

AIR HISTORICAL BRANCH

**RESTRICTED**

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Situation on 1 August 1944

Situation on land

North-west of Avranches enemy units have broken through the defence line of strong points being built up between Percy and Avranches. Tanks advanced to the line La Chapelle - Cecelin - Brecy - Le Grand Celand - St. Laurent and Pontorson. Enemy tanks are also in St. James.

Fighting is still in progress in the penetration area south of Guilberville. North-west of Tessy local tank penetrations were eliminated after 5 enemy tanks had been destroyed. The main defence line between Percy and Tessy is in German hands.

In the area of LXXXIV Army Corps Villedieu was taken by the enemy after heavy fighting. The German outpost line runs as follows:- La Doree - road fork south-east of Villedieu. Fighting is continuing in the St. Laurent area. Enemy forces have broken through German defences south of Pontaubault. On the evening of 1 August enemy armoured spearheads were 3 km. south-east of St. Malo and on the northern outskirts of Rennes and Vitre (enemy forces swinging west from Vitre). The situation is confused.

Situation at sea

No shipping reports from the invasion area owing to the weather.

Situation in the air

(a) Enemy operations:

At midday strong formations of American four-engined aircraft flew in between Ostend and Calais on a south-westerly course and over the Seine Bay on a south-easterly course into the Lyon area (about 200 aircraft). No bombs have been reported and the aircraft were probably carrying supplies for partisans. In the afternoon about 200 four-engined aircraft bombed airfields at Villaroche, Mondesir, Chartres, Chateaudun and Tours and railway installations at Varennes and Chateau-Thierry. At the same time some 250 four-engined aircraft flew into the area north of Paris and bombed Rouen and Yvetot. Twin-engined aircraft approached areas west of the Seine, but so far no bombs have been reported. In the afternoon and evening formations of British four-engined aircraft (200 in all) bombed the VI launching zone (Abbeville, Hesdin, St. Omer areas). A total of some 1,300 American four-engined aircraft, 200 British four-engined aircraft and 250 American twin-engined aircraft and 1,000 escorting fighters were in operation.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations: In the morning only limited armed reconnaissance sorties were flown, apart from escort operations with bomber formations. In the afternoon some 270 American and 480 British fighters flew armed reconnaissance operations and made fighter-bomber attacks in the battle area and behind the front.

(b) German operations:

Concentrated attack on traffic junctions and troop concentrations in the area Le Mignon - St. Denis le Gast - Lengronne - Gavray. Troops in the traffic junction area Le Haye - Pesnel - Villedieu were attacked. Transport on the La Haye - Pesnel road was shot up. Armed reconnaissance operations were flown west of Brest.

Results: Burning vehicles were observed after a bombing attack on the Lengronne - Coutances road. Further bombing and strafing attacks were made on villages, roads, flak positions and vehicles in the La Haye - Pesnel area.

Sunk: 1 freighter of 8,000 tons, 1 freighter of 4,000 tons, 1 destroyer.

Badly damaged: 2 freighters each of 7,000 tons.

/Partisan

## Partisan situation

In the Belgium-northern France area saboteurs attacked railways 35 times, communications 11 times, canals 4 times, and armaments industries twice. More partisan groups are being formed in western France, particularly in the Pyrenees and Alpine regions. The presence of Russian specialists in French Resistance groups has once again been established. The unreliability of French police is increasing. Partisan groups are concentrating on signals posts and fuel installations.

