were 18 enemy incursions over the Dutch frontier as far as the line Hannover - Kassel - Opladen, with the main effort at Paderborn. Bombs were dropped at ten places, but no damage of any importance resulted.

Night fighters shot down one enemy aircraft over Rheine and another north of Muenster.

AA defence was active, particularly in the Ruhr and at Kassel, but had no apparent effect.

Between 2245 and 0300 hours there were about 35 enemy incursions over Denmark and northern Germany as far as the line Skagen - Ruegen - Anklam - Gifhorn - Hannover, with the main effort at Luebeck, Hamburg and Bremen. Bombs were dropped at eleven places, but no damage of any importance resulted.

Night fighters had no contact with enemy aircraft.

AA was active throughout northern Germany, particularly at Hamburg and Bremen. One enemy aircraft was brought down over Kiel Bay, another at Bremen and a third at Borkum.

Altogether 37 British aircraft (of eleven squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Morning Reconnaissance

Shipping Movements:

E of Montrose,
0700 hours: No shipping movements observed
in good visibility.

15 km E of
Gt. Yarmouth,
0720 hours: Convoy comprising
12 ships on SSW course.

Gt. Yarmouth,
0720 hours: Convoy comprising
5 ships at anchor.

Lowestoft,
0720 hours: 5 ships on S course.

Afternoon and Evening Reconnaissance

Shipping in Ports:

Weymouth,
1520 hours: 2 destroyers (?),
2 merchant ships each of about 5,000 tons
and several small ships of less than
1,000 tons.

Falmouth,
1520 hours: 8 merchant ships of 2-8,000 tons,
apparently a convoy.

Devonport,
1730 hours: 4 warships and
1 transport of 20,000 tons.

Dover,
1805 hours: 17 ships (six large and one very large);
the latter stood in the middle of a
patch of oil and had two small ships
alongside.

Folkestone,
2030 hours: 5 destroyers,
2 merchant ships and
12 small warships at anchor.

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Shipping Movements:

40 km E of Harwich, 1450 hours:	Convoy comprising 37 medium merchant ships and 6 destroyers (?).
Off Thames Estuary, 1450 hours:	A few patrol boats.
Off Torquay, 1500 hours:	No shipping movements apart from a few patrol boats.
Off Dover, 1805 hours:	2 destroyers.
About 40 km SW of Peterhead, 2010 hours:	2 large merchant ships moving at medium speed on S course.
S of above, 2020 hours:	1 large warship moving at full speed on S course.

Convoy traffic throughout the sea area off northern Scotland appears to be concentrated on certain days. Thus, convoys should not be expected to appear for the following few days perhaps and then activity may increase again.

On 19 July and during the night of 19/20 July bombers and dive-bombers, some of them with fighter escort, attacked the following targets:

Day

Pembroke-Carew Airfield:	2 250 kg bombs scored direct hits on storage sheds.
Falmouth Harbour:	2 250 kg bombs and 10 50 kg bombs were dropped. Effect not observed.
Rothsay Dock (Clydebank):	3 250 kg bombs hit railway tracks in the target area.
S bank of River Clyde:	4 250 kg bombs were dropped on harbour installations and ware- houses. Fire with sheets of flame observed.
Plymouth Harbour:	2 250 kg bombs were dropped on a dock containing warships. 4 250 kg bombs were dropped on the N part of the harbour. Effect not known. Hits were scored on 4 ships in the harbour.
Glasgow, power station:	1 250 kg bomb scored hit. Fire and smoke observed.
Norwich, supply dump:	20 50 kg bombs were dropped, falling in S part of the target area.

Shipping:

Off Dover:	1 250 kg bomb hit the starboard side of a destroyer in a convoy. Further effect not observed.
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In Dover
Harbour:

1 500 kg bomb scored a direct hit on
a merchant ship of 5,000 tons.
The ship sank in a few minutes.

In Dover
Harbour:

Direct hits with 250 kg or 500 kg bombs
were scored on two merchant ships each
of 1,500 tons. Further effect not
observed.

Night

Lympe Airfield:

20 50 kg bombs were dropped, falling on
the NW and E perimeters of the airfield.

Kirkcaldy
Harbour:

4 250 kg bombs were dropped on
installations. Dull-red fire and
pillars of smoke observed.

Montrose
Harbour:

4 250 kg bombs were dropped.
Explosions in harbour.

Peterhead
Harbour:

4 250 kg bombs were dropped on
installations causing fires.

The effect of the following attacks was
not observed:

Falkirk
Harbour:

4 250 kg bombs were dropped on
installations.

Faversham:

20 50 kg bombs were dropped on
an explosives works.

SE of Aberdeen:

4 250 kg bombs were dropped on
harbour installations.

Defence

Fighters:

Off Dover:

Hurricanes, Defiants and Spitfires
over the convoy.

N of Dover:

9 fighters.

N of Canterbury:

Night fighters.

AA Artillery and Searchlights:

Falmouth:

AA of all calibres.

N of Dover:

Medium and heavy AA while aircraft
were dropping bombs and leaving target.
A large number of parachute shells(?).

Faversham:

Well-placed AA.

Lympe:

Searchlights.

Between coast
and S edge of
London:

Massed searchlights.

Plymouth:

Slight searchlight activity. Barrages by
medium and heavy AA.

R E S T R I C T E D

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In the morning an air battle developed off Dover. Thirteen enemy aircraft (12 Defiants and 1 Hurricane) were shot down by fighters.

At 1700 hours fighters on escort operations shot down two Spitfires off Dover.

During the night of 19/20 July special operations at the Clyde, Firth of Forth, the Humber estuary, Pembroke, Cardiff, Falmouth, Plymouth and the Thames estuary were carried out according to plan by 9th Flieger-division.

NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

Escort operations and reconnaissance over the Skagerrak were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 19 July, 1940

German:

1 Me 109

1 Do 17

1 He 111

3 aircraft

Enemy:

In Air Combat:

4 Spitfires over I.o.Wight

2 Spitfires at Folkestone

1 Spitfire at Dover

1 Hurricane over centre of Channel

12 single-engined aircraft, probably Defiants, over centre of Channel.

1 aircraft (type not known) at Muenster

1 Whitley at Burgsteinfurt (S. of Rheine)

By AA:

1 aircraft (type not known) at Bremen

1 aircraft (type not known) at Eckernfoerde

1 aircraft (type not known) at Borkum

25 aircraft

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Nothing new was observed by reconnaissance over Malta, the central Red Sea and central Sudan.

Italian Operations

Libya

17 July, 1940

The airfield and hut sites at Sidi Barrani were bombed. The report on the results of the attack is not yet available.

18 July, 1940

The hut site and supply dump at Mersa Matruh were bombed again. The report on results is not yet available.

East Africa

17 July, 1940

Trucks were shot up on the Mojale - Buna caravan route. An enemy aircraft was shot down over Buna.

Enemy Operations

On 17th July British aircraft bombed industrial installations at Assab. No information on the effect of the attack is available yet.

R E S T R I C T E D

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LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO. 319 (21 July, 1940)

Operations on 20 July and during the night of 20/21 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Between 2315 and 0230 hours there were about 17 enemy incursions over the coast and the Scheldt estuary as far as the line 20 km west of Antwerp - Mecheln - Courtrai. Bombs which were dropped caused no damage.

AA defence along the coast had no apparent effect.

Luftgau Holland

At 0830 hours there was an enemy incursion as far as Flushing where bombs were dropped. No damage resulted, but one person was killed and there were several injured.

Two Blenheims which approached Rotterdam at about 1330 hours were shot down by fighters.

Between 2300 and 0400 hours incursions were made by 21 enemy aircraft, about 17 of which flew on into the Reich. At Rotterdam three storage tanks containing 6,000 tons of fuel were destroyed.

AA defence was active throughout the area. Two Blenheims were brought down.

The Reich

Between 2320 and 0330 hours there were 17 enemy incursions over the Dutch frontier as far as the line Celle - Wunstorf - Hoexter - Cologne. Bombs were dropped at six places (particularly at Eschwege airfield, where houses and material in the air park were damaged).

There was intense night fighter and AA activity in western Germany. AA defence was particularly strong in the Ruhr. Two enemy aircraft were shot down by night fighters.

Between 2300 and 0330 hours there were 27 enemy incursions from Heligoland Bay and northern Holland as far as the line Copenhagen - Rostock - Parchim - Celle. Bombs were dropped at eight places (particularly at Wismar, Schwerin and Hamburg). Seven persons were killed.

Single enemy aircraft circled over the river estuaries and Kiel Bay (mine-laying?).

AA defence was active on the North Sea islands and at various points in the enemy's area of operations. Two enemy aircraft were brought down at Wilhelmshaven and another at Jever.

AA brought down a British aircraft which approached Frederikshaven at 0015 hours.

Luftgau Norway

At about 1200 hours a Lockheed Hudson attacked Utsira wireless station (40 km north-west of Stavanger) and destroyed the 60 metre high wireless mast with three bombs. Five other bombs fell into the water. Fighters which took off did not make contact.

Altogether 41 British aircraft (of eleven squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Morning Reconnaissance

Shipping Movements:

110 km SE of Berwick, 0130 hours:	38 ships of 5-10,000 tons with escorts moving at full speed on NW course.
Humber Estuary, 0205 hours:	1 merchant ship.
Farne (Iceland), 0300 hours:	1 cruiser (apparently "Birmingham" class) moving at full speed on SSE course.
35 km NE of Berwick on Tweed, 0310 hours:	Convoy comprising 18 merchant ships and 1 destroyer.
Dungeness, 0630 hours:	1 patrol boat (stationary)
Hastings, 0630 hours:	2 ships each of 2,000 tons on SW course.
S of Eastbourne, 0630 hours:	4 ships of about 3,000 tons on W course.
About 5 km NE of Humber Estuary, 0730 hours:	1 destroyer.
5 km SE of Southwold, 0840 hours:	2 freighters totalling about 4,000 tons on S course.
About 20 km S of Lowestoft, 0840 hours:	2 freighters each of 4,000 tons on S course.
Off Folkestone, 1105 hours:	1 destroyer.
Off Dover, 1105 hours:	1 destroyer and 2 mine-sweepers.

Shipping in Ports:

Dover Harbour, 0620 hours:	About 15 ships of 3-5,000 tons.
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Afternoon Reconnaissance

Airfields:

Portland Harbour, 1522 hours:	No aircraft observed.
Chickerell, 1522 hours:	No aircraft observed.
4 km N of Llantwit-Major, 1605 hours:	New airfield (5 kmw of St. Athan). 14 aircraft observed.

Barnstaple,
1625 hours:

No aircraft observed.

Shipping

30 km S of
Plymouth,
1230 hours:

1 ship and
1 small warship on NE course.

About 25 km S
of Plymouth,
1235 hours:

1 large merchant ship on NE course.

Off Aldeburgh,
1400 hours:

Convoy apparently comprising large
merchant ships moving at full speed
on S course.

30 km E of
Harwich,
1405 hours:

1 large warship on SW course.

Mounts Bay,
1430 hours:

3 merchant ships.

Pembroke,
1450 hours:

Convoy at anchor.

From Hastings
to Dungeness,
1505 hours:

No shipping movements observed.

Portland,
1522 hours:

2 destroyers (?),
1 tanker of about 6,000 tons and
1 freighter of 4-5,000 tons damaged.
1 freighter of about 5,000 tons in
the outer harbour.

20 km SSE of S
tip of I.o.Wight,
1615 hours:

Convoy.

5 km S of
Dover,
1910 hours:

Convoy comprising
23 ships.

W of Dover,
2130 hours:

3 large ships and
3 small ships (one ship with heavy list).

Shipping in Ports:

Dover,
1900 hours:

3 medium cruisers.

Dover,
2130 hours:

10 large ships and
4 small ships.

On 20 July and during the night of 20/21 July bombers, dive-bombers and
and twin-engined fighters.- some of them escorted by single-engined
fighters - attacked the following targets:

Day

Shipping:

Dover,
convoy:

1 cruiser of 6-8,000 tons:
two hits with 500 kg bombs, sheets of
flame and large clouds of smoke from
explosion.

1 destroyer:
one hit with 250 kg bomb, further
effect not observed.

7 merchant ships of 3-6,000 tons:
several near misses.

1 destroyer with marking "OKH" or "OKN":
two hits on gunwales with 500 kg and
250 kg bomb. Intense fires broke out
and the ship became out of control.

Dover Harbour:

1 ship of 1,000 tons:
two hits with a 500 kg and a 250 kg
bomb. List observed.

The effect of the following attacks
was not observed:

30 km S of
Swanage:

Convoy comprising
14 ships.

12 km SE of
Portland:

1 destroyer.

Night of 19/20 July:

Plymouth
Harbour:

1 merchant ship: two hits amidships
with 250 kg bombs.

Falmouth
Harbour:

3 merchant ships: one hit on each
with 250 kg bombs.

Night of 20/21 July:

Ipswich Airfield
and a/f 40 km NE
of Cambridge:

10 50 kg bombs were dropped.
Effect not observed.

Rocheford and
Southend a/f's:

9 50 kg bombs and
1 incendiary canister dropped.
Bombs fell in vicinity of targets.

Lowestoft,
Harbour inst-
allations:

10 50 kg bombs were dropped.
Sticks fell on harbour installations.

Newcastle,
Vickers-Armstrong
shipyard:

1 250 kg bomb and
1 50 kg bomb dropped.
Effect not observed.

Chatham,
Royal Dockyard:

8 250 kg bombs,
8 50 kg bombs and
2 incendiary canisters were dropped.
Three large fires were observed
ten minutes afterwards.

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Greenock, Harbour installations	4 250 kg bombs and 8 50 kg bombs were dropped. Fire in a shipyard.
Newcastle, Fuel storage installations:	2 250 kg (HE) bombs and 1 250 kg incendiary oil-bomb dropped. Large sheet of flame and fire immediately after bombs exploded.
Industrial plant E of Newcastle:	3 50 kg bombs were dropped. Effect not observed.
Montrose:	24 50 kg bombs and 2 incendiary canisters were dropped on factory and railway installations. Effect not observed.
Orkney:	5 250 kg bombs and 8 50 kg bombs were dropped on AA gun and searchlight installations. About six guns and a few searchlights ceased activity.

Defence

Fighters:

40 km W of Lowestoft, 0830 hours:	2 Hurricanes.
Dover, 1030 hours:	9 fighters above the clouds.
Aldeburgh 1400 hours:	8 fighters, including one twin-engined aircraft with a cannon-gun.
30 km E of Harwich, 1410 hours:	3 fighters.
Dover Harbour, 1530 hours:	6 fighters.
Ipswich, 2400 hours:	2 night fighters.
40 km NE of Cambridge, 2400 hours:	2 night fighters.
Between Bristol and Bath:	Night fighters.

AA Artillery, Searchlights and Barrage Balloons:

Plymouth and Falmouth:	Intense AA fire of all calibres.
20 km E of Exeter:	Intense AA fire of all calibres.
Dover:	Badly-placed light and heavy AA. AA fire was probably also put up by a merchant ship in the harbour.

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5 km NE of
Humber Estuary:

Light and medium AA fire from a
destroyer.

30 km E of
Harwich:

Medium AA fire from a large warship.

W of Brighton:

Fire from AA guns on coast.

Plymouth, Falmouth,
Cardiff and Swansea:

Intense searchlight activity.

Montrose, Dundee,
Glasgow and along
S bank of Firth
of Forth:

Intense searchlight activity.

Aldeburgh:

4 searchlights.

On coast and
over London:

Intense activity by searchlights.
Very effective up to 8,000 metres.
Aircraft were not held for long by
searchlights.

Cardiff and
Plymouth:

Balloon barrage at 1,200 metres.

Swansea:

Balloon barrage at 1,400 metres.

At 1900 hours an air battle between 48 Me 109's and about 40 Spitfires and Hurricanes developed over the Channel. Three Hurricanes and a Spitfire were shot down. Two Me 109's were lost.

During the night of 20/21 July special operations at Pembroke, Fishguard, Penzance, Falmouth, Plymouth and over the Bristol Channel and Thames estuary were carried out according to plan by 9th Fliegerdivision.

NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

Escort operations and reconnaissance over the Skagerrak were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 20 July, 1940

German:

1 Fw 200
1 Ju 88
1 Do 17
6 Me 109's
9 aircraft

Enemy:

In Air Combat:

1 Sunderland off the Norwegian coast.
2 Blenheims at Rotterdam
1 Blenheim at Portland
3 Hurricanes at Dover
1 Spitfire NW of Folkestone
2 Spitfires at Portland
2 Wellingtons N of Muenster

By AA:

1 aircraft (type not known) at Skagen
2 aircraft (type not known) at Rotterdam
1 aircraft (type not known) at Wilhelmshaven
1 Hampden at Wilhelmshaven
1 aircraft (type not known) at Jever

18 aircraft

A barrage balloon was shot down at Collum.

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SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

On 19 July reconnaissance over Alexandria harbour observed the following:

- 4 battleships,
- 1 aircraft-carrier,
- 7 cruisers, one of them in dock,
- 16 destroyers,
- 6 seaplanes,
- 1 tanker,
- 8 merchant ships and
a number of small warships.

In Libya photographic reconnaissance was carried out over the airfields at Fuka and El Daba (on coast, between Mersa Matruh and Alexandria) and in the Sollum coastal area.

On 18 July photographic reconnaissance was carried out over Hargeisa airfield (western Somaliland).

Italian Operations

Mediterranean

During the night of 20/21 July at 0230 hours 6 S.79's attacked the torpedo factory on Malta from a height of 500 metres. An intense fire was observed in the target area. There was strong searchlight and AA defence.

Libya

On 19 July attacks were made on hut sites at Sidi Barrani and on hut sites and supply dumps at Mersa Matruh. Fires were observed in the target area at Mersa Matruh. One Italian aircraft is missing.

East Africa

On 18 July bombing attacks were made on enemy positions south of Khashin el Girba (approximately 14° north, 36° east) and the port of Berbera.

Enemy Operations

On 18 July a not particularly effective attack was made on Neghelli airfield (East Africa, approximately 5° north, 40° east).

SITUATION AT SEA

While on patrol on the morning of 19 July the two 5,000-ton Italian cruisers "Giovanni delle Bande Nere" and "Bartolomeo Colleoni" encountered four British destroyers about 40 km west of Crete. Two 7,000-ton cruisers of the "Sydney" class approaching from the east joined in the ensuing action. "Bartolomeo Colleoni" sank after an exchange of fire lasting three hours. "Giovanni delle Bande Nere" succeeded in reaching Benghazi. The extent of its damage is not yet known.

During the morning 6 S.79's from Rhodes joined in the action and scored a hit on a British destroyer. At 1415 hours 6 S.81's made a further attack, during which another hit was scored on a British destroyer. At 1720 hours both British cruisers were hit in a further attack. The attacks were carried out south-west and south of Crete; altogether 200 100 kg bombs were dropped.

At 1410 hours 3 S.79's which could not locate the warships returned to Libya. At 1740 hours the warships were attacked by 6 S.79's from Libya. By this time the formation comprised only one cruiser and three destroyers; the whereabouts of the other two ships could not be ascertained. Nine 250 kg bombs and 27 100 kg bombs were dropped, but no direct hits were scored.

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LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.320 (22 July, 1940)

Operations on 21 July and during the night of 21/22 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Western France

Between 1100 and 0500 hours there were at least 27 enemy incursions (including 21 flights over the coastal area between Le Havre and Cherbourg and four incursions as far as the line south of Paris - Laval). Bombs were dropped at eleven places, particularly at Le Havre and Bayeux, but no damage resulted.

Between 0746 and 0924 hours three enemy aircraft flew along the coast between Barfleur and Dives-sur-Mer, penetrating up to 10 km inland. No bombs were dropped.

AA defence 10 km south-west of Barfleur had no apparent effect.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Between 1700 and 0400 hours there were 12 enemy incursions. The aircraft did not penetrate very far inland. Bombs were dropped at one place, but no damage resulted.

Luftgau Holland

Between 2300 and 0400 hours incursions were made by 36 enemy aircraft, 30 of which flew on into the Reich. Bombs were dropped at five places, particularly at Rotterdam, but no damage of any importance resulted.

The Reich

Between 2340 and 0300 hours there were 30 enemy incursions over the Dutch frontier as far as the line Rheine - Bielefeld - Eisenach - Marburg - Cologne. Bombs were dropped at fourteen places, particularly at Hagen and Kassel. Houses were damaged and several persons were killed and injured.

Night fighters were operational over western Germany. One enemy aircraft was shot down over Muenster.

AA defence was active, particularly at Kassel and in the southern part of the Ruhr.

Between 2315 and 0340 hours there were 45 enemy incursions from Heligoland Bay and northern Holland as far as the line Esbjerg - Ruegen - Neustrelitz - Uelzen - Braunschweig, with the main effort at Wismar and Bremen. Bombs were dropped at ten places, causing small fires in twelve houses in Bremen, but apart from this only slight damage resulted. Some of the enemy aircraft circled over the river estuaries, Kiel Bay and Luebeck Bay (mine-laying?).

AA defence was active throughout the area. An enemy aircraft was brought down at Kiel.

Luftgau Norway

At about 0325 hours a Skua dropped five bombs on Flatoe Island (17 km north of Bergen) in a dive attack. No damage resulted.

Altogether 34 British aircraft (of thirteen squadrons) were definitely identified during the night of 21/22 July.

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GREAT BRITAIN

Morning Reconnaissance

Airfields:

1000 hours:

Salisbury:

Number of aircraft not observed.

Weston super Mare:

Number of aircraft not observed.

St. Athan:

10 aircraft.

Swanton-Morley:

One large hangar and ten barrack huts. Taxying area undamaged. No aircraft observed.

Shipping in Ports:

Dover,
0612 hours:

Ships in harbour. Number not known.

Cardiff,
1000 hours:

40 merchant ships.

Barry,
1000 hours:

20 merchant ships.

Shipping Movements:

50 km E of
Harwich,
0055 hours:

5 destroyers on S course.

20 km SSE of
Hastings,
0612 hours:

1 merchant ship and
2 patrol boats (?) on NE course.

20 km E of
Lowestoft,
0618 hours:

1 patrol boat (stationary).

15 km SE of
Dover,
0628 hours:

1 merchant ship on E course.

20 km S of
Dover,
0700 hours:

1 merchant ship on NE course.

Channel,
N of Brest,
0730 hours:

No shipping movements.

45 km SE of
Portsmouth,
1015 hours:

Convoy comprising
15 merchant ships and
8 warships with about
20 aircraft on W course.

6 km SE of
Dungeness,
1100 hours:

Convoy comprising
15 ships on NE course.

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16 km SSE of
Aldeburgh,
0030 hours:

3 coastguard ships on SE course.

Other Observations:

Salisbury,
1000 hours:

Camp. No troops observed.

Afternoon Reconnaissance

Airfields:

Land's End,
1232 hours:

No aircraft observed.

Shipping in Ports:

Falmouth,
1739 hours:

2 tankers each of about 6,000 tons,
4 freighters each of about 5,000 tons,
3 freighters each of about 3,000 tons,
2 mine-sweepers.

Plymouth,
1750 hours:

At the quay;
4 large ships.

On the roadstead:
11 medium ships,
1 large warship,
7 cruisers,
9 destroyers,
1 mine-sweeper,
1 warship and
2 other ships, types not known,
1 passenger ship of about 8,000 tons,
2 passenger ships of about 2-5,000 tons,
3 freighters of 2-5,000 tons,
1 freighter of about 9,000 tons.

Shipping Movements:

10 km S of
Eastbourne,
1317 hours:

4 patrol boats.

20 km W of
Margate,
1605 hours:

8 merchant ships of 3-5,000 tons
on various courses.

Off coast between
Firth of Forth and
Pentland Firth,
1700 hours:

No warships and no shipping movements.

Other Observations:

Plymouth:

Harbour entrance blocked by three buoy-booms, one of them with a channel about 210 metres wide and a pile buoy-boom.

Off Trondheim:

The Sunderland flying-boat shot down on 19 July, fired red recognition signals.

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On 21 July and during the night of 21/22 July bombers and dive-bombers - some of them escorted by fighters - attacked the following targets:

Day

Shipping:

30 km SE of
Bournemouth:

6 500 kg bombs,
13 250 kg bombs and
52 50 kg bombs were dropped on a convoy.

1 tanker of about 10,000 tons received three direct hits. The ship exploded and sank.

1 freighter of about 10,000 tons received two direct hits and three near misses. An intense fire was observed and the ship sank immediately.

2 freighters each of about 5,000 tons: intense fires were observed on board. Both ships sinking.

1 freighter of about 5,000 tons: heavy list observed.

Night of 21/22 July:

Grantham:

10 50 kg bombs were dropped on the airfield.

Upwood:

10 50 kg bombs were dropped on the airfield.

E of Montrose:

4 50 kg bombs were dropped on harbour installations.

Derby:

10 50 kg bombs were dropped on factory installations on the E outskirts of the town.

The effect of the above attacks was not observed.

Sunderland
and Newcastle:

8 50 kg bombs,
1 incendiary oil bomb and
1 incendiary canister were dropped on the power station and gasworks at Sunderland and the Middle Docks shipyard at Newcastle. Several fires were observed.

Dunston and
Redheugh
(Newcastle):

8 50 kg bombs,
1 incendiary oil-bomb and
1 incendiary canister were dropped on the power station and a large mill at Dunston and the gasworks at Redheugh (Newcastle). An extensive fire and explosions were observed.

Defence

Fighters:

Salisbury:

3 fighters.

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Night Fighters:

Montrose:	1 night fighter with searchlight.
Nottingham:	4 - 6 night fighters.
E of Harwich:	1 twin-engined aircraft at 700 metres.
Harwich:	1 aircraft with searchlight at 1,500 metres.

AA Artillery:

Newcastle, 0100 hours:	Weak light AA.
North Foreland, 0100 hours:	Light ship's AA.
W of Brighton, 0200 hours:	AA fire from land.
Plymouth, 0200 hours:	Intense heavy AA and machine-gun fire.
Portland:	Slight heavy AA.
Cardiff:	Heavy AA.
Grantham:	Badly-placed heavy AA.

Searchlights:

Montrose:	4 searchlights.
Newcastle:	Intense searchlight activity. Well directed on western outskirts of Newcastle and at Tynemouth, badly directed elsewhere.
Harwich:	6 - 8 searchlights.
London:	Intense AA fire up to 8,000 metres, well placed light AA.
Aldeburgh:	3 searchlights.
Ramsgate to Folkestone:	No searchlights.
Plymouth:	Intense searchlight activity.
Pembroke Fishguard Llanelly	} Slight searchlight activity.
Norwich:	Badly directed searchlights.
Newcastle - Sunderland:	About 70 searchlights along the coast.

Barrage Balloons:

Plymouth:	About 20 balloons up to 800 metres.
Cardiff:	10 balloons.

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During the night of 21/22 July special operations were carried out according to plan by 9th Fliegerdivision over the Bristol Channel, Plymouth, the Mersey estuary, Morecambe Bay and along the east coast between Middlesbrough and the Thames.

NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

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

One Lockheed Hudson was shot down 150 km south-south-east of Kristiansand and another 150 km south of Kristiansand.

Total Aircraft Losses on 21 July, 1940

<u>German:</u>	1 Me 109
	1 Do 17
	1 He 59 (missing)
	1 He 111
	<u>4 aircraft</u>

Enemy:

In Air Combat:	1 Hurricane over the Channel
	2 Lockheed Hudsons off Kristiansand
	1 Whitley at Muenster

By AA:	<u>1 aircraft</u> , type not known, at Kiel
	<u>5 aircraft</u>

Late report from 20 July:	1 Hurricane at Portland.
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SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Nothing of particular importance was observed by reconnaissance over Dikkil (French Somaliland) and north-eastern Kenya on 19 July and over the frontier of French Somaliland, northern Kenya, west of Lake Rudolf and over the lower Sudan on 20 July. One aircraft did not return from these operations.

Mediterranean

20 July:

Reconnaissance was carried out over the Sollum area and along the coast from Tobruk to Benghazi.

21 July:

Aircraft with fighter escort carried out reconnaissance over Malta. No changes of any importance in the shipping in the harbour were observed. There was strong AA defence. An S.79 which was hit by AA made a forced landing on the sea 20 km south of Cape Scalambri (Sicily). The crew was rescued. Fighters covering this aircraft shot down an enemy aircraft.

Italian Operations

Libya

On 20 July bombing attacks were made on enemy positions in the Sollum area.

On 21 July bombers attacked hut sites at Sidi Barrani and Mersa Matruh airfield, where a direct hit was scored on a searchlight.

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East Africa

During the night of 17/18 July, Buna airfield was attacked. Several hits were scored in spite of strong AA defence.

On 18 July Wajir and Buna airfields were bombed and shot up. Several aircraft were destroyed on the ground and an enemy fighter was shot down.

Buna was attacked during the night of 18/19 July. One aircraft is missing.

During the night of 19/20 July a further attack was made on Buna. A concentration of enemy troops and M/T convoys south-west of Buna was also attacked.

On 20 July an effective attack was made on enemy troop concentrations at Kurmuk (Sudan frontier).

Enemy Operations

On 19 July the enemy made ineffective attacks on airfields at Assab and Agordat (west of Asmara). In an enemy attack on Barentu airfield (60 km south-west of Agordat, Eritrea) the wireless station, sick quarters and an aircraft in the taxiing area were destroyed. One enemy aircraft was shot down.

Only slight damage resulted from an enemy low-level attack on Asmara airfield on 20 July.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO. 321 (23 July, 1940)

Operations on 22 July and during the night of 22/23 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Western France, Belgium/Northern France and Holland

During 22 July and the night of 22/23 July there were several incursions into the above areas. The enemy aircraft did not penetrate very far inland. Bombs were dropped at Cherbourg, Trouville, Le Havre and on the railway bridge at Morlaix. No damage resulted.

Luftgau Norway

At about 0330 hours a Skua dropped five bombs on Flatøe Island (17 km north of Bergen) in a dive attack. No damage resulted.

The Reich

Between 2320 and 0330 hours there were 22 enemy incursions as far as the line Copenhagen - Falster Island - Hagenow - Celle - Hannover. Bombs were dropped at several places; gas mains at Harburg-Elbdeich were damaged. There were no casualties.

AA defences were active at a number of places, particularly on the North Sea coast and at Hamburg, where enemy aircraft were forced to turn back without dropping their bombs.

Between 2315 and 0300 hours there were 24 enemy incursions into western and central Germany as far as the line Hannover - Hildesheim - Gotha - Zellameliis - Marburg - Cologne. Bombs were dropped at eight places, but no damage of any importance resulted. Two persons were injured.

Night fighters did not make contact owing to weather conditions.

AA was active throughout the area. An enemy aircraft (type not known) was brought down at Bad Lippspringe.

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There were a further 25 incursions between 2355 and 0300 hours. About fifteen of the aircraft flew as far as the Moselle, most of them operating over Muenster and the industrial area (Hamm). Bombs were dropped on a dummy installation at Bielefeld.

No enemy aircraft were encountered by night fighters.

Altogether 25 British aircraft (of eight squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Morning Reconnaissance (Visual)

Shipping Movements:

About 27 km NW of Margate:	2 destroyers on WNW course.
Off Margate, 0210 hours:	2 destroyers at anchor.
Off Tay Estuary, 0340 hours:	2 patrol boats.
About 50 km S of Dungeness, 0600 hours:	2 large ships and 2 small ships on different courses.
Off Dover Harbour, 0600 hours:	2 small ships (stationary).
About 20 km ESE of Eastbourne, 0600 hours:	2 small ships, course not ascertained.
50 km NE of Cromer, 0650 hours:	4 merchant ships on NE course.
35 km SE of Lowestoft, 0655 hours:	Convoy comprising 30 ships on SW course.
35 km ENE of Lowestoft, 0800 hours:	5 merchant ships on SW course.
35 km ENE of Gt. Yarmouth 0800 hours:	1 ship (apparently a lightship) at anchor.
30-50 km E of Aberdeen, 0900 hours:	2 patrol boats and 1 merchant ship of 2-3,000 tons.
N of Greenock (Firth of Clyde), 0915 hours:	About 40 ships.
35 km N of Margate, 0930 hours:	1 MTB on S course.

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35 km NNW of
Margate,
0930 hours:

3 mine-sweepers on E course.

Forth Bridge,
0930 hours:

About 8 ships of 4-8,000 tons.

W of Forth Bridge,
0930 hours:

1 ship of 15,000 tons on W course.

E of Kirkcaldy,
0940 hours:

28 merchant ships of 6-8,000 tons (stationary).
8 medium merchant ships approaching this
group from the east.

About 40 km E of
Gt. Yarmouth,
1150 hours:

2 medium warships moving at full speed
on SW course.

Airfields:

Grangemouth,
0930 hours:

No aircraft.

Turnhouse,
0935 hours:

13 Spitfires.

Gullane,
0945 hours:

No aircraft.

Shipping in Ports:

F. of Forth,
0550 hours:

50 - 60 merchant ships of 1,500-3,000 tons.

Afternoon and Evening Reconnaissance

Airfields:

Pembroke
(seaplane base),
1817 hours:

15 aircraft.

Pembroke (Carew),
1818 hours:

19 aircraft.

Manobier,
1818 hours:

No aircraft observed.

Celdy Island,
1819 hours:

Airfield (?). No aircraft observed.

Kidwelly,
1823 hours:

No aircraft observed.

Pyle,
1829 hours:

42 aircraft.

Llanwy-Major,
1830 hours:

27 aircraft.

St. Athan,
1830 hours:

14 aircraft.

Weston-Zoyland,
1838 hours:

6 aircraft (apparently multiple-engined).

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About 40 km SE
of Harwich,
1844 hours:

3 aircraft, type not identified.

Chickerell,
1845 hours:

No aircraft observed.

25 km E of
Margate,
1850 hours:

5 Spitfires.

About 40 km E
of Dover,
1858 hours:

3 fighters, type not identified.

Shipping in Ports:

Portland
Harbour,
1845 hours:

1 freighter and
6 light warships.
1 freighter and
2 Channel steamers outside the harbour.

Shipping Movements:

About 50 km NE
of Margate,
1206 hours:

30 small ships, apparently escorted by
2 warships, moving at low speed on SSW
course.

20 km SE of
Ramsgate,
1305 hours:

5 large merchant ships and
5 destroyers moving at full speed
on WNW course.

55 km W of
Calais,
1420 hours:

1 merchant ship on NE course.

40 km SSE of
Plymouth,
1520 hours:

2 ships in line ahead on W course.

W of St. Just,
1520 hours:

2 ships in line ahead on W course.

Thames Estuary,
15 km NW of
Margate,
1803 hours:

Convoy comprising
16 ships moving on W course.

50 km E of
Gt. Yarmouth,
1825 hours:

2 medium warships moving at full speed
on W course.

About 40 km SE
of Orfordness,
1840 hours:

A few patrol boats at anchor.

40 km SSE of
Harwich,
1845 hours:

3 merchant ships moving at medium speed on
SSW course.

Photographic Reconnaissance:

0630 hours:

An aircraft approaching Scotland from the
west carried out mosaic photography along
the course Stirling - Donibristle -
Kirkcaldy - Gullane.

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Results of Photographic Reconnaissance:

1230 hours:

Helston:	Airfield apparently under construction.
Manorbier Airfield:	5 aircraft.
SSE of Fishguard:	Ammunition depot probably.
Holyhead seaplane base:	No aircraft observed.
Worcester airfield:	6 aircraft.
Gloucester- Cheltenham airfield:	16 aircraft.
Minchinhampton airfield:	64 aircraft.
20 km E of Bristol:	Airfield under construction.
Airfield near Yeovil:	No aircraft observed.
Portland Harbour seaplane base:	No aircraft observed.
Christchurch airfield:	5 aircraft (field partly obscured by clouds).
Bembridge airfield:	Taxying area ploughed up.
Sandown airfield:	Taxying area apparently rendered unserviceable.
Ryde airfield:	Taxying area apparently rendered unserviceable.
Shanklin airfield:	No aircraft observed.
Shanklin-Languard airfield:	No aircraft observed.