## Situation on 2 August 1944

### Situation on land

No fresh reports from the area east of the Orne. Several enemy attacks in the area east of Coulvain have been repulsed. Strong enemy forces from Jurques are attacking towards the east and south. At Hill 301 the enemy made a penetration and infiltrated into the wooded area south of Hill 321. The German outpost line runs as follows:- western edge of Bigne - western edge of Bramoy- western edge of St. Pierre. 7th Army: on the right flank enemy pushed forward to Etouvy. Enemy tanks have broken through the 3rd Parachute Division front on both sides of St. Martin-Don. An enemy infantry and tank attack on St. Cecile was repulsed. Single tanks pushed forward to St. Aubin. Enemy reinforcements are being brought up continuously. II Parachute Corps and XLVII Panzer Corps will withdraw to the line Carville - Beaumesnil - Fontenemont - Le Gast during the night 2/3 August. Enemy forces south-east of Villedieu pushed forward to Bois Yvon, La Cour and St. Michel. A counter-thrust by 16th Panzer Division has reached the Couvray area. Fighting is still in progress. Strong enemy armoured forces (75 tanks) are attacking in the Montigny area.

Reconnaissance at 1300 hours revealed the following motorised columns of all types: On the Pontorson - Fougere road, head of column at Antrain; on the Pontaubault - Fougere road, head of column at St. James; on the St. Hilaire - Fougere road, head of column 3 km. north of Forêt du Fougere.

Enemy forces of unknown strength have taken heights north of Rennes. An unconfirmed report states that 110 enemy tanks are in action and that 3 batteries are bombarding the northern quarter of Rennes. At present Rennes is free of enemy forces.

### Situation at sea

No shipping reports from the invasion area during the day and evening owing to bad visibility.

10 freighters of up to 10,000 tons on course 210° about 140 nautical miles south-south-west of Cape Clear at 1100 hours. Destination unknown.

### Situation in the air

#### (a) Enemy operations:

In the morning 500 American four-engined aircraft from Italy bombed the railway station at Fortes les Valences, a bridge over the Var at Nice, Avignon-West airfield and transport installations in the area south of Avignon. From 1500 hours 900 American and 700 British four-engined aircraft flew over areas of France (north of the Loire) in several waves. British formations concentrated on the V1 launching zone, bombing the Montdidier - Amiens - Aumale area. Bombs were also dropped on airfields at Rheims and St. Dizier, a special installation in the Creil area, the Laon - Romilly - Chateaudun area, gas-works, fuel and supply dumps at Gennevilliers (northern outskirts of Paris), and on Le Havre harbour. At the same time 250 British and American twin-engined aircraft dropped bombs on a bridge over the Loire at Tours, as well as in the Nantes, Angers, Sable, Rennes and Falaise areas. The escort consisted of some 700 American and 200 British fighters.

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From 1300 hours some 700 British and 400 American fighters bombed and shot up Melsbroek airfield, Vitry en Artois and Cambrai, and the Laval and Rennes areas. Low-level operations were directed against tank, vehicle and troop movements in the Aunay area, south of the Odon - Vire - Flers, and in the area south of Avranches to the Loire.

(b) German operations:

106 aircraft attacked traffic junctions and troop concentrations on both sides of the St. Martin - Caumont road. Pontaubault (bridges over the Selune) was attacked twice.

Results: explosions and fires in the Caumont area. Fire increasing in size after bombing attack on St. Lo. Numerous explosions and several fires in Pontaubault and on roads leading to Pontorson and St. James. Violent explosion in Pontaubault; hits on the town area of Avranches.

Partisan situation:

Considerable increase in BBC messages for the resistance movement since 1 August. Lively sabotage activity continues in Belgium and is mainly directed against railways, bridges and canals. In France more heavy attacks have been made on Wehrmacht convoys and columns, on war production plants and fuel installations.