On 22 July and during the night of 22/23 July bombers and dive-bombers - mostly escorted by fighters - attacked the following targets:

Day

Shipping:

E of Bridlington:	2 merchant ships of 6 - 800 tons. Ships developed list; no other effect observed.
SW of Portland:	1 merchant ship of 1,000 tons. Bombs fell close to target.

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Harbour Installations:

Aberdeen: 4 250 kg bombs,
13 50 kg bombs and
4 incendiary canisters were dropped.

Leith: 1 1,000 kg bomb,
3 250 kg bombs and
4 incendiary canisters were dropped.

Night Fire observed.

Airfields:

Leuchars and
Montrose: 4 250 kg bombs and
3 500 kg bombs were dropped on hangars
and airfield installations. Effect was
not observed owing to bad weather.

St. Athan: 8 250 kg bombs were dropped.
Two bombs fell in the target area.

Portsmouth: 20 50 kg bombs were dropped from 3,000
metres. Effect not observed.

Harbour and Shipyard Installations:

Milford Haven: 4 250 kg bombs were dropped.
Effect could not be observed owing to
thick mist.

Burntisland
(N of Leith): 3 250 kg bombs,
12 50 kg bombs and
4 incendiary canisters were dropped.
Blue and red sheets of flame reached
200 metres. An intense fire and
explosions were observed.

W of Edinburgh: 8 250 kg bombs,
24 50 kg bombs and
4 incendiary canisters were dropped.
Sheets of flame and thick clouds of
smoke were observed.

Pembroke
shipyard: 8 250 kg bombs were dropped.
Several bombs fell in the target area.
Three explosions were observed.

Sheerness,
Royal Dockyard: 20 50 kg bombs were dropped.
Hits were scored in the southern part
of the target area. Fire observed.

Chatham,
Royal Dockyard: 20 50 kg bombs were dropped.
Effect not observed owing to thick mist.

Shipping:

35 km SE of
Lowestoft: 8 50 kg bombs were dropped on a
convoy comprising
30 merchant ships. The bombs fell close
to the target.

20 km W of
Portland: 1 coastal vessel; the bombs fell close
to the ship.

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Searchlight Positions:

Between Harwich and London:	20 50 kg bombs were dropped. Effect not observed.
N bank of Humber Estuary:	1 250 kg and 4 50 kg bombs were dropped. The bombs fell between searchlights and firing AA guns. Effect not observed.
Dundee:	Bombs (50 kg) were dropped. Effect not observed owing to clouds.

Other Targets:

Pembroke, fuel storage installation:	8 250 kg bombs were dropped. Some of the bombs apparently fell in the target area. Owing to intense enemy searchlight activity, only thick smoke was observed.
Pembrey, ammunition dump:	4 250 kg bombs were dropped. Effect not observed.

Defence

Kinross:	Fighter defence.
Leith:	3 night fighters.
Orkneys, } Moray Firth, } F. of Forth. }	3 fighters on patrol at 7,000 metres at each place.
Shetlands:	Fighter defence.
Harrogate:	Night fighters.
Catfoss:	3 night fighters.
Margate:	3 fighters.
Dover:	3 fighters.
35 km SE of Lowestoft:	Fighter defence over convoy which was attacked.
Nottingham area;	4 - 6 night fighters.
SE of Cardiff:	Night fighters.
Dundee:	2 fighters (with searchlights) encountered twice.

AA Artillery, Searchlights and Barrage Balloons:

Firth of Forth:	Light and heavy AA.
Plymouth:	Light and heavy AA (also from ships).
Falmouth:	Light AA (about 5 km S of Dunbar).
Portland:	Well-placed light AA.
Pembroke:	Light AA, heavy AA and searchlights.

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Dundee:	Badly placed light AA.
Leith:	Slight AA fire.
Liverpool- Portland:	Heavy AA.
Milfordhaven:	Ships' AA.
Catfoss airfield:	Heavy AA.
Margate:	Ships' AA.
Sheerness:	Heavy AA.
Felixstowe airfield, Chatham and Harwich-London:	Moderately accurate heavy AA.
Grantham:	Badly placed AA.
Humber Estuary:	Heavy AA.
Dover and Dungeness:	15 searchlights each.
S and N of Humber Estuary:	About 30 particularly powerful searchlights.
Edinburgh, on both sides of F. of Forth, Plymouth: }	Intense searchlight activity.
Falmouth,) Margate,) Naze Flat,) Clacton:)	Single powerful searchlights.
Portland,) Bristol,) Newport,) Cardiff,) Swansea,) Plymouth:)	Well-directed searchlights.
Peterhead:	Single searchlights.
S edge of Plymouth:	Barrage balloons.
Forth Bridge:	Barrage balloons at 1,200 metres.

During the night of 22/23 July a special operation was carried out according to plan by 9th Fliegerdivision.

NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

Escort operations and submarine searches were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 22 July, 1940

<u>German:</u>	1 Do 17
	<u>1 Me 110</u>
	<u>2 aircraft</u>

Enemy:

By AA:	1 aircraft, type not known, at Bad Lippspringe.
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Supplement to Luftwaffe Situation Report No. 319 of 21 July, 1940

The following were attacked:

southern part of Cardiff harbour,
blast furnace at Cardiff,
Falmouth harbour,
Swansea harbour and Plymouth docks,
western part of Swansea harbour and south dock,
Cardiff harbour installations,
Plymouth harbour.

Bombs were well placed. There were violent explosions in the western part of Plymouth and in the Great Western dock. Hits were scored on the quay at Falmouth. Explosions were observed in the harbours of Cardiff and Swansea.

Bombs Dropped:

Plymouth:	12	250 kg bombs.
Falmouth:	4	250 kg bombs.
Cardiff:	12	250 kg bombs.
Swansea:	12	250 kg bombs.

Defence

between Bristol and Bath: Night fighters.

Plymouth, Falmouth and 20 km E of Exeter: Intense AA fire of all calibres.

Plymouth, Falmouth, Cardiff, Swansea: Intense searchlight activity.

Cardiff and Plymouth: Balloon barrage at 1,200 metres.

Swansea: Balloon barrage at 1,400 metres.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

No reports on operations of importance have been received.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO. 322 (24 July, 1940)

Operations on 23 July and during the Night of 23/24 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Western France

Between 0735 and 1130 hours there were six enemy incursions over the coastal sector Le Havre - Cherbourg as far as the Lisieux area. At about 1600 hours there was an enemy incursion over the coastal sector St. Malo - Brest as far as Quimper. Bombs were dropped 20 km north-west of Quimper, but without effect.

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Between 2115 and 0400 hours there were at least 12 enemy incursions over the coastal sector Dieppe - Brest. The enemy aircraft did not penetrate very far inland and no bombs were dropped.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Between 0400 and 1630 hours there were 8 enemy incursions. Bombs were dropped at Calais, Senarpont and Dieppe, but no damage resulted.

AA defence had no apparent effect.

Between 0030 and 0300 hours there were five enemy incursions. The enemy aircraft did not penetrate very far inland. No bombs were dropped.

Luftgau Holland

Between 1300 and 1330 hours an enemy aircraft was operational over the coastal area. No bombs were dropped.

AA defence had no apparent effect.

Between 2100 and 0420 hours incursions were made by 34 enemy aircraft, 32 of which passed on into the Reich. Bombs were dropped at seven places. At Bergen aan Zee airfield a hangar and five aircraft were destroyed. Only unimportant damage resulted elsewhere.

AA defence on the North Sea coast had no apparent effect.

The Reich

Between 2100 and 0330 hours there were 32 enemy incursions over the Dutch frontier as far as the line Uelzen - Lehrte - Northeim - Gera - Wetzlar. Bombs were dropped at eleven places. At the Fieseler works in Kassel a machine-tool shed was damaged, but apart from this no damage of any importance resulted.

AA defence - particularly in the Ruhr - forced enemy aircraft to drop their bombs without aiming.

Between 2300 and 0300 hours incursions were made by 32 enemy aircraft approaching from the North Sea as far as the line Buetzow - Schwerin - Uelzen, with the main effort in the Hamburg area. Bombs were dropped at seven places, but in general only slight damage resulted. At Harpstedt railway station several trucks of an ammunition train exploded, severely damaging the station building.

AA was active on the coast and at Hamburg. Enemy aircraft were forced to drop their bombs without taking aim.

Altogether 17 British aircraft (of nine squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Reconnaissance (Visual)

Airfields:

Teignmouth: No aircraft observed.

Newton-Abbott: No aircraft observed.

Shipping in Ports:

Dover 2 merchant ships each of about 8,000 tons.
0645 hours: 6 small merchant ships.

Shipping Movements:

20 km NE of Convoy comprising
Humber Estuary, 10 ships on S course.
0240-0400 hours:

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12 km S of
Clacton on Sea
0245 hours:

6 - 8 steamships at anchor.

Margate,
0245 hours:

2 destroyers on the roadstead.

26 km SE of
Harwich,
0510 hours:

5 destroyers on S course.

Straits of Dover,
0645 hours:

No shipping movements.

About 70 km ESE
of Lowestoft,
0717 hours:

3 tankers on SSW course.

E of Deal,
1220 hours:

8 coastguard ships and mine-sweepers.
Course not observed.

20 km S of
Harwich,
1430 hours:

Convoy comprising
8 ships each of about 600 tons on SW course.

On 23 July and during the night of 23/24 July bombers and twin-engined fighters attacked the following targets:

Day

Pulham:

20 50 kg bombs were dropped on a RAF supply installation. Three hits scored on a large hangar resulted in smoke and fires.

Between Chichester
and Worthing:

Railway and road; several hits observed.

Farnborough
(N of Aldershot):

Railway junction; effect not observed.

E of Deal:

Mine-sweepers; one ship had heavy list after the attack.
Lightship; one hit on stern with 250 kg bomb.

Off Thames
Estuary:

2 patrol boats each of 400 tons sunk.

Night

Wick Airfield:

4 250 kg bombs were dropped.
Effect not observed.

Factory N of
Burntisland:

Effect could not be observed owing to strong fighter defence.

25 km E of
Montrose:

Convoy; report not yet received.

About 100 km
W of Texel:

Long-range night fighters shot down two enemy aircraft (type not known).

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During the night of 23/24 July special operations off Aberdeen, the Firth of Forth, Berwick, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough were carried out according to plan by 9th Fliegerdivision..

Defence

Fighters:

Day

Ipswich area: Fighters out in strength (about 80 - 90 aircraft).

Night

110 km E of
Withernsea: 3 night fighters.

Harwich: 1 night fighter.

Brixham: 1 night fighter.

Plymouth: 1 night fighter.

25-30 km E
of Milford: 2 night fighters.

AA Artillery:

N and S banks of
Humber Estuary and
at N Killingholme,
0145 hours: Badly placed heavy AA.

Falmouth,
0130 hours: Light and heavy AA.

Wash and N of
Nottingham,
0200 hours: Badly placed light and heavy AA.

20 km NE of
Humber Estuary,
0400 hours: Heavy AA from ships.

Harwich and
Orfordness,
0500 hours: AA defence.

Farnborough,
railway station,
1100 hours: Strong AA defence.

Area W of Brighton
to Tangmere,
1100 hours: Heavy AA.

Searchlights:

Edinburgh,
on both sides of
Firth of Forth,
Plymouth (harbour,
town and break-
waters),
0100 hours: Intense searchlight activity.

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Falmouth, Margate, Clacton, 0100 hours:	Single powerful searchlights.
E shore of Buchan Ness to Humber Estuary, 0100 hours:	Single searchlights at intervals of 5 - 20 km.
Portland, Bristol, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea and between Bristol and Portland, 0100 hours:	A large number of powerful searchlights.
On N and S banks of Humber Estuary, 0145 hours:	30 very powerful searchlights.
From Humber Est. to 12 km W of Hull, 0200 hours:	90 - 100 very powerful searchlights.
Coast of Wash, 0200 hours:	32 searchlights.
from the Wash to Leicester, 0200 hours:	10 searchlights.
Gainsborough, 0200 hours:	15 searchlights.
Nottingham, 0200 hours:	3 searchlights.
E of Ipswich, 0300 hours:	3 - 4 badly directed searchlights.
Aldeburgh, 0330 hours:	About six low-powered and badly directed searchlights along the coast.
Between Harwich and Cromer, 0330 hours:	Single searchlights along the coast.
<u>Barrage Balloons:</u>	
Plymouth, 0100 hours:	Barrage balloons (number not known) at 1,500 - 1,800 metres on S edge of Plymouth along W side of breakwater and probably on ships as well.
Portland, 0100 hours:	15 barrage balloons at 1,000 - 1,200 metres.

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NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

An enemy submarine about 200 km ESE of Aberdeen sank after being hit directly behind the conning tower by a 50 kg bomb.

Escort operations, evening reconnaissance over the central North Sea and morning reconnaissance over the Skagerrak were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 23 July, 1940

<u>German:</u>	2 Do 17's (overdue)
<u>Enemy:</u>	1 Blenheim (at Ostende)
	<u>2 aircraft</u> (type not known) 200 km W of Texel.
	<u>3 aircraft</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY AND MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Results of Photographic Reconnaissance carried out on the Morning of 22 July

Airfields:

Gullane:	37 single-engined aircraft (probably Hurricanes, Spitfires and Defiants).
Donibristle:	13 single-engined aircraft (apparently 4 Swordfish, 4 Hurricanes or Spitfires, and 5 Skuas. Also one aircraft with 39 metre wing-span - probably a dummy).
Grangemouth:	12 - 18 single-engined aircraft (practically identical with photograph of 8 July 1940).

Barrage Balloons:

Firth of Forth bridge area:	35 barrage balloons.
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The following targets were also attacked during the night of 22/23 July:

Pembroke:	8 250 kg bombs were dropped on harbour installations. Three explosions were observed.
N of Salisbury:	10 250 kg bombs were dropped on searchlight positions. Effect not observed.
Bishopton:	3 250 kg bombs, 12 50 kg bombs and 4 incendiary canisters were dropped on an ammunition factory. Explosions and fires could still be seen ten minutes after the attack.
Derby:	20 50 kg bombs and 30 incendiary bombs were dropped on the Rolls Royce aero-engine factory. Several red and yellow fires were observed.
Crewe:	2 250 kg bombs and 12 50 kg bombs were dropped on the Rolls Royce aero-engine factory. Effect not observed.

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- Ipswich: 20 50 kg bombs and incendiaries were dropped on the Bleriot airscrew works. Effect not observed.
- Burntisland: 3 250 kg bombs and
4 incendiary canisters were dropped on the aluminium works. Fire observed. (The report of the attack on Burntisland - N of Leith - in Luftwaffe Situation Report No. 321 should be deleted).

According to a Reuter report, volunteers for the defence of Great Britain will be known as the "Home Guard" as from 23 July in accordance with a royal decree. Volunteers without uniform may be recognised by an arm-band bearing the letters "H.G."

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Reconnaissance over the Mediterranean, the Bir el Gobi and Amseat - Sidi Azeis (Libya) areas on 22 July and over eastern Kenya on 20 July was uneventful.

Italian Operations

Mediterranean

At 1540 hours on 22 July three S.79's took off to attack two enemy cruisers reported west of Crete. The aircraft returned four hours later without having located the objectives.

Libya

On 22 July repeated bombing attacks were made on hut sites and the airfield beside the salt lake at Mersa Matruh, on M/T convoys on the Mersa Matruh - Sidi Barrani coastal road and on troop concentrations in the Sidi Barrani area.

A low-level attack with machine-guns and anti-personnel bombs on M/T convoys and tent encampments at Dazane (south of Sollum) was particularly effective.

East Africa

Wajir was attacked during the night of 19/20 July. One Italian aircraft did not return to base.

GROUND SITUATION

Libya

On 19 and 20 July enemy artillery put down harassing fire on Italian supply communications in the Amseat sector.

East Africa

On 19 July an enemy attack on an Italian fort west of Giggica (Ethiopia-Somaliland frontier, 70 km east of Harrar) was driven off with heavy losses.

SITUATION AT SEA

According to a supplementary report on the naval action off Crete on 19 July the Italian cruiser "Giovanni delle Bande Nere" maintained contact with the enemy for an hour after the "Bartolomeo Colleoni" sank and, firing well-placed salvos, set course for Benghazi where eight dead and sixteen wounded were disembarked. The "Giovanni delle Bande Nere" sustained no damage of any consequence. According to a report by the British Admiralty 270 members of the crew of the "Bartolomeo Colleoni" were rescued.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO. 323 (25 July, 1940)

Operations on 24 July and during the night of 24/25 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Western France

About 1730 hours on enemy aircraft approached Le Havre and flew along the coast in a westerly direction as far as Bayeux. No bombs were dropped.

In the afternoon another aircraft made a slight penetration west of Abbeville and dropped bombs ineffectively at Cayeux S.M.

The Reich

Between 2345 and 0345 hours there were 25 enemy incursions from the North Sea as far as the line Roem Island - Fehmarn - Schwerin - Hamburg - Bremen - Papenburg. Bombs were dropped at Wismar and Wenzendorf (south-west of Hamburg), but no damage resulted. AA barrages forced enemy aircraft to drop bombs without taking aim.

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

GREAT BRITAIN

Reconnaissance

Reconnaissance was extensively impeded by weather conditions and no results of particular importance were obtained.

Details of Reconnaissance

Morning Reconnaissance

Shipping Movements:

Off Hartlepool, 0200 hours:	6 medium merchant ships on the roadstead.
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15 km E of Hartlepool, 0200 hours:	Convoy comprising 30 merchant ships.
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2-3 km SE of Dungeness, 0515 hours:	Convoy (stationary) comprising 4 medium ships, 8 fishing boats, 2 destroyers, 4 small mine-layers and 2 very small warships.
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About 10 km S of Hastings, 0645 hours:	Convoy comprising 17 ships each of about 3,000 tons on NE course.
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Afternoon and Evening Reconnaissance

Shipping in Ports:

Dover, 1315 hours:	15 ships, including two each of 5,000 tons.
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Dover, 1430 hours:	17 ships, including seven moored to buoys and one with list at harbour entrance.
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Shipping Movements:

SE of Dover, 1220 hours:	Convoy comprising 6 ships.
E of Eastbourne, 1230 hours:	6 small ships.
Off Dover, 1254 hours:	10 small warships, probably patrol boats (stationary).
10 km ESE of Dungeness, 1301 hours:	3 patrol boats (stationary).
NNW of Margate, 1330 hours:	Convoy comprising 10 ships totalling about 3,500 tons and 2 destroyers.
15 km ENE of Orfordness, 1550 hours:	3 merchant ships each of 3-4,000 tons on N course.
SE of Orfordness, 1550 hours:	3 mine-sweepers and 3 guard ships on E course.
About 20 km SE of Harwich, 1804 hours:	3 freighters (2,000 tons) on SW course.
Dungeness, 1810 hours:	2 coastguard boats.

During 24 July bombers and twin-engined fighters - some of them escorted by single-engined fighters - attacked the following targets:

Shipping:

SW of Ramsgate, 0930 hours:	1 merchant ship of about 4,000 tons in a convoy: fire broke out after a hit was scored.
SE of Dover, 1220 hours:	Convoy comprising six ships; the following were sunk: 1 merchant ship of 5,000 tons, 1 merchant ship of 3,000 tons, 1 merchant ship of 2,500 tons. The following ships were severely damaged and are considered as sunk: 1 merchant ship of 4,000 tons; three hits with 500 kg bombs and three hits with 250 kg bombs. The ship settled down by the stern. 1 merchant ship of 3,000 tons; one hit with a 500 kg bomb and another with a 250 kg bomb. The ship caught fire and began to list.

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NNW of Margate,
1330 hours:

Convoy comprising
10 merchant ships and
2 destroyers.
The bombs fell close to two merchant
ships. Effect not observed.

E of Eastbourne,
about 1330 hours:

6 small ships. Effect not observed.

S of Lundy Is,
1640 hours:

1 merchant ship of about 1,000 tons.
Effect not observed.

20 km SE of
Harwich,
1804 hours:

1 merchant ship of about 2,000 tons hit
with one 500 kg bomb. Ship sunk.

S of Folkstone,
1820 hours:

1 merchant ship of about 5,000 tons
hit with one 250 kg bomb.

Other Targets:

Glasgow,
0630 hours:

4 250 kg bombs,
8 50 kg bombs and
1 incendiary canister were dropped on
the Rolls Royce aero-engined works at
Hillington. Hits were scored in the
target area. Effect not observed.

Weybridge,
1620 hours:

20 50 kg bombs were dropped on the Vickers-
Wellington airframe works. Hits were
scored in the target area. Three aircraft
were damaged and an explosion was observed.

Gt. Yarmouth,
1845 hours:

12 50 kg bombs were dropped on factory
installations. Two hits were observed
in the target area.

Debenham,
(N of Ipswich)
1850 hours:

17 50 kg bombs were dropped on the
railway line. Three or four hits
on the track were observed.

In the attacks on the convoys at 0930 and 1220 hours air battles
developed in the course of which four Spitfires were definitely shot
down and a fifth probably destroyed.

Defence

Fighters:

10 km S of
Hastings,
0645 hours:

12 fighters over the convoy.

Off Humber Est,
0845 hours:

5 Spitfires.

10 km S of
Ramsgate,
0930 hours:

8 fighters over convoy.

Between Deal
and Ramsgate,
0940 hours:

20 Spitfires over convoy.

NW of Margate,
1330 hours:

10 Spitfires over convoy.

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Over Weybridge
(Brooklands air-
craft works),
1615 hours:

3 Hurricanes.

25 km NW of
Dunkirk,
1820 hours:

7 Spitfires.

Gt. Yarmouth,
1910 hours:

1 Spitfire.

AA Artillery:

Middlesbrough
and Hartlepool,
0210 hours:

AA and machine-gun fire from land and
ships.

Dover,
1220 hours:

Heavy AA and intense machine-gun fire.

NNW of Margate,
1330 hours:

Badly placed light AA from convoy.

20 km SE of
Harwich,
1815 hours:

Medium AA from ships.

Liverpool and
Birmingham,
0250 hours:

Well placed heavy AA.

Searchlights:

Firth of Forth,
0145 hours:

Searchlights along the firth.

Hartlepool,
0215 hours:

6 searchlights.

Barrage Balloons:

Off South Gare
(10 km NE of
Middlesbrough),
0145 hours:

4 - 5 barrage balloons on barges at
500 metres.

NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

Escort operations and reconnaissance were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 24 July, 1940

German:

1 Fw 200 (missing)

6 Me 109's

1 Me 110

3 Ju 88's (missing)

1 Do 18 (missing - late report from 23 July)

12 aircraft

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Enemy:

In Air Combat: 4 Spitfires
 1 Spitfire probably destroyed

On Ground: 3 aircraft, type not known

8 aircraft

Special Observations and Experiences

Great Britain

A formation of twelve Defiants which was shot down on 19 July attempted to concentrate its rear defensive armament by flying in close formation. Attacks from the high rear were therefore not possible, but were very successful from the low rear.

SITUATION IS SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

21 July:

Reconnaissance was carried out over the Sudan frontier area from Kassala to Un Idla (frontier, 12° north). Anti-personnel bombs were dropped in an attack on a detachment of natives south of Un Idla.

23 July:

Photographic reconnaissance was carried out over the area Giarabub - Bir el Gobi - Amseat (Egyptian frontier).

24 July:

Reconnaissance carried out over the Malta naval base at 0900 hours showed no changes. AA fire was intense, but there was no fighter defence.

Italian Operations

Mediterranean

24 July:

At 1000 hours Italian fighters (Mc 200's) engaged a Sunderland flying-boat over the south-eastern tip of Sicily. The pursuit had to be discontinued as the fighters were exceeding their range. The enemy aircraft proceeded on a north-westerly course.

Aircraft based on Rhodes attacked Alexandria harbour and oil storage tanks at Haifa. The attacks were effective; fires were observed in the Shell storage area and refineries at Haifa.

Libya

Fighters on patrol over the northern sector of the front line engaged 18 British aircraft. Two Gloucesters were shot down.

Enemy Operations

East Africa

21 July:

Five waves of aircraft attacked the airfield and town of Diredaa. A hangar and a factory were damaged; there were no casualties. An attack on Om Ager airfield (about 240 km west of Adua) was ineffective.

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LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.324 (26 July, 1940)

Operations on 25 July and during the night of 25/26 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Western France

About 1900 hours an enemy aircraft dropped five bombs at Cherbourg airfield. Communications were disrupted for a short time. The aircraft was shot down by fighters.

Between 2224 and 0529 hours there were seven enemy incursions between Cherbourg and Isigny. Bombs were dropped north-east of Cherbourg and east of Quettehou.

AA was active, particularly at the two above-mentioned places, but without apparent effect.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Between 1600 and 2300 hours incursions were made by six enemy aircraft, penetrating to a point south-east of Brussels. Bombs were dropped at three places, but no damage resulted.

Luftgau Holland

During the night several enemy aircraft returning from the Reich passed over Luftgau Holland. Bombs were dropped at Den Helder, Amsterdam, Harderwijk and De Kooi. Two enemy aircraft were brought down by AA.

The Reich

Between 2300 and 0400 hours incursions by 30 enemy aircraft were identified from the North Sea and over the Dutch frontier as far as the line west of Stade - West of Uelzen - west of Braunschweig - Halberstadt - Erfurt - Wildungen - Krefeld. A large number of bombs were dropped in and north of the Ruhr, but no damage of any importance resulted.

AA defence was intense, particularly on the coast and in the Ruhr, and two enemy aircraft were brought down. Another enemy aircraft was shot down by night fighters. One German night fighter was lost in this encounter.

Altogether 44 British aircraft (of 16 squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Reconnaissance

Among other things, reconnaissance observed convoy movements in the Channel, whereupon bomber formations were sent out to attack.

Details of Reconnaissance

Airfields:

Greenock
seaplane base,
1720 hours:

About 20 seaplanes.

Abbotsinch,
1725 hours:

One aircraft taking off.

Aberdeen,
1750 hours:

No aircraft observed.

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Shipping in Ports:

Dover, 0727 hours:	5 merchant ships, four of about 2,000 tons and one of about 6,000 tons.
Portland, 1155 hours:	17 ships each of about 5,000 tons in port and outer harbour.
Dover, 1300 hours:	Shipping as at 0727 hours. Probably grounded barrage balloon in NW corner of harbour.
Falmouth, 1430 hours:	12 medium merchant ships.
Dover, 2045 hours:	3 medium merchant ships.

Shipping Movements:

30 km off Humber Est, 0730 hours:	Convoy comprising 20 ships and 7 warships making for Humber estuary.
30 km SSW of Plymouth, 1430 hours:	8 medium merchant ships (stationary).
Falmouth, 1430 hours:	1 merchant ship arriving.
Land's End, 1430 hours:	1 warship moving at full speed on course for Lizard Point.
Off Dover, 1533 hours:	Convoy comprising 21 ships moving at full speed on SW course.
I. o. Wight, E coast, 1600 hours:	10 - 15 small ships and 4 merchant ships each of about 10,000 tons at anchor.
10 km SE of Folkestone, 1700 hours:	Convoy comprising 19 merchant ships and 1 guard boat moving slowly on W course.
W of Ft William, 1700 hours:	7 stationary ships (2-4,000 tons).
Firth of Clyde, 1720 hours:	60 - 90 ships including 15 tankers and 8 ships each of 3-4,000 tons moving in from the south.
10 km SE of Brighton, 1720 hours:	4 destroyers (stationary).
NE of the Wash, 1805 hours:	Convoy comprising 8 ships and 1 warship on SW course.
12 km NW of Cap Gris Nez, 1915 hours:	2 destroyers and 1 MTB (enemy).

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Between Dover
and Ramsgate,
2120 hours:

3 ships on N course.

Bombers, dive-bombers and twin-engined fighters - some of them escorted by single-engined fighters - attacked the following targets:

Shipping:

Off Newcastle,
about 0600 hours:

A 250 kg bomb fell close to the stern of a merchant ship. Further effect not observed.

10 50 kg bombs were dropped on three patrol boats. Effect not observed.

3 km S of
I. o. Wight,
1545 hours:

1 merchant ship of about 8,000 tons was sunk by two hits with 250 kg bombs.

5 km SE of
Folkestone,
between 1600
and 1730 hours:

10 500 kg bombs,
10 250 kg bombs and
80 50 kg bombs were dropped on a convoy with the following results:

First wave of attack:

1 merchant ship of 5,000 tons: direct hits amidships with one 500 kg and four 50 kg bombs. The ship broke in two and sank.

1 merchant ship of 5,000 tons: direct hits on stern with one 250 kg and one 50 kg bomb. Ship went down in flames.

1 merchant ship of 5,000 tons: direct hits on stern with three 50 kg bombs. Ship went down in flames.

1 merchant ship of 4,000 tons: direct hit on stern with one 500 kg bomb. Ship went down in flames.

1 merchant ship of 4,000 tons: direct hits amidships with one 500 kg and three 50 kg bombs. Ship went down in flames.

1 merchant ship of 3,000 tons: direct hits on bows with five 50 kg bombs. Ship sank.

1 merchant ship of 4,000 tons: direct hits with one 500 kg and one 50 kg bomb. Fires observed.

Second wave of attack:

1 merchant ship of 5,000 tons: direct hit with one 500 kg bomb. Ship went down in flames.

1 merchant ship of 4-5,000 tons: direct hit with one 50 kg bomb. Ship severely damaged; fire observed.

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Third wave of attack:

1 merchant ship of 3,000 tons: direct hit with one 250 kg bomb. Ship sank.

1 merchant ship of 3,000 tons: direct hits with one 500 kg and one 250 kg bomb. Ship broke up and sank.

1 merchant ship of 2,000 tons: direct hits with one 500 kg and one 250 kg bomb. Ship sank.

2 destroyers.

Off Dover,
about 1830:

First wave of attack:

1st destroyer: four near misses.

2nd destroyer: one hit on deck.

Effect not observed in both cases.

Second wave of attack:

1st destroyer: direct hits amidships with two 250 kg and eight 50 kg bombs. Ship stopped and began to list.

2nd destroyer: hits on bows with one 500 kg and four 50 kg bombs. Fire and large clouds of black smoke observed.

Altogether eleven merchant ships with a total tonnage of 47,000 tons were sunk by bombs. Two destroyers and three further merchant ships were damaged, in some cases severely.

Other Targets:

South Cerney
airfield:

4 250 kg bombs were dropped. A hangar was hit and fire broke out.

Dover Harbour,
about 1300:

42 250 kg bombs and
20 incendiary canisters were dropped. the bombs fell in the direct vicinity of shipping in the NW part of the harbour.

Dover,
about 1300:

An attack was made on a wireless station near Dover. Three direct hits with 250 kg bombs were scored on buildings between the three masts. The buildings caught fire. A mast was hit by a 250 kg bomb.

Night of 25/26 July:

Norwich,
0030 hours:

20 50 kg bombs were dropped on searchlight positions. Effect not observed.

Between 1600 and 1930 hours there were several air battles over the Channel, in the course of which fourteen Spitfires, one Hurricane and one Breguet 690 were shot down.

Special operations were carried out according to plan by 9th Flieger-division at Moray Firth, Aberdeen, Dundee, Firth of Forth, Harwich, Southend and Bristol.

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Defence

The convoy which was attacked in the Channel was strongly escorted by fighters.

Details of Defence on 25 July

Fighters:

Off Humber Est, 0730 hours:	3 Spitfires.
E of N Foreland, 0930 - 1010 hours:	15 Spitfires over convoy.
Channel, 1330 hours:	3 Hurricanes.
15 km SE of Folkestone, 1600 hours:	3 Spitfires over convoy.
Dover, 1914 hours:	12 Hurricanes.

AA Artillery:

Dover Harbour, 1305 hours:	Intense AA defence.
5 km SE of Folkestone, 1600 hours:	AA from merchant ships and small escorting AA ships in convoy.

Searchlights:

Norwich area and coast at Gt. Yarmouth, 0015 hours:	Intense searchlight activity.
Bristol Channel, 2200 hours:	4 searchlights.
Swansea, 2200 hours:	5 searchlights.
Pembroke, 2200 hours:	Slight searchlight activity.
Portland, Bridgewater, Weston, Cardiff and Port Talbot, 2200 hours:	Searchlights.

Barrage Balloons:

Dover, 1305 hours:	Probably grounded balloons in NW part of the harbour.
20 km NW of Bridgewater, 2200 hours:	Barrage balloons observed at 1,500 - 2,000 metres.

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NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

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

Total Aircraft Losses on 25 July, 1940

German:
7 Mc 109's.
1 Ju 88
3 Ju 87's
1 Do 17
1 Mc 110
13 aircraft

Enemy:

In Air Combat: 14 Spitfires over the Channel
1 Hurricane over the Channel
1 Breguet 690 over the Channel
1 aircraft, type not known, over Luftgau VI
2 Blenheims

By AA: 1 Blenheim
3 aircraft; type not known
23 aircraft

Special Experiences and observations

On 18 July three enemy aircraft of a new and apparently high-speed type, claimed to be Curtiss aircraft with an in-line engine, appeared for the first time in air battles over the Channel. It is possible that a few Curtiss P-40 aircraft (with Allison engine) ordered by the French were delivered in England or that these are aircraft which escaped to England from France. Aircraft of this type are not expected to appear in appreciable numbers for the time being.

MISCELLANEOUS

Leaflets

During the morning of 25 July enemy leaflets (No. 410) were dropped over central Germany and the south-western outskirts of Berlin by means of balloons. Leaflets were found at nine places; six balloons were found and one was shot down.

During the night of 25/26 July leaflets were dropped at four places in central Germany.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Reconnaissance and fighter patrols over East Africa on 23 July, over Libya on 24 July and over the Mediterranean area on 25 July were uneventful.

Italian Operations

Mediterranean

Night of 25/26 July:

Italian bombers attacked the naval base at Gibraltar. No details are available.

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Libya

23 July:

A British naval formation comprising one cruiser and three destroyers was attacked about 100 km south-west of the western tip of Crete. A few near misses with 250 kg bombs were scored.

24 July:

During the day four attacks were made on the railway station, and equipment dump and a hut camp at Mersa Matruh.

In an air battle between 6 Cr 42's and 9 Blenheims escorted by 15 Gloucesters, one Cr. 42 and three Gloucesters were shot down.

East Africa

21 July:

A squadron of bombers attacked an enemy cruiser and three destroyers in the vicinity of Omager Hanisch (near Hanisch Island in the Red Sea) and scored a direct hit with a heavy bomb on the bows of one of the warships.

22 July:

An attack was made on an enemy cruiser in the Indian Ocean (position approximately 2° south, 42° east). Details of results are not available.

23 July:

Bombs were dropped on three trains in Gedaref railway station (14° north, 35° 20' east).

Enemy Operations

East Africa

22 July:

Nine British aircraft attacked the Massaua naval base and Archiko airfield. At Archiko casualties amounted to one killed and seven wounded, and the oil conduit pipe was slightly damaged. One enemy aircraft was shot down by fighters.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.325 (27 July, 1940)

Operations on 26 July and during the night of 26/27 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Western France

Between 2245 and 0345 hours there were at least 30 enemy incursions, most of them only slight penetrations. No bombs were reported.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Between 1600 and 0145 hours there were five enemy incursions, penetrating as far as the Brussels area. No bombs were dropped.

Luftgau Holland

Between 2200 and 0345 hours there were incursions by at least 15 aircraft, most of which passed on into the Reich. Bombs were dropped in the vicinity of Waalhaven airfield, but no damage was done to military installations.

AA was active at a number of places and an enemy aircraft was brought down at Oud Beierland.

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The Reich

Between 2300 and 0315 hours there were 15 incursions from Holland and Belgium as far as the line Muenster - Fulda - Goepingen - Rastatt - Hagenau, with the main effort at Muenster. Bombs were dropped at three places, causing slight damage but no casualties.