Situation on 3 August 1944

Situation on land

Enemy thrusts north of Esquay and at Bougie were repulsed. Strong enemy forces have pushed German troops back to the line Le Mesnil - eastern edge of Bruyere - Query - Engerville - directly west of St. Georges. The enemy is continually reinforcing Hill 181 and 80 enemy tanks have broken through to St. Georges. A German attack from the Montchamp area has reached the line Hill 176 (5 km. east of Le Beny-Bocage) - western edge of Courtel (1.5 km. west of Montchamp). The German defence front has been consolidated against an enemy counter-attack on the line road fork 2 km. south of Montchamp - Le Vitonniere - Burcy - La Grondiere - La Planché. According to an unconfirmed report enemy forces have been making a concentric attack on Rennes since 0900 hours. Enemy forces have pushed through Fougères in a south-easterly direction and have reached Ernée. Tanks are moving southwards along the Fougères - Vitre road. A German counter-attack is in progress against an enemy penetration along the Jurques - Le Mesnil - Auzouf road. The heights west of Presles, Viessoix, and La Salière are still in enemy hands. Enemy forces attacking from the Coulouvray and Cuves areas towards the east have been repulsed. The German outpost line runs approximately as follows:- Le Gast - St. Pois - Le Mesnil Gilbert - along the stream sector north of Cherence - north of Brouains - Sourdeval. Enemy tanks have taken Fougères and are advancing on Ernée and Dompierre. Enemy motorised columns are advancing on Vitre via St. Aubin. According to unconfirmed reports armoured reconnaissance cars carrying infantry are in Mouron. 4 tanks and 3 armoured reconnaissance cars are in the wooded area at Loudeac, and tank and armoured reconnaissance car spearheads are in the Pontivy area. Tank and infantry movements on the Fougères - Rennes road. Pace (7 km. north-west of Rennes) has been taken by enemy forces. Enemy attacks on Rennes from the north-east, north and north-west are in progress. Fires are burning in the town of Rennes. By order of C. in C. West, Panzer Group West and the 7th Army will withdraw their front lines, commencing during the night of 3/4 August, to the following line which will be held as the main defence position:- east of the Orne to St. Andre (unchanged) - south of the Orne - along the course of the Orne to Thury Harcourt - north of St. Martin de Sallon - hill 279 south of Le Plessis - Lassy - southern bank of the Allière - heights north of the Vire - Champ du Boulton - St. Michel de Mont Joie.

/Situation

Situation at sea

Photographic reconnaissance reports large-scale shipping movements and unloading operations along the whole invasion coast from the Orne estuary to west of the Vire estuary. 100 warships, possibly including 3 - 4 heavy cruisers, off Cape Clear. The escort vessels 360 nautical miles west of Brest at 2440 hours are 11 warships of unknown types.

Situation in the air

(a) Enemy operations

No operations were carried out during the morning owing to weather conditions. In the afternoon strong formations of British four-engined aircraft (600) with fighter escort bombed the special Luftwaffe installation in the Creil area. 200 aircraft bombed an ammunition dump at Maintenon, Mondesir airfield, railway installations at Juvisy and Melun, and railway bridges at Chartres. In the evening British and American formations of four-engined aircraft (about 600 in all) bombed V1 launching sites in the Hesdin area and transport targets in Lille - Douai - Brussels - Nivelles area, and at Ghent. Twin-engined formations over the Seine Bay area bombed bridges south and south-west Rouen.

In the afternoon 600 American four-engined aircraft bombed railway installations at Saarbrücken and Strassburg, Metz airfield, and petroleum industries in the Hagenu area.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations: positions and mortars at the front were shot up.

(b) German operations:

Fighters patrolled roads in the Avranches - Pontaubault - Pontorson area. A concentrated attack was made on Avranches and St. Pons. Armed reconnaissance operations were carried out and shipping targets attacked off the Orne estuary.

Partisan situation

Continued attacks on railway bridges and war industry plants in Belgium. In France saboteurs continue to concentrate on railways, trunk lines and fuel installations. Attacks have been made on single Wehrmacht transports. New partisan concentration point in the Poitiers - Angoulême area. Large Maquis groups of 400 - 500 men have gathered in this district.