AA was active, particularly at Muenster, Frankfurt and Stuttgart. Fire commenced at 0035 hours after night fighter operations had ceased. Enemy aircraft were prevented from coming down through the clouds, and thus from aiming their bombs, by searchlights illuminating the cloud base according to plan and by well-directed barrages.

Altogether eight British aircraft (of four squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Reconnaissance

Reconnaissance reported a striking decrease in shipping movements in the Channel.

Details of Reconnaissance

Final Evaluation of Photographic Reconnaissance
carried out on 25 July, 1940

Ramsgate,
civil airfield:

2 hangars,
1 Blenheim Mk I - III (doubtful),
obstacles in taxiing area, three bomb
hits on farmland.

Nicholas at Wade,
field defences:

Apparently small-scale defences,
infantry trenches,
extended ditches along the coast,
barbed wire obstacles,
obstacles in areas suitable for
aircraft landings,
further progress in widening of road
since photos of 12 January, 1940,
all defence works new since photos of
12 January, 1940.

Rochester,
civil airfield:

1 Ensign,
2 single-engined aircraft,
types not known,
camouflage of hangars improved since
photo of 29 August 1939.

Chatham,
naval base:

1 heavy cruiser of "London" class (doubtful)
- in repair, middle funnel apparently
removed,
1 light cruiser of "Dido" class (doubtful)
of 5,000 tons,
2 destroyers of "A-J" class,
2 submarines,
1 paddle steamer,
1 gunboat (doubtful)
1 tanker of about 4,000 tons.

Foulness Point,
NE of Southend:

1 - 5 completed artillery positions,
apparently for use against targets
at sea. Work began on 22 November 1939
(according to GB 629 R 102).

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Littlestone, civil airfield:	No aircraft observed. Taxying area rendered unserviceable for landings by obstacles and a ditch.
Folkestone:	Part of pier dismantled (change since 12 January, 1940), 1 freighter of about 6,700 tons.
Dover, training airfield:	1 Leo-25, no structural changes since photo of 14 July, 1940.
harbour:	1 Dutch destroyer of "Evertsen" class (doubtful) 2 British destroyers of "A-J" class, 1 cargo and passenger ship of about 8,000 tons (probably accommodation ship), 1 damaged freighter.
Leysdown, auxiliary landing field:	No aircraft observed. No structural changes.
Lympne airfield:	Partly obscured by cloud, no aircraft observed.
Hawkinge airfield:	4 hangars, no aircraft observed, no structural changes since photo of 20 June 1940, thick cloud layer.
Manston, airfield A:	No aircraft observed.
Ramsgate, airfield B:	No aircraft observed. Landing obstacles of various types were observed in the area covered by photographic reconnaissance, especially in the vicinity of the coast.

Interim Evaluation of Photographic Reconnaissance
carried out on 26 July, 1940

Hamble seaplane base:	Seaplanes could not be observed.
Calshot seaplane base:	4 seaplanes.
Mountbatten seaplane base:	7 Sunderlands, 3 barrage balloons.
Portsmouth harbour:	1 battleship, 1 cruiser, 1 monitor, 20 destroyers (approx.), 12 mine-sweepers (?), 3 destroyers in dry dock.
Hamble airfield:	6 aircraft.
Lee-on-Solent airfield:	Single-engined aircraft on the E. perimeter. 48 huts.
Gosport airfield:	15 single and multiple-engined aircraft. AA positions and 18 huts on N. perimeter.
Shanklin Apse airfield:	No aircraft observed.

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St. Eval airfield:	40 aircraft. Three single-engined aircraft, apparently dummies, outside E. perimeter.
St. Merryn airfield:	No aircraft observed (only part of airfield covered).
Newquay-Trebelzue landing field:	No aircraft observed.
6 km W of Plymouth:	Camp with about 200 huts and a searchlight position (?) W of Torpoint.
About 2 km SE of Launcester:	Tent encampment.
9 km NW of Portsmouth:	Large camp with 300 huts.
About 9 km N of Plymouth:	Artillery position (?) at Carkeel.
6 km N of Tavistock:	Ammunition depot (?) at Longeroes. Twelve houses observed.
About 9 km W of Launcester:	Missing pit W of Camelford. Further details not observed owing to thick cloud.

Details of Reconnaissance carried out on 26 July, 1940

Morning Reconnaissance

Shipping in Ports:

Dover, 0655 hours:	7 small ships and 2 - 3 large ships.
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Shipping Movements:

60 km E of Lowestoft, 0100 hours:	3 merchant ships totalling about 8,000 tons on N course.
50 km E of Orfordness, 0110 hours:	3 large merchant ships moving at full speed on N course.
40 km E of Harwich, 0220 hours:	2 MTB's moving at full speed on SE course.
50 km ENE of Margate, 0220 hours:	3 MTB's moving at full speed on E course.
10 km E of Harwich, 0230 hours:	Convoy comprising 20 merchant ships on NE course. About 5 guard ships at Harwich.
E of Orfordness, 0800 hours:	Convoy comprising 5 merchant ships and 1 destroyer assembling.

Afternoon and Evening Reconnaissance

Airfields:

Mountbatten, 1400 hours:	About 12 flying-boats. Aircraft activity at St. Merryn and St. Eval.
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Shipping in Ports:

Portland, 1230 hours:	5 medium ships.
Swanage-Portland, 1230 hours:	No movements apart from a few 500-ton ships.
45 km NE of Margate, 1310 hours:	2 small ships, apparently mine- sweepers, on N course.
Portland, 1400 hours:	Destroyers moving on W course.
Channel, 1415 hours:	No shipping movements observed.
Off France, 1500 hours:	No shipping movements observed in sea area off St. Brieue - Brest - Loire estuary.

Bombers and dive-bombers - some of them with fighter escort - attacked the following targets:

Day

75 km NE of Kinnaird Head, 0303 hours:	5 250 kg bombs and 8 50 kg bombs were dropped in an unsuccessful attack on a cruiser.
E of Orfordness, 0800 hours:	8 50 kg bombs were dropped on a destroyer in an assembling convoy. The effect was not observed.
Tunbridge Wells, 0800 hours:	10 50 kg bombs were dropped on a railway junction. Effect not observed.
Hastings, 0800 hours:	10 50 kg bombs were dropped on harbour installations. The bombs were well placed and thick smoke was observed.

Night

Aberthaw, 0100 hours:	4 250 kg bombs and 8 50 kg bombs were dropped on harbour installations.
Port Victoria, 0100 hours:	20 50 kg bombs were dropped on a searchlight position in the vicinity of the fuel storage installation.
Cardiff, 0100 hours:	4 250 kg bombs and 8 50 kg bombs were dropped on harbour installations.

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Thameshaven,
0135 hours:

20 50 kg bombs were dropped on the
fuel storage installation.

The effect of the above attacks
was not observed.

Two aircraft are overdue after
attacking the fuel storage
installations at Southend and
Thameshaven. One of the aircraft
was last reported over France.

About 0200 hours:

SW of Montrose:

2 50 kg bombs and
4 incendiary canisters were dropped
on installations. Fire observed.

Fraserburgh:

2 250 kg bombs were dropped on harbour
installations. Violent explosion
observed.

SW of Peterhead:

1 250 kg bomb and
10 50 kg bombs were dropped on factory
installations. Violent explosions and
fire observed.

Dumbarton and
Bowling:

12 50 kg bombs and
4 incendiary canisters were dropped on
Dumbarton and the Bowling fuel storage
installation. Small fire observed.

3 km NW of
Bishopton:

4 250 kg bombs were dropped on an
installation. Effect not observed.

Glasgow and
Dundee:

3 250 kg bombs and
16 50 kg bombs were dropped on quay
installations. Large fires observed.

At about 1030 hours an air battle developed south of the
Isle of Wight between 19 Me 109's and 5 Hurricanes. One Hurricane was shot
down in flames.

At about 1300 hours there was an air battle east of Portland between
20 Me 109's and 30 Spitfires and Hurricanes. One Me 109 is missing.

Defence

In the area around London there was intense searchlight activity and
heavy AA fire in places, but no night fighters appeared.

Details of Defence on 26 July

Fighters:

Harwich,
0130 hours:

2 fighters patrolling with searchlights
below the clouds.

Hastings,
0800 hours:

1 fighter.

Plymouth,
0800 hours:

2 fighters, type not known.

AA Artillery:

between
Port Victoria
and London,
0130 hours:

Heavy AA in places.

Thameshaven,
0130 hours:

Strong AA defence.

Harwich and
Clacton,
0210 hours:

Strong AA defence from land and ships.

Margate,
0210 hours:

Very strong AA defence.

Aberdeen,
0220 hours:

Light and heavy AA N of Inchkeith
Island (in Firth of Forth). Heavy
AA and machine-gun fire from ships.

E of Orfordness,
0800 hours:

AA defence from destroyers.

Hastings,
0800 hours;

Heavy AA.

Plymouth,
0800 hours:

Heavy AA.

Humber Estuary,
0800 hours:

Machine-gun fire from ships.

Harwich,
0800 hours:

Machine-gun fire from convoy.

Cherbourg,
0800 hours:

AA defence.

Searchlights:

between
Port Victoria
and London,
0130 hours:

Intense searchlight activity.

Thameshaven,
0130 hours:

Intense searchlight activity.

London,
0130 hours:

Massed searchlights were directed
vertically and did not sweep. Two
red and green Verrey lights were
sent up.

Bristol Charnel,
0130 hours:

Slight searchlight activity at
Pembroke, Swansea, Cardiff and
Weston.

Firth of Forth,
0200 hours:

8 - 10 powerful searchlights.

Harwich,
Margate
and between
Nazeflat and
Clacton,
0210 hours:

Intense searchlight activity.

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Dundee, 0230 hours:	Single searchlight S of harbour entrance.
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Nairn 0230 hours:	Single searchlights W of Nairn.
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Moray Firth, 0300 hours:	Intense searchlight activity.
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Humber Estuary, 0300 hours:	7 searchlights.
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between Orfordness and Clacton, 0300 hours:	20 searchlights.
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Margate, 0300 hours:	15 searchlights.
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Barrage Balloons:

20 km NW of Bridgewater:	Balloons (number not ascertained) at 1,500 - 2,000 metres.
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Plymouth:	6 balloons at about 2,000 metres.
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Humber Estuary:	8 balloons at about 150 metres at Languard Point.
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NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

Escort operations, reconnaissance off the Norwegian coast and morning and evening reconnaissance over the Skagerrak were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 26 July, 1940

<u>German:</u>	2 Do 17's <u>1 Me 109</u>
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3 aircraft

Enemy:

In Air Combat:	1 Hurricane over the Channel
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By AA:	1 aircraft, type not known, at Oud Beierland.
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Late report from
25/26 July;

Crashed:	<u>1 aircraft</u> , type not known, at Ameland.
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3 aircraft

Total British Aircraft Losses. 1 - 25 July, 1940

Avro Anson	1
Blenheim	57
Defiant	12
Hampden	8
Hurricane	30
Lockheed Hudson	6
Spitfire	91
Sunderland	2
Wellington	13
Whitley	5
Breguet 690	1
Unknown types	14

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Bombers	89 (Bm, Ha, We, Wh, Lo)
Fighters	133 (De, Sp, Hu)
Reconnaissance	2 (Br, A-An)
Flying Boats	2 (Su)

226

Unknown types 14

Total Losses due
to Enemy Action: 240 aircraft

This figure may be increased by 100% for total aircraft losses due to other causes.

Special Observations and Experiences

GREAT BRITAIN

According to reports which have been received, the British have adopted the following signals for use in the event of attack:

frequently "R" = attack by surface vessels
" " "S" = attack of submarine
" " "A" = attack by aircraft.

Aircraft Reporting Service

Reliable observations have shown that the course of German aircraft on night operations is indicated to night fighters by red lights, some of which flash the letter "A". Even changes of course of 30 degrees are shown by means of these lamps. It must be assumed that every aircraft reporting post has a lamp of this type with the aid of which it is intended to guide night fighters towards the attacking bombers.

Dutch Aircrew in the R.A.F.

According to American press reports Dutch aircrew have been allocated to Coastal Command. The aircraft have British markings and there are also orange triangles on the wings.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

26 July:

Photographic reconnaissance showed the following vessels to be in Alexandria harbour:

5 battleships,
1 aircraft-carrier,
3 cruisers (10,000 tons),
3 cruisers (under 10,000 tons),
14 destroyers,
10 merchant ships,
1 Sunderland flying-boat,
1 heavy cruiser ("Gloucester") in floating dock.

AA defence was slight; pursuing enemy fighters were not able to overtake the reconnaissance aircraft.

Nothing of particular importance was observed in the rest of the Mediterranean area and on other fronts.

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Italian Operations

Mediterranean

Night of 25/26 July:

With reference to the attack on Gibraltar, it was further reported that it was made by three aircraft from Sardinia. There were no losses in spite of intense and well placed AA fire.

27 July:

Eight S.79's attacked the naval base at Malta between 0130 and 0400 hours. The bombs were well placed in the target area. AA and searchlight activity was intense.

East Africa

21 July:

In the already reported attack on Gedaref (Sudan) the railway station and post office were badly damaged and a defence work was destroyed.

Enemy Operations

Libya

25 July:

Six Blenheims escorted by five Gloucesters attacked Derna airfield. Two S.79's were destroyed and casualties amounted to two killed and three badly wounded. Two Gloucesters were shot down by fighters.

East Africa

24 July:

Assab airfield was attacked. Negligible damage was done and there were no casualties.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.326 (28 July 1940)

Operations on 27 July and during the night of 27/28 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Western France

Between 0130 and 0230 hours about six enemy aircraft approached the fuel storage installation at Donges (Loire estuary) from the sea. The enemy aircraft dropped flares, glided down to 800 metres and then realised their bombs. Only slight damage resulted.

AA was active at Donges and an enemy aircraft (type not known) was brought down.

At 0215 hours an incursion was made by an enemy aircraft about 20 km south of Angers. Four high explosive bombs and two flares were dropped, but no damage was done. Between 0450 and 0518 hours there were several enemy incursions into the Cherbourg area. No bombs were dropped.

AA and searchlights were active at Cherbourg. One enemy aircraft was hit several times.

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Luftgau Holland

During the afternoon of 27 July and the night of 27/28 July enemy aircraft passing through on the way to the Reich dropped bombs at three places in the Amsterdam area. No damage resulted.

AA defence had no apparent effect.

The Reich

About 1525 hours an enemy aircraft dropped four bombs at Wilhelmshaven, causing slight damage.

AA defence had no apparent effect.

Between 2320 and 0430 hours there were 32 enemy incursions from the North Sea and over the frontier of northern Holland as far as the line Randers - Korsoer - Laaland - Schwerin - Mienburg - Almeloo, with the main effort over the Elbe estuary and at Oldenburg. A few enemy aircraft circled over Kiel Bay, Luebeck Bay and the Small Belt (mine-laying?). Bombs were dropped at six places, causing slight damage. One person was killed and a few were injured. No night fighters were operational.

AA was active, particularly on the coast, but without apparent effect.

Luftgau Norway

At 1028 hours a Lockheed Hudson made an incursion about 40 km north-west of Bergen. At 1116 hours it dropped bombs near the church on Froeien Island, but no damage was done.

Altogether 21 British aircraft (of seven squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Reconnaissance

Reconnaissance observed an increase in shipping movements in the Channel compared to yesterday.

Details of Reconnaissance

Morning Reconnaissance

Shipping in Ports:

Dover,	5 small merchant ships and
0635 hours:	5 medium merchant ships.

Shipping Movements:

Barrow Deep,	1 merchant ship of 8,000 tons.
0230 hours:	

Channel,	Only single ships observed.
0635 hours:	

30 km S of	Convoy comprising more than
Harwich,	25 ships of 8 - 10,000 tons and
1025 hours:	1 tanker of 18,000 tons on NE course.

Folkestone,	Fairly large convoy, including
1130 hours:	2 medium warships, moving on NE course.

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Afternoon and Evening Reconnaissance

Airfields:

1400 hours:

Land's End: No aircraft observed.

Isle of Man: No aircraft observed.

Jurby (I. o. Man): About 20 aircraft.

Ramsey Hall Caine: Taxying area apparently made unusable.

Holyhead: No aircraft observed.

Perth: About 40 aircraft.

Shipping in Ports:

Plymouth,
1430 hours: 2 large warships (probably cruisers).

Dover,
1530 hours: 3 small ships in harbour,
3 medium ships at seaplane base.

1825 hours:

Cowes: 6 medium ships.

Portsmouth: 10 large ships.

Spithead: 1 small warship.

Shipping Movements:

Off Dungeness,
1215 hours: 1 merchant ship on W course.

Off Eastbourne,
1216 hours: 2 merchant ships on W course.

35 km and 45 km
NE of Humber Est,
1350 hours: 1 merchant ship at each position.

Humber Estuary,
1400 hours: Convoy comprising
38 ships putting to sea.

45 km ENE
of Cromer,
1405 hours: Convoy comprising
5 ships without escort on N course.

30 km E of
Lowestoft,
1420 hours: Convoy comprising
8 ships on S course.

Plymouth,
1430 hours: 10 ships of various sizes apparently
forming into convoy at harbour entrance.

Off Falmouth,
1430 hours: A few coastguard boats.

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About 20 km SE of Falmouth, 1430 hours:	Mine-sweepers on N course. 8 transports (one of about 5,000 tons, the others of about 2,000 tons) on NW course.
Channel, 1530 hours:	No shipping movements in sector Isle of Wight - Portland.
Falmouth, 1600 hours:	5 medium and 10 smaller ships.
In the Solent, 1825 hours:	2 medium ships.
Off Cowes, 1825 hours:	7 medium ships.

Interim Evaluation of Photographic Reconnaissance
carried out on 27 July, 1940

Harbour inst. 18 km S of Dublin:	1 medium freighter.
Belfast Lough:	10 large freighters at anchor.
Holyhead Harbour:	2 large passenger ships, one of them leaving port, 4 large freighters, 7 small coastal vessels.
Holyhead:	About 350 trucks in railway station and freight yard.
Milfordhaven:	1 passenger ship (16,000 tons), 3 freighters (6,000 tons), 2 freighters (2,000 tons), 1 tanker (15,000 tons).
Barry coal dock:	5 freighters (4,000 tons), 5 freighters (3,000 tons), 1 tanker (3,000 tons).
Avonmouth Harbour:	2 tankers (10,000 tons), 15 freighters (7,000 tons), 3 freighters (3,000 tons).
1 km E of Avonmouth	Camp with about 50 huts and 20 tents.
Avonmouth, east front:	Camp with about 50 huts.
6 km NNE of Dorchester:	Camp with about 50 huts and 100 bell tents.
About 8 km E of Warrwell:	Camp at Wool with 65 huts.
13 km N of Dorchester:	Camp at St. Frame-Quentin with about 40 tents.

Airfields:

Pembroke Dock:	5 Sunderlands and 3 twin-engined aircraft.
Pyle:	49 aircraft.
Bristol:	6 aircraft.
Manorbier:	No aircraft observed.
Penrhos:	57 aircraft.
6 km W of St. Athan airfield:	New airfield. 17 aircraft, 9 large completed hangars, 2 hangars under construction.

Bombers, dive-bombers and twin-engined fighters - some of them escorted by single-engined fighters - attacked the following targets:

Day

Humber Estuary, 1345 hours:	1 250 kg bomb, 1 50 kg bomb and 1 250 kg incendiary oil bomb were dropped on a convoy of 38 ships leaving the estuary.. Effect not observed.
25 km SSE of Lowestoft:	18 500 kg bombs and 18 250 kg bombs were dropped on a convoy:
1550 hours:	First wave of attack: 1 merchant ship of 4,000 tons received a direct hit with a 500 kg bomb. The ship stopped and began to list.
1755 hours:	Second wave of attack: 1 destroyer received several hits and sank. 1 destroyer was hit with a 250 kg and a 500 kg bomb.
Dover:	20 250 kg bombs were dropped on ships in the harbour:
1530 hours:	First wave of attack: 1 merchant ship of 5,000 tons; one hit on gunwales. Ship no longer visible in second attack. 1 merchant ship of 7,000 tons; hits and thick smoke observed.
1735 hours:	Second wave of attack: 1 auxiliary cruiser (?) of 7,000 tons; one direct hit with a 250 kg bomb. The ship exploded.

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Off Dover:

1 destroyer

1735 hours:

First wave of attack:

2 250 kg bombs fell close to ship's side. Effect not observed. The destroyer continued slowly on its course.

1845 hours:

Second wave of attack:

Direct hit scored. The destroyer sank in 35 seconds.

Night

about 2300 hours:

Land's End
airfield:

3 250 kg bombs were dropped.
An explosion and sheets of flame were observed.

St. Merryn
airfield:

6 250 kg bombs were dropped.
Explosion and sheets of flame observed.

Roborough
airfield
(nr. Plymouth):

3 250 kg bombs were dropped.
Hits on buildings observed.

Swansea,
harbour inst:

8 250 kg bombs were dropped.
Effect not observed.

About 30 km W
of Cape Wrath,
0220 hours:

1 merchant ship of 4,000 tons
sunk by 250 kg bombs.

The effect of the following attacks
was not observed:

Crewe,
0200 hours:

4 250 kg bombs were dropped on the
Rolls Royce aero-engine factory.

Wolverhampton,
Birmingham,
Bristol and
Swansea:

18 250 kg bombs were dropped on
searchlight positions.

At about 1100 hours an air battle between 18 Me 109's and about 25 Spitfires developed over Portland. One Spitfire was shot down 30 km south-east of Portland.

During the night of 27/28 July 9th Fliegerdivision carried out special operations according to plan at Swansea, the Bristol Channel, Pembroke, Moray Firth, Dundee, Falmouth and Plymouth.

Details of Defence on 27 July

Fighters:

Harwich,
0130 hours:

2 fighters with searchlights.

Montrose,
0200 hours:

1 fighter at 5,000 metres.

Glasgow,
0200 hours:

2 fighters at 4,000 metres.

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About 18 km
N of Margate,
1025 hours:

5 fighters over convoy.

AA Artillery:

Inchkeith Is,
0116 hours:

Well-placed light and heavy AA
from Inchkeith Island and ships
in the Firth of Forth.

Humber Estuary
and Harwich,
0130 hours:

Machine-gun fire from ships.

Glasgow,
0200 hours:

Slight, badly placed light
and heavy AA.

Searchlights:

Dundee,
0116 hours:

Searchlight activity - aircraft
not picked up.

0130 hours:

Humber Estuary:

7 searchlights.

between
Orfordness
and Clacton:

20 searchlights.

Glasgow:

5 searchlights at shipyard and
power station.

S of Montrose:

3 searchlights.

Margate,
0150 hours:

15 searchlights.

Swansea
and Exeter,
2300 hours:

About 10 searchlights.

Barrage Balloons:

Humber Estuary,
0130 hours:

8 balloons at about 180 metres
at Languard Point.

NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

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

Total Aircraft Losses on 27 July, 1940

German:

1 Ju 87
1 He 111
1 Me 110
1 He 59 (air-sea rescue aircraft)
4 aircraft

Enemy:

In Air Combat:

2 Spitfires at Portland and Falmouth
1 Hurricane at Dover

By AA:

1 aircraft, type not known, at Donges
4 aircraft

Special Observations and Experiences

GREAT BRITAIN

Report on a Tour of Inspection of R.A.F. Stations in France

A report by the Training Group of Bomber Command dated 6 November 1939 which was found in France indicates the R.A.F.'s inclination to independent improvisation. Among other things, the report deals with the Battle squadrons' interpretation of air tactics, and states: "..... It was observed that no two squadrons were of the same opinion in this matter. Views were so varied that a development which was commended by one squadron was often absolutely condemned by the others. Some formations held the view that air tactics are an end in themselves and that absolute importance should be attached to the task of the bomber, i.e. dropping the bombs on the target Owing to the fact that the Battle has had little operational experience, it is not possible to draw comprehensive and definite conclusions on the question of which tactics are good and which are bad. The differences of opinion within the squadrons confirm this conclusion...."

There followed three brief general principles which were nevertheless set down. However, even here there was a question mark in the margin for every point in the 12th (?) Squadron copy. The report then continued: ".... Every squadron has its individual characteristics and is trained in its own type of defensive tactics. There are too many variations of manoeuvres for every squadron to be familiar with all of them. However, it is desirable that uniformity of manoeuvres be avoided or the enemy will see through them easily.

Thus, to gain experience and to allow the maximum margin for initiative, it is recommended that squadron commanders be permitted to choose their own type of tactics within the framework of tactical requirements.

LONDON - NEW YORK AIR SERVICE

According to a report from London, an air service is to be opened between London and New York via Iceland. The aircraft are to be supplied by the R.A.F.

SUPPLEMENTS

During the night of 26/27 July aircraft attacked as alternative targets, searchlight positions north and north-east of Bristol, in the Swindon area, at Salisbury, north of Portsmouth and along the coast from Poole to the Isle of Wight and airfields at Bristol and Gloucester. The effect could not be observed. Eight 250 kg incendiary oil-bombs and 118 50 kg high explosive bombs were dropped.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Mediterranean

27 July:

Reconnaissance over the sea area between Sardinia and the Balearic Islands observed a French merchant ship at Cape Bengut (80 km east of Algiers).

Nothing of importance was observed south of Sicily as far as Tobruk and along the Greek coast as far as Crete.

Photographic reconnaissance carried out with fighter escort over Malta showed a monitor in Lazzeretto Creek, a merchant ship in Calcara Creek, a destroyer in French Creek, another at the harbour entrance and four seaplanes.

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British reconnaissance aircraft were observed between the Peloponnese and Malta.

Libya

27 July

Long-range reconnaissance from Libya observed the following at Alexandria:

- 1 British battleship
- 1 French battleship,
- 3 heavy cruisers,
- 3 light cruisers,
- 3 destroyers,
- 1 Sunderland flying-boat,
- 10 ships of various sizes,
- 1 destroyer in floating dock,
- 1 mine-sweeper off the harbour.

In addition, a formation comprising

- 3 battleships,
- 1 aircraft-carrier,
- 1 large warship and
- 11 destroyers

was observed at 1210 hours 80 km north of Mersa Matruh moving on a westerly course at 20 knots.

East Africa

25 July:

Nothing of particular importance was observed by reconnaissance over the central Sudan, the central Red Sea and north-eastern Kenya.

Italian Operations

Libya

26 July:

Nine Cr 42's attacked an enemy armoured force which had penetrated into the Sidi Rezegh area (30 km south-east of Tobruk). A further attack was made by six Cr 42's and seven Ba 65's using machine-guns and 2 kg bombs. Two tanks were set on fire and 8 - 10 were hit. Another enemy armoured force was shot up on the frontier at Sidi Omar.

27 July:

At 1740 and 1820 hours the enemy naval formation reported by reconnaissance was attacked by bombers from Rhodes 180 km south of Gaidaro Island (south of Crete). In both attacks hits were scored on two of the battleships. It is believed that this formation plans to meet a convoy comprising four merchant ships, two cruisers and three destroyers observed south of Cape Colonne (south-east of Athens) at 1530 hours.

East Africa

25 July:

The harbour and military installations at Zeila (Somaliland) were attacked by a squadron of bombers.

Enemy Operations

East Africa

25 July:

A hangar was damaged in an attack on Assab airfield. An attack on the airfield and harbour at Massaua was ineffective.

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LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO. 327 (29 July 1940)

Operations on 28 July and during the night of 28/29 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Western France

Bombs were dropped on Jersey at about 1230 hours and on Beauville airfield (near Cherbourg) at about 1235 hours. No damage resulted.

Between 1700 and 2113 hours there were five enemy incursions into the area Le Havre - Lamion - Morlaix - Dinard - each of Evreux - Dives. No bombs were dropped. The aircraft were apparently carrying out reconnaissance.

AA defence at Dinard and Pacy had no apparent effect.

Between 0338 and 0425 hours there were another ten incursions into the coastal area. Once again no bombs were dropped.

AA defence at Lion s.M. had no apparent effect.

Luftgau Holland

During the night British aircraft passing through on the way to the Reich dropped bombs at four places. Hits were scored on the taxiing area at Leeuwarden airfield.

AA was active at Den Helder. An enemy aircraft was shot down (not confirmed whether by fighter or AA). In addition, a Blenheim was shot down by fighters west of Alkmaar.

The Reich

Between 2300 hours and 0430 hours incursions were made by 65 enemy aircraft (most of them approaching from the North Sea, the rest crossing the frontiers of Holland and Belgium) as far as the line Skagen - Laaland - Salzwedel - Hildesheim - Herford - Bad Driburg - Coblenz, with the main effort at Hamburg, Hamm and Paderborn. Bombs were dropped at fourteen places, but no damage of any importance resulted.

AA was active, particularly on the coast and at Hamburg, where a Hampden was brought down. No enemy aircraft were encountered by night fighters.

Luftgau Norway

About 1230 and 0430 hours incursions were made by 65 enemy flying about 10,500 metres approached Stavanger-Sola airfield. No bombs were dropped. German fighters did not make contact.

About 1700 hours a British aircraft flying at 9,500 metres approached Mandal and Christiansand-Kjevik airfield. Once again German fighters did not make contact.

During the night of 28/29 July 23 British aircraft (of 11 squadrons) were definitely identified.

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GREAT BRITAIN

Reconnaissance

Reconnaissance observed no convoy movements off the coast of Britain from Scotland to St. George's Charnel.

Details of Reconnaissance of 28 July, 1940

Airfields:

Land's End, 0822 hours:	No aircraft observed.
0830 hours:	
Barnstaple:	15 aircraft.
Plymouth:	8 aircraft.
St. Eval:	No aircraft observed.
Ternhill:	Night flying activity.

Shipping in Ports:

Plymouth, 0540 hours:	1 cruiser (?) and 3 destroyers.
Dover, 0645 and 1105 hours:	4 medium merchant ships, two of them with steam up.
Plymouth, 0830 hours:	2 heavy cruisers (?), 8 merchant ships each of 10,000 tons, 8 merchant ships each of 6,000 tons.
Falmouth, 0830 hours:	8 merchant ships each of 10,000 tons, 7 merchant ships each of 6,000 tons.
Scapa Flow, 1455 hours:	8 large warships (including one battleship ?) and 10 destroyers.
Cowes, 1845 hours:	4 destroyers.

Shipping Movements:

130 km S of Lindesnes, 0500 hours:	1 Norwegian merchant ship of about 3,000 tons, no steam, drifting across current.
Thames Estuary, 0530 and 0715 hours:	No convoy or shipping movements.
Off Ramsgate, 0530 hours:	3 small merchant ships at anchor.
Charnel, 0645 and 1100 hours:	No shipping movements observed.
The Wash, 0715 hours:	4 small merchant ships on SSW course putting into harbour.

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Carnsore Point, 0925 hours:	1 merchant ship of 15,000 tons.
Sea area about 20 km E of Harwich and about 60 km E of Southend, 1000 hours:	No shipping movements observed.
About 80 km NNW of Lands's End, 1004 hours:	1 heavy cruiser (?).
Area Jersey - 100 km S of Dartmouth - Cherbourg, 1100 hours:	No shipping movements observed.
Off Dover, 1105 hours:	4 patrol boats.
Between Le Havre and Portland, 1130 hours:	No shipping movements observed.
Area Paimpol - Start Pt - Scilly Islands - Brest, 1130 hours:	No shipping movements observed.
Area Kinnaird Head - Pentland Firth, 1300 hours:	No shipping movements observed.
10 km NE of Dungeness, 1325 hours:	2 small war-ships on NE course.
20 km SE of Eastbourne, 1332 hours:	1 destroyer on NE course.
2 km S of I.o.Wight, 1400 hours:	1 large merchant ship of more than 8,000 tons and 2 small warships (stationary).
Area S coast of Ireland - entrance St. George's Ch - Bristol Ch, 1400 hours:	No shipping movements observed.
About 260 km W of Plymouth, 1920 hours:	1 freighter of 2,000 tons and 1 merchant ship of 2,000 tons.
Channel between Start Pt and Scilly Islands, 2100 hours:	No shipping movements observed.

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Results of Photographic Reconnaissance
carried out on 28 July, 1940

Ramsgate, civil airfield:	1 aircraft, apparently a Blenheim, 1 single-engined aircraft, type not identified, outside the airfield.
Lympne airfield:	No aircraft observed, Defences (apparently heavy machine-gun positions) with all-round barbed- wire entanglements. Obstacles near taxying area. Wireless station with four radio towers.
Wilmington, civil airfield:	Partly obscured by clouds. No air- craft observed. Taxying area ploughed up.
Eastbourne:	Twenty metres of pier dismantled.
Manston airfield:	9 Blenheims and 2 single-engined aircraft, types not identified. Heavy machine-gun positions with all-round barbed-wire entangle- ments. Bomb hits on ammunition dump. Obstacles on flat ground near the airfield. Heavy AA position with four guns.
Hawkinge airfield:	Only part covered. Obstacles on surrounding flat ground, particularly in the vicinity of the coast.
Dover harbour and training airfield:	1 freighter of about 8,000 tons, 1 sunken destroyer with patch of oil, 1 freighter, apparently badly damaged, 3 small escort vessels, 1 Leo on airfield.
Littlestone, civil airfield:	No aircraft observed. Obstacles on flat ground, particularly near the coast.

On 28 July and during the night of 28/29 July bombers attacked the following targets:

Day

The effect of the following attacks was not observed:

Plymouth, 0540 hours:	4 500 kg bombs were dropped on ships in the harbour.
Carnsore Point (SE Ireland), 0925 hours:	1 merchant ship of 15,000 tons.
Carnsore Point, 1830 hours:	1 merchant ship of 5,000 tons.
SW of "Smalls" lightship, 1833 hours:	1 merchant ship of 1,000 tons.
260 km W of Plymouth, 1920 hours:	1 merchant ship of 2,000 tons.

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260 km W of
Plymouth,
1920 hours:

1 merchant ship of 2,000 tons.

Night

Altogether 10 250 kg bombs, 24 50 kg bombs and 24 incendiary canisters were dropped on the following targets:

Chester,
about 2100 hours:

Vickers Armstrong works; hits in target area and several fires observed.

Swansea,
0130 hours:

Harbour installations and a convoy on the roadstead; several fires observed.

St. Athan
airfield,
0230 hours:

Hits observed directly in front of the hangars.

The following targets were also attacked:

Rochester,
Faversham and
Port Victoria,
about 0100:

98 50 kg bombs were dropped on searchlight positions. Some of the searchlights were switched off after the attack.

Crewe,
about 0030:

8 250 kg bombs and
48 50 kg bombs were dropped on an industrial installation (the Rolls Royce works according to dead reckoning). Fires were observed.

Hillington,
0015 hours:

8 250 kg bombs,
16 50 kg bombs and
16 incendiary canisters were dropped on the motor works. Widespread fires were observed.

Grangemouth,
0020 hours:

28 50 kg bombs were dropped on the fuel storage installation. Large sheet of flame followed by glare of fire observed.

The effect of the following attacks was not observed:

Leuchars and
Wick airfields,
2359 hours:

56 50 kg bombs were dropped.

about 0030 hours:

Shawbury
airfield:

2 250 kb bombs and
12 50 kg bombs were dropped.

Ternhill
airfield:

2 250 kg bombs and
18 50 kg bombs were dropped.

Bristol:

4 250 kg bombs and
24 50 kg bombs were dropped on searchlight positions.

During the night of 28/29 July 9th Fliegerdivision carried out a special operation according to plan.

The harbours of Portsmouth and Edinburgh have been declared closed for the present by the British Admiralty.

Defence

There is reason to believe that the position of balloon barrages is made known to airborne night fighters by special signals.

Details of Defence on 28 July

Fighters:

N of N Foreland, 0010 hours:	1 twin-engined fighter at 500 metres.
Plymouth, 0130 hours:	Fighter defence was not observed but suspected owing to ground signals.
40 km SW of Portland, 1130 hours:	Enemy fighters.
between Scilly and Lundy Is, 1130 hours:	Fighter patrol.
8 km E of Dover, 1530 hours:	About 15 Spitfires and Hurricanes.
W of Portland, 1600 hours:	About 4 fighters.
Maidstone, 2330 hours:	Night fighters.

AA Artillery:

Plymouth, 0230 hours:	Light and heavy AA. Badly placed barrage fire by heavy AA.
W and E of Falmouth, 0130 hours:	Badly placed heavy AA at Middle Point and St. Anthony Head; also machine-gun fire.
E of Weymouth, 1130 hours:	Heavy AA.
4 km SW and 2 km SE of Cowes, 1845 hours:	Heavy AA.

Searchlights:

N Foreland, 0100 hours:	8 searchlights.
Harwich, 0010 hours:	8 searchlights.
0130 hours:	
Port Talbot,) Mumbles Head) and Swansea)	3 searchlights each.
Cardiff:	6 searchlights.
Plymouth:	About 30 searchlights.

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Barrage Balloons:

Plymouth,
0130 hours:

The balloon barrage could be seen only when illuminated by search-lights. Three groups of three signal lights set out in a triangle presumably identified the position of the balloon barrage for British night fighters.

SW of Plymouth,
0540 hours:

7 barrage balloons at about 3,000 metres.

NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

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

Total Aircraft Losses on 28 July, 1940

German:

2 Ju 88's
1 Me 109
1 Me 110

4 aircraft

Enemy:

In Air Combat:

4 Spitfires over the Channel
2 Hurricanes over the Channel
1 Blenheim at Den Helder

By AA:

1 aircraft, type not known, at Cape
Gris Nez
1 Wellington at Leewarden
1 Hampden at Hamburg.

10 aircraft

Special Observations and Experiences

GREAT BRITAIN

The report on the inclination of individual R.A.F. squadrons towards independent improvisation (see Situation Report No. 326) is further confirmed by the following prisoners' statements:

(1) Fighter Tactics

Formation technique varies from squadron to squadron. Most squadrons fly in "V" formation, with the four rear aircraft continually weaving and interchanging positions. In this way protection is provided against attacks from behind and above.

(12) There is no definite procedure for zeroing machine-guns and pilots use whatever method they wish. Many zero all eight machine-guns to converge at about 100 metres, others at about 200 metres, while some prefer dispersed fire.

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SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Mediterranean

28 July:

Photographic reconnaissance showed no changes at the Malta naval base.

At 1730 hours four cruisers, one aircraft-carrier and ten destroyers were observed 48 km south-west of Crete moving on a course of 120 degrees.

The four battleships reported on 28 July could not be located. It is assumed that they returned to Alexandria.

An Mc 200 was shot down during defensive operations against enemy reconnaissance aircraft by fighters based on Sicily.

Italian Operations

Mediterranean

25 July:

A formation of Italian S.81's based on Rhodes attacked Alexandria harbour.

27 July:

At 1115 hours an enemy merchant ship south of San Giorgio Island (south of Athens) was effectively bombed.

At 1530 hours an aircraft which took off from Rhodes attacked a British convoy comprising two merchant ships and two tankers escorted by two cruisers and three destroyers and scored a hit on a merchant ship.

Aircraft from Rhodes made an effective attack on Alexandria harbour.

Libya

27 July

Nine Cr 42's and eleven Ba 65's used machine-guns and small-calibre bombs in an attack on the enemy armoured force withdrawing from Sidi Rezegh. One tank was destroyed, and 3 damaged.

GROUND SITUATION

Libya

27 July:

Army troops pursuing the enemy armoured force withdrawing from Sidi Rezegh destroyed six enemy tanks.

East Africa

On the Sudan front a strong enemy patrol was wiped out when it attacked at Bumbode (frontier village on the Blue Nile).

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LUTWAFTE SITUATION REPORT NO. 328 (30 July 1940)

Operations on 29 July and during the night of 29/30 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Western France

Between 2100 and 0045 hours there were six enemy incursions. Only slight penetrations were made and no bombs were dropped.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Between midnight and 0300 hours five enemy incursions were reported. Most of the aircraft flew on into the Reich without dropping bombs.

A Blenheim was shot down by fighters at Le Havre.

Luftgau Holland

Between 2210 and 0400 hours there were 28 enemy incursions. Most of the aircraft flew on into the Reich without dropping bombs.

The Reich

At about 1200 hours an enemy aircraft attacked the Ruhr Gas and Oil Company installation at Bottrop, dropping five bombs on a street nearby. A few houses were damaged and several people were killed and injured.

At about 1315 hours three Blenheims attacked the port of Hamburg, dropping five bombs. A crane was damaged and two people were injured. No other damage was done.

AA had no apparent effect and German fighters did not make contact. Between 2250 and 0415 hours there were about 50 enemy incursions as far as the line Copenhagen - Lueneburg - Dortmund - Solingen - Frankfurt a.M. - Schwaebisches Gmuend - Rastatt, with the main effort in Friesland and the Ludwigshafen - Mannheim industrial area. Enemy aircraft circled over the Elbe estuary, Fehmarn Belt and Luebeck Bay (mine-laying?). Bombs were dropped at eighteen places, but no damage of any importance resulted.

Casualties amounted to one killed and several injured.

No enemy aircraft were encountered by night fighters.

AA defence throughout the area had no apparant effect.

During the night of 29/30 July 46 British aircraft (of twelve squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Reconnaissance

A convoy comprising about 60 ships was observed off Harwich.

Details of Reconnaissance of 29 July

Airfields:

Littlestone,
0821 hours:

No aircraft observed.

Scilly Islands,
1605 hours:

No aircraft observed.

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Shipping in Ports:

Dover, 10 medium merchant ships of 5-8,000 tons.
0655 hours:

Folkstone, 1 merchant ship of 6,000 tons.
0818 hours:

Pembroke, 2 large merchant ships,
1530 hours: 5 medium merchant ships,
15 small merchant ships,
2 medium warships and
6 small warships.

Scilly Islands, No shipping observed in port.
1605 hours:

Shipping Movements:

15 km off One ship at anchor off each harbour.
Harwich,
Clacton,
Margate,
Ramsgate,
0605 hours:

Folkstone, 2 patrol boats, speed and course
0645 hours: not observed.

Dungeness, 2 medium freighters moving at
0645 hours: half speed on E course.

0700 -
0815 hours:

E of Humber Estuary No shipping movements (observation
and the Wash: impeded by bad visibility).

Coast from No shipping movements.
Sheerness to
Straits of Dover:

between Start Pt No shipping movements along coast.
and Scilly Islands,
0730 hours:

40 km E of Convoy comprising
Harwich, 23 ships, including 2-3 large vessels,
0910 hours: on SSW course.

Plymouth Sound, 2 large ships.
0925 hours:

Off Lizard Pt 2 mine-sweepers, course changing
0925 hours: from SSW to W.

35 km NE of Convoy comprising
Gt. Yarmouth, 6 ships on S course.
0935 hours:

In Humber Estuary Several small ships, course
0935 hours: not observed.

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Channel area, Portland - Start Point, 1000 hours:	No shipping movements.
I.o.Wight - Portland, 1127 hours:	No shipping movements.
40 km SW of Brighton, 1220 hours:	2 large vessels on W course.
In Channel, 1300 - 1500 hours:	No shipping movements (observation impeded by weather conditions).
Both sides of I.o.Wight, 1420 hours:	No shipping movements observed
50 km S of Eastbourne, 1430 hours:	7 large ships and 11 small ships (possibly all warships) on W course.
Channel area Swanage - Start Point, 1430 hours:	No shipping movements.
About 30 km SW of I.o.Wight, 1510 hours:	2 battleships, speed and course not observed.
16 km NE of Orfordness, 1525 hours:	Two convoys comprising 20 large merchant ships, 20 medium merchant ships, 15 small merchant ships and 3 medium warships moving at medium speed on N course.
30 km SE of Scilly Islands, 1600 hours:	2 medium merchant ships on NE course.
Area Dover - Eastbourne, 1900 hours:	No shipping movements.
E of Dover, 2100 hours:	No shipping movements.
10 km off Ramsgate, 2108 hours:	3 patrol boats at anchor.
15 km E of Ramsgate, 2108 hours:	1 small warship - stationary.
Humber Estuary, (Spurn lightship), 2330 hours:	1 light cruiser and 5 destroyers moving at full speed on E course.

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Results of Photographic Reconnaissance
carried out on 28 July, 1940

Sunderland Harbour:	6 ships totalling about 21,400 tons, 6 ships under construction totalling about 40,100 tons, 1 AA position with 2 guns in harbour.
Ryhope, S of Sunderland:	Camp with several hut sites.
Between Sunderland & South Shields:	4 AA positions.
Over S Shields:	5 barrage balloons.

Evaluation of Photographic Reconnaissance
carried out on 29 July, 1940

Dublin - Baldonnel airfield:	No aircraft observed.
Aberforth airfield:	No aircraft observed.
Pembroke Dock seaplane base:	10 single-engined (?) and 6 multiple-engined seaplanes.
Pembroke-Carew, airfield:	13 aircraft.
Dublin Harbour:	No shipping observed.
Milford Haven:	12 medium freighters at anchor. The docks were empty. Four bombs which had fallen nearby had done no damage. Two oil storage installations observed.

On 29 July and during the night of 29/30 July bombers, dive-bombers and twin-engined fighters - some of them escorted by single-engined fighters - attacked the following targets:

Day

Dover,	22	500 kg bombs,
0840 hours:	22	250 kg bombs and
	176	50 kg bombs were dropped on ships in the harbour:
		1 merchant ship of about 15,000 tons - 2 hits,
		1 merchant ship of about 8,000 tons - 4 hits,
		1 merchant ship of about 6,000 tons - 2 hits,
		1 merchant ship of 5,000 tons - 1 hit.
40 km SE of Harwich,		1 merchant ship of 8,000 tons: one hit with a 250 kg bomb on deck. The ship was apparently already damaged and, according to a report by fighter aircraft, exploded.
1800 hours:		1 merchant ship of 1,000 tons: one direct hit with a 500 kg bomb. Further effect not observed.

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20 km WSW of
Portland,
1925 hours:

1 cruiser of about 10,000 tons: five hits with 500 kg bombs and four hits with 250 kg and 50 kg bombs. The cruiser was badly damaged and caught fire. According to reports by an E-boat, it exploded and sank.

Scilly Islands,
2025 hours:

1 merchant ship of 1,500 tons: one near miss with a 250 kg bomb. The ship stopped. No further observations could be made.

Night

Humber Estuary,
about 0200 hours:

2 250 kg bombs and
8 50 kg bombs were dropped on searchlight positions. Effect not observed.

Cardiff area
and between
Exeter and
Exmouth,
about 0200 hours:

100 50 kg bombs intended for the Armstrong works at Chester were dropped as indicated as the target could not be definitely identified owing to bad weather. Effect not observed.

Bristol,
about 2359 hours:

14 50 kg bombs were dropped. As all the aircraft were not able to identify the target (Filton works), some of the bombs were dropped on the Avonmouth fuel storage installation and on searchlights at Cardiff. Effect not observed.

Air battles with British fighters took place off Harwich and over Dover. Nineteen enemy aircraft were shot down.

During the night of 29/30 July 9th Fliegerdivision carried out a special operation according to plan.

Details of Defence on 29 July

Fighters:

N of N Foreland,
0010 hours:

1 twin-engined night fighter
at 500 metres.

London area,
0235 hours:

1 twin-engined night fighter.

The Wash,
0327 hours:

1 aircraft, type not identified.

Dover Harbour,
0840 hours:

Strong fighter defence (Hurricanes).
Number not ascertained.

Portland,
1450 hours:

3 enemy fighters, type not identified.

40 km NE of
Margate,
1505 hours:

1 Spitfire.

Harwich,
1810 hours:

20 Hurricanes and Spitfires.

15 km SE of
Harwich,
1850 hours:

8 Hurricanes over convoy.

10 km SE of
Lowestoft,
1850 hours:

18 fighters.

RESTRICTED

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AA Artillery:

Rochester, 0115 hours:	Heavy AA defence.
Dover Harbour, 0840 hours:	Light, medium and heavy AA.
SE of Grimsby, 1035 hours:	Badly placed medium AA.
15 km SE of Harwich, 1850 hours:	Badly placed light AA from ships.

Night of 28/29 July

Falmouth, 2330 hours:	Light and medium AA from land and ships.
Plymouth, 2359 hours:	Light AA from land and ships.
Swansea, 0100 hours:	Heavy AA fire.

Searchlights:

Night of 28/29 July

Humber Estuary, 2359 hours:	5 searchlights.
Plymouth, 2359 hours:	20 searchlights in outermost harbour basin S of the breakwater.
N Foreland and Harwich, 0010 hours:	8 searchlights.
Portland, 0030 hours:	Intense searchlight activity.
Swansea, 0100 hours:	Intense searchlight activity.
Bristol, 0100 hours:	Intense searchlight activity.
E of line Exmouth - Barnstaple, 0100 hours:	Intense searchlight activity.
Between Portland and Bristol, 0100 hours:	Maximum searchlight effort.
Cardiff, 0130 hours:	Intense searchlight activity from land and ships.
London area, 0235 hours:	Searchlights.

R E S T R I C T E D

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Barrage Balloons:

Plymouth,
2359 hours:

About 20 balloons in outermost
harbour basin.

5 balloons in inner harbour basin,
height not observed.

Special Observations

During the night of 28/29 July night fighter course indicators were observed in the London area (one permanent red light and a white lamp which flashes to indicate the course).

NORTH SEA AND BALTIC APPROACHES

Escort operations and reconnaissance over the Skagerrak were uneventful.

Total Aircraft Losses on 29 July, 1940

German:

3 Ju 87's
2 Me 109's
1 Do 17
4 He 111's

10 aircraft

Enemy:

In Air Combat:

12 Spitfires over the Channel
4 Spitfires east of Harwich
3 Hurricanes over the Channel
1 Blenheim at Texel
1 Blenheim

21 aircraft

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

29 July:

Photographic reconnaissance of the Malta naval base showed the following vessels to be in port:

1 monitor,
1 destroyer,
2 submarines,
1 tanker and
several small vessels.

During visual reconnaissance over the central Mediterranean a cruiser and a small warship were observed at anchor in Marsa Scirocco Bay (Malta).

Reconnaissance over the Alexandria naval base at 1000 hours observed the following vessels:

2 battleships,
2 cruisers and
8 small warships.

R E S T R I C T E D

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30 July:

At 0720 hours reconnaissance observed part of the Alexandria Squadron comprising two battleships and a few small warships about 100 km north-west of Alexandria on course for the latter.

Italian Operations

29 July:

At 0800 hours aircraft from Rhodes attacked part of the Alexandria Squadron comprising three battleships and one aircraft-carrier with eight ships of indeterminable type about 120 km south of the centre of Crete. Hits were scored on a merchant ship.

A second attack, also by aircraft based on Rhodes, was carried out at 1045 hours about 150 km south of the eastern tip of Crete. The formation then comprised four battleships, one aircraft-carrier and four ships of indeterminable type. The attack was concentrated on the aircraft-carrier. Several direct hits were scored and an intense fire broke out.

A third attack at 1205 hours had no apparent effect. The aircraft-carrier was still in the same position as on the previous attack and was stationary and on fire.

In an attack on the same formation by aircraft based in Libya hits were scored on two merchant ships, one of which caught fire.

SITUATION AT SEA

Five British destroyers were reported off Barcelona at 1225 hours on 30 July.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.329 (31 July, 1940)

Operations on 30 July and during the night of 30/31 July, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Enemy attacks on occupied areas in the west were directed mainly against airfields, while in the Reich there was no concentration of effort, as on previous occasions.

Luftgau Western France

Bombs were dropped at Dives-sur-Mer at 0812 hours, 10 km west of Le Havre at 0817 hours and 5 km north-east of Grandchamp-les-Bains at 0934 hours. No damage was reported.

At 1155 hours a Blenheim approached Cherbourg-West airfield. Owing to intense AA fire the aircraft turned back and dropped 5 - 8 bombs into the sea. AA hits on the aircraft's fuselage and wings were observed.

At 1204 hours an attack was made on Carpiquet airfield south-west of Caen. Two old empty hangars were hit, but no other damage or casualties resulted.

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Between 1130 and 1330 hours attacks were made on airfields at St. Inglevert, Boulogne, Amiens and on several other places on the French coast. No damage of any importance resulted. Casualties amounted to one killed and several injured.

Between 1800 and 2330 hours there were five incursions, penetrating about as far as Namur. No bombs or damage were reported. Defence by AA and fighters had no apparent effect.

R E S T R I C T E D

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Luftgau Holland

Bombs were dropped at Flushing airfield at 1110 hours and at Leeuwarden airfield at 1330 and 1430 hours. No damage was reported, most of the bombs falling in the vicinity of the airfields. Casualties to Dutch civilians amounted to seven killed, five seriously injured and six slightly injured. A Blenheim was shot down by fighters south-west of Den Helder.

Between 2000 and 0200 hours incursions were made by 22 aircraft. 21 of which flew on into western Germany. No bombs were dropped on Holland. One aircraft was shot down by fighters at Flushing. An officer was taken prisoner.

At about 0350 hours an attack was made on Bergen-an-Zee airfield. Two aircraft were set on fire and another four were damaged. Casualties amounted to three killed and several injured.

AA defence had no apparent effect.

The Reich

Between 2100 and 0100 hours there were 21 incursions over the frontiers of Belgium and Holland as far as the line Meppen - Osnabrueck - Paderborn - Honnef - Schnee Eifel.

Bombs were dropped at six places. No damage of any importance resulted and so far no casualties have been reported.

AA was active, particularly in the Ruhr, but without apparent effect. AA defence prevented enemy aircraft from aiming their bombs. Barrage balloons were put up on the northern outskirts of the Ruhr (without success). Night fighters did not take off owing to weather conditions.

Altogether 23 British aircraft (of eleven squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Reconnaissance

Little or no shipping movements were observed in the Channel and along the east coast.

Details of Reconnaissance on 30 July

Airfields:

Littlestone,
0821 hours:

No aircraft observed.

N of Liverpool,
time not stated:

Dummy airfield definitely identified.

Shipping in Ports:

Plymouth,
between 2035
and 2053 hours:

1 large warship,
2 large merchant ships and
several small merchant ships.

Milford Haven,
time not stated:

5 small ships and
3 small flying boats.

Shipping Movements:

Between Bexhill
and Eastbourne,
0747 hours:

3 patrol boats (stationary).

R E S T R I C T E D

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Channel, about 0800 hours:	No shipping movements between Start Point and Scilly Islands.
25 km E of Eastbourne, 1100-1200 hours:	6 merchant ships, apparently stationary.
Channel, 1200 hours:	No shipping movements in the Portland - Start Point area.
Bristol Ch., 1200 hours:	No shipping movements in W part of the channel.
10 km ESE of Orfordness, 1350 hours:	6 warships moving at full speed on NW course.
Cromer - Lowestoft, 1400 hours:	No shipping movements observed off the coast.
10 km E of Gt. Yarmouth, 1405 hours:	4 merchant ships on W course.
Area Dover - Eastbourne, 1410 hours:	No shipping movements observed.
15 km ESE of Orfordness, 1500 hours:	3 destroyers on NW course.
E of Harwich, 1505 hours:	Convoy comprising 11 merchant ships and 3 destroyers on NW course.
4 km E of Gt. Yarmouth, 1530 hours:	3 destroyers moving at full speed on N course.
35 km SE of Harwich, 1550 hours:	6 mine-sweepers on SSW course.
32 km E of Harwich, 1600 hours:	Convoy comprising 14 merchant ships and 2 destroyers on SSW course.
Between 1640 and 1715 hours:	
Channel:	No shipping movements in area between Selsey and Portland.
15 km S of I. o. Wight:	1 submarine, diving, on E course.
Channel, 1830 hours:	No shipping movements between Bournemouth and Dartmouth.
25 km ESE of Lowestoft, 1925 hours:	Convoy comprising 1 large passenger ship, 2 tankers and 14 merchant ships escorted by 1 cruiser and 2 destroyers moving at medium speed on N course.

R E S T R I C T E D

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Between 2035
and 2053 hours:

Falmouth Bay:

1 medium merchant ship and
6 small merchant ships.

About 5 km S
of Fowey:

1 destroyer on W course.

Off Plymouth:

2 destroyers.

Time not stated:

Channel:

No shipping movements in the areas
I. o. Wight - Portland - Start Point
and Caen - S coast of England.

On 30 July and during the night of 30/31 July bombers (without fighter escort) attacked the following targets:

Day

Norwich,
0635 hours:

20 50 kg delayed action bombs were
dropped on an aircraft factory.
One bomb hit a hangar in the W
part of the factory and seven of
a stick of 19 bombs dropped across
the E part of the factory fell in
the target area.

5 km S of
Svanage,
1225 hours:

2 British MTB's were attacked.
No hits observed.

Off Gt. Yarmouth,
1350 hours:

1 merchant ship of 3,000 tons; one
250 kg bomb fell directly behind
the ship's stern. The ship stopped
(propellor apparently damaged). Two
aircraft broke off owing to damage
to engines and instruments.

Off Harwich,
time not stated:

1 merchant ship; the four 250 kg bombs
fell wide of the target.

150 km W of
Scilly Islands,
time not stated:

1 destroyer; the five 50 kg bombs fell
a ship's width away to port.

Scilly Islands,
time not stated:

1 patrol boat; two 250 kg bombs dropped.
No hits scored.

Southend,
2130 hours:

As the airfield could not be located
owing to bad weather and searchlight
activity, searchlight positions were
attacked as an alternative target. The
20 50 kg bombs which were dropped were
well placed.

Balloons above the clouds on the E out-
skirts of London were shot up (height
800 - 1,000 metres). The balloon barrage
was hauled down, apparently as a result
of these attacks.

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Night

About 0100 hours:

Hucclecote:	Aircraft works. Effect not observed owing to bad weather.
Avonmouth:	Fuel storage installation. Effect not observed owing to weather.
Bristol:	.16 250 kg bombs, 54 50 kg bombs and 8 incendiary oil-bombs were dropped on the Filton aircraft works. Large fires observed.

About 0130 hours:

Plymouth Harbour:	Large fires observed.
Swansea:	Fire observed in harbour installations.
St. Athan airfield:	6 250 kg bombs, 22 50 kg bombs and 4 incendiary canisters were dropped. Effect not observed.

About 0300 hours:

Chester:	Broughton aircraft factory. (Target not definitely identified). Effect not observed.
Area N of Liverpool:	Bombs dropped.
Wolverhampton:	60 50 kg bombs were dropped on searchlight positions.

During the night of 30/31 July 9th Fliegerdivision carried out a special operation.

Details of Defence on 30 July

Fighters:

E of Gt. Yarmouth, 1350 hours:	Single fighters observed during armed reconnaissance of shipping.
About 30 km E of Harwich, 1600 hours:	Several Spitfires.
25 km SE of Lowestoft, 1800 hours:	3 Spitfires over convoy.
S of Plymouth, between 2035 and 2053 hours:	2 fighters.
Liverpool, time not stated:	2 night fighters.

R E S T R I C T E D

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AA Artillery:

Norwich,
0635 hours:

Light AA on E outskirts and heavy AA
2 km SE and SSE of Norwich. Badly
placed in both cases.

10 km E of
Gt. Yarmouth,
1405 hours:

Heavy AA from warships.

Plymouth,
between 2035
and 2053 hours:

Heavy AA.

Liverpool,
time not stated:

Heavy AA.

Searchlights:

Southend
airfield,
2300 hours;

Intense searchlight activity.

Liverpool,
Wolverhampton,
Cardiff,
Bristol and
Southampton,
time not stated:

Intense searchlight activity.

Barrage Balloons:

London,
2300 hours:

A large number of balloons at 800 -
1,400 metres and about 2,000 metres
apart on N and E outskirts.

ATLANTIC

A Do 17 dropped five 50 kg bombs in an attack on a destroyer south of Ireland. The bombs fell a ship's breadth to port and were ineffective.

An unmanned and stationary Greek steamship of 5,000 tons was observed in the Bay of Biscay. Nearby there were three men in a boat showing the white flag. Nothing further to report.

Total Aircraft Losses on 30 July, 1940

German:

2 Ju 88's
1 Me 110
1 He 111

4 aircraft

Enemy:

In Air Combat:

2 Blenheims.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Mediterranean

30 July:

According to reconnaissance reports timed 0800 hours, the Alexandria Squadron has returned to port. At 1710 hours reconnaissance observed the following vessels in Alexandria harbour:

5 battleships,
1 aircraft-carrier,
10 cruisers,
14 destroyers,
6 flying-boats and
1 ship on W course outside the harbour.

Nothing of particular importance was observed by intensified reconnaissance along the coasts of Algeria, Greece, Crete and between Sicily and the Egyptian frontier.

Libya

28 July:

An Ro 37 was shot down by enemy fighters during a reconnaissance flight covering an area of 100 km around Amseat.

East Africa

26 July:

Nothing of particular importance was observed by reconnaissance over the Sudan, the frontier of British Somaliland, along the coast of Italian Somaliland between Mogadisco and Chisimiao and over north-eastern Kenya.

27 - 29 July:

Nothing of particular importance was observed by reconnaissance over the various fronts and the central Red Sea.

Italian Operations

Libya

28 July:

In an air battle with three Blenheims over the northern sector of the front three Cr 32's shot down one of the enemy aircraft.

29 July:

An enemy tent camp south of Sollum was attacked during armed reconnaissance over the area Bir el Gobi - Amseat - Sollum.

East Africa

27 July:

Small-calibre bombs were dropped on an enemy detachment west of Lake Rudolf during armed reconnaissance over the frontier of northern Kenya.

29 July:

On the Sudan front a few lorries were shot up south of Khashin el Girba. Three Italian fighters attacked enemy field positions west of Hargeisa airfield (western Somaliland).

In an attack on warships and merchant ships in Aden harbour a direct hit with a medium-calibre bomb was scored on one ship.

Enemy Operations

Libya

29 July:

An attack on Derna was prevented by the Italian fighter screen.

East Africa

26 July:

An unsuccessful attack was made on Assab airfield.

In an attack on Mille airfield (300 km south-west of Assab) two aircraft on the ground were damaged.

LUFTWAFFE SITUATION REPORT NO.330 (1 August 1940)

Operations on 31 July and during the night of 31 July/1 August, 1940

AIR SITUATION

GERMAN TERRITORY (the Reich and Occupied Areas)

Luftgau Belgium/Northern France

Between 1700 and 0200 hours there were five enemy incursions in the coastal area. No bombs were dropped.

Luftgau Holland

During 31 July several enemy aircraft flew over on the way to Germany. Bombs were dropped on a passenger ship at Urk Island (two killed and three injured) and mines were probably dropped at IJmuiden.

AA defence had no apparent effect.

A Blenheim was shot down by fighters west of IJmuiden.

Between 2300 and 0345 hours incursions were made by 15 enemy aircraft, most of which flew on into the Reich. Bombs were dropped at five places. A few houses were set on fire, but no other damage resulted.

The Reich

Between 0730 and 1415 hours there were several enemy incursions as far as the line Norderney - Bremen - Hannover - Einbeck - Venlo. Bombs were dropped at Paderborn (one killed and six injured). Thirteen bombs were dropped on a dummy installation, damaging a dummy construction.

Between 2340 and 0330 hours there were 30 enemy incursions from the North Sea and over the frontiers of Holland and Belgium as far as the line Laaland - Peine - Eschwege - Krefeld. Bombs were dropped at seven places. At Hannover four houses in the centre of the city were badly damaged (several killed and injured).

AA defence had no apparent effect.

R E S T R I C T E D

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Denmark

About 0930 hours an enemy aircraft attacked Aalborg airfield (several killed and injured). At about 1000 hours the aircraft was shot down by fighters on its return flight.

Altogether 38 British aircraft (of twenty squadrons) were definitely identified.

GREAT BRITAIN

Reconnaissance

Details of Reconnaissance on 31 July

Shipping in Ports:

Portland, 1530 hours:	1 medium freighter, several small freighters and 2 destroyers (?)
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Falmouth, 2045 hours:	10 merchant ships and 1 warship (?)
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Shipping Movements:

70 km NE of Humber Estuary, 0730 hours:	No shipping movements.
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5 km SE of Gt. Yarmouth, 0735 hours:	3 merchant ships (6-8,000 tons), 1 merchant ship (4,000 tons) and 2 merchant ships (1-2,000 tons) on E course.
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Harwich - 10 km N of Gt. Yarmouth, 0735 hours:	No shipping movements on any appreciable scale observed.
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60 km W of Pembroke, 1000 hours:	A large number of small ships.
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Area off Peterhead to Newcastle, 1100-1230 hours:	No convoys or warships.
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25 km E of Harwich, 1140 hours:	8 merchant ships (5-8,000 tons), course not observed.
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40 km S of Lowestoft, 1200 hours:	6 merchant ships moving at 7-9 knots on WNW course.
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Coast from Eastbourne to Margate, 1300 hours:	No shipping movements observed (visibility down to 2 km).
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Channel, 1315 hours:	No shipping movements observed.
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R E S T R I C T E D

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Bristol Ch, 1400 hours:	Nothing of particular importance observed at W outlet.
Channel, 1400 hours:	Apart from two patrol boats on course for Weymouth 8 km S of Portland Bill, there were no shipping movements in the area Portland - Lyme Bay.
Area Portland - Weymouth, 1530 hours:	No shipping movements.
40 km E of Orfordness, 1550 hours:	6 cruisers (8-10,000 tons) moving back and forth in various directions.
Falmouth Bay, 1743 hours:	27 ships of various sizes, ten S and 17 ENE of Falmouth.
25 km SE of Lowestoft, 1920 hours:	4 torpedo boats on N course.
25 km SSE of Lowestoft, 1920 hours:	2 patrol boats on N course.
40 km ENE of Orfordness, 1930 hours:	4 destroyers on N course.
Channel, 2300 hours:	No shipping movements observed.
Off Middlesbrough, 0315 hours:	Convoy comprising 30 - 40 merchant ships on N course.

Interim Evaluation of Photographic Reconnaissance
carried out on 31 July, 1940

Airfields:

Morfabowyn:	No aircraft observed. 1 hangar under construction.
Colerne:	9 aircraft, 21 hangars, 2 hangars under construction.
Larkhill:	3 aircraft.
Boscombe Down:	26 aircraft.
Calshot seaplane base:	12 seaplanes, 5 hangars.
Lee-on-Solent:	21 aircraft, 4 hangars. Airfield partly obscured by clouds.

R E S T R I C T E D

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On 31 July and during the night of 31 July/1 August bombers - some of them with fighter escort - carried out the following attacks:

Day

The effect of the following attacks was not observed:

Sea area W of
Scilly Isles:

About 1300 hours:	1 merchant ship of 8,000 tons; 12 250 kg bombs dropped.
1030 hours:	1 merchant ship of 12,000 tons; 2 250 kg bombs dropped.
1700 hours:	1 merchant ship of 1,000 tons; 2 250 kg bombs dropped (one near miss).
1830 hours:	1 merchant ship (size not known); 10 250 kg bombs dropped.

S of Portland, 0745 hours:	1 merchant ship (size not known).
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Dover, 1800 hours:	Barrage balloons were attacked, two of them being shot down.
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Night

About 0120 hours:

Swansea and Newport:	Shipping was attacked. Effect not observed.
Port Victoria:	Fuel storage installation. Fires observed.
Stanlow (E of Liverpool):	Oil dock. Effect not observed.

During the night of 31 July/1 August 9th Fliegerdivision carried out a special operation.

In an air battle above Dover at 1655 hours four Spitfires were shot down and another was probably destroyed.

According to a Navy report the cruiser which was attacked in the Channel by dive-bombers on 29 July sank at about midnight after an explosion.

Details of Defence on 31 July

Fighters:

Thames Estuary, 1550 hours:	1 fighter, type not identified.
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Dover and Folkstone, 1845 hours:	Fighters climbing, number and type not known.
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AA Artillery:

5 km SE of Gt. Yarmouth, 0740 hours:	Slight and badly placed AA from ships which were attacked.
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R E S T R I C T E D

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Barrage Balloons:

5 km S of
Dover,
1740 hours:

14 balloons at 1,800 metres.

Folkstone,
1845 hours:

14 balloons at 1,800 metres.

Total Aircraft Losses on 31 July, 1940

German:

2 He 111's

Enemy:

In Air Combat:

1 Blenheim at Allkmaar
1 Blenheim at Lemnick
4 Spitfires at Dover
1 Lockheed Hudson at Kristiansand

7 aircraft

also:

1 Spitfire probably destroyed at Dover
2 barrage balloons destroyed at Dover

Special Observations and Experiences

In addition to Empire flying-boats, Douglas aircraft of K.L.M. with British markings are being used on the Britain (Poole) - Portugal (Lisbon) air route.

According to prisoners' statements, some of the new Westland Whirlwind twin-engined fighters and the Handley Page Halifax four-engined bombers have already arrived at squadrons and occasional appearances by aircraft of these types must therefore be expected. It is not yet known whether the Whirlwind has a conventional or twin-boom fuselage, as prototypes of both designs were developed.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN THEATRE

AIR SITUATION

Reconnaissance

Mediterranean

31 July:

Reconnaissance was carried out over the entire Mediterranean area between the lines Majorca - Algiers in the west and Rhodes - Port Said in the east. The following observations were made:

SW of Sardinia,
0700 hours:

1 enemy submarine about 100 km
SW of the S tip of Sardinia.

Crete,
1000 hours:

17 ships of unknown nationality in various ports along the N coast.

Malta,
1000 and
1900 hours:

No change.

A Gr 42 of the fighter escort and a Gloucester were shot down. Another Gloucester was probably destroyed.

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Alexandria

1215 hours: 1 cruiser and
1 destroyer entering port.

5 battleships,
1 aircraft-carrier,
9 cruisers and
several destroyers in the harbour.

1710 hours: 3 battleships,
8 cruisers and
several destroyers.

20 km W of
Alexandria,
1710 hours: 2 battleships,
1 aircraft-carrier,
1 cruiser and
several destroyers.

Libya

30 July:

Nothing of particular importance was observed by reconnaissance over Giarabub, Esh Scegga and Ridotta Capuzzo.

A Cr 32 did not return from a patrol over the area Bir el Gobi - Bardia - Tobruk.

Italian Operations

Mediterranean

30 July:

Bombers from Rhodes attacked two ships at Cape Litinos (south of Crete) at 1615 hours and three cruisers and three destroyers 90 km south of Scarpanto Island (east of Crete) at 1630 and 1830 hours.

Libya

30 July:

An effective low-level attack with machine-guns and small-calibre bombs was made on a hut camp at Sollum.

East Africa

29 July:

According to a report on the attack on Aden, two ships each received a direct hit with a medium-calibre bomb and several hits were scored on the fuel storage installation in the harbour.

Enemy Operations

East Africa

29 July:

A Blenheim was brought down in an unsuccessful attack on Assab airfield.

Italian fighters prevented attacks on Archico (near Massaua) and Asmara. The Moyale - Tuca road (north-west of Moyale, northern frontier of Kenya) was attacked, but no damage of any importance resulted.

R E S T R I C T E D

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GROUND SITUATION

Libya

28 - 30 July:

Italian fast-moving formations continued operations against groups of enemy tanks in the area Sidi Azeis - Ridotta Capuzzo - Bardia (north-eastern corner of Libya). Artillery was active on both sides.

East Africa

An enemy supply column was captured during the continued occupation of the Kurmuk area (approximately 10° north, 34° east).

SITUATION AT SEA

According to reports, the Gibraltar Squadron left port on an easterly course at 0900 hours on 31 July. Nothing further is known concerning the position of the formation, which comprised the following:

3 battleships,
2 aircraft-carriers ("Ark Royal" and
"Argus"),
4 cruisers and
several destroyers.

Italian Operations

During the last few days convoys were sent to Tripoli and Benghazi under air cover. As yet there have been no incidents. The last transports should have arrived at Tripoli by 1100 hours on 31 July.

A.H.B. 6 Distribution

Same as for translation VII/119