Situation on 5th August, 1944

Situation on land

Panzer Group West: withdrawals carried out according to plan under heavy enemy pressure in some places. Heavy fighting is continuing in the Burcy - Presles area. Enemy units at Chateau la Croisel (2 km. south of Burcy) were eliminated. Pursuing enemy forces succeeded in pushing the German front back to the line northern edge of Estry - western edge of Chenedolle - La Jarriere - Chateau la Croisel - south-east of Burcy. A penetration was blocked. West of the Vire enemy forces including 45 tanks attacked after heavy artillery preparation and succeeded in penetrating to a depth of 3 km. as far as Hill 219. Further penetrations have been made at St. Pois as far as Beliere and at Cherences as far as the Les Roullerie area. Enemy armoured forces (20 tanks and 50 armoured cars) from Ernée advanced along the Fougères - Laval road in a south-easterly direction. Enemy forces have reached Forêt de Mayenne. Enemy tanks advancing from Vitre towards the east have taken La Gravelle and La Porte.

/Brittany:

Brittany: Armoured forces attacked from La Guerche de Bretagne (15 km. south of the Vire) in the direction of Laval, from Cande (25 km. south-east of Chateaubriant) towards Segre (north-east of Cande) and towards the bridge over the Villaine at Brain. Chateaubriant has been taken by enemy forces. The German defence line around St. Nazaire has been built up on the line Saveny - along the Villaine - Thehillac - La Roche Bernard - to the sea. The fortress of Brest has not been attacked by the enemy. German forces at Dinan are holding their sector. The German defence line runs from Mineac (10 km. north-east of Dinan) to Mont Dol. The Matignon sector (20 km. west-south-west of St. Malo) has been evacuated. Installations at Cap Frehel have been blown up.

#### Situation at sea

Cherbourg inner harbour at about 1900 hours: 1 escort vessel, 3 freighters totalling 21,500 tons, 7 LST's, 19 large and small landing craft, 18 auxiliary landing craft.

Outer harbour: 2 destroyers, 30 M.T.B's, 25 mine-layers, 3 LST's, 25 large and small landing craft, 11 auxiliary landing craft, 4 landing ramps, 1 transport vessel of 6,500 tons, 8 freighters totalling 40,500 tons.

Opinion: still no large scale landings; outer harbour presumably being used as a base for M.T.B's and mine sweepers.

#### Situation in the air

##### (a) Enemy operations:

Commencing at 1200 hours 700 British four-engined aircraft escorted by 200 fighters carried out large-scale operations over northern France, bombing V1 launching installations and other special targets in the St. Omer area. From 1130 hours 220 American twin-engined aircraft flew over areas behind the front and north-east of Paris. Bombs have been reported at Mantes, St. Germain, and Compiègne. At 1930 hours 220 American twin-engined aircraft flew to the Orleans area.

##### (b) German operations:

Targets on the ground were attacked in the Avranches - Fougères - Rennes area. At Pontaubault attacks were made on the town and bridges. Fighters patrolled roads leading out of Ponts to the east and north-east. The traffic junction at Avranches and St. Hilaire was destroyed.

Reconnaissance: 10 - 15 vessels (tonnage not known) directly south-west of Avranches. 1 green-illuminated airfield installation about 10 km. north of Avranches.

#### Partisan situation

Increased terrorist activity throughout the Army Corps district since the evening of 3rd August. The population is participating extensively in these activities. Numerous attacks have been made on troops on the march. Movements can be made only with strong combat groups. Most telephone services have been interrupted.

#### Situation on 6th August, 1944

##### Situation on land

Panzer Group West: an enemy penetration at St. Jean le Blanc has been eliminated. Forne la Hoissonerie (2 km. north of Lassy) has been taken by the enemy. Armoured attacks (40 tanks) north of Lassy and out of the penetration area Presles - Chenedolle in the direction of Vassy have been repulsed. Continual tank attacks in the area west and south-west of the Vire throughout the day.

/West

West of the Vire, Hill 219, which was taken by units of 363rd Infantry division after heavy fighting, was lost again in a fresh enemy counter-attack strongly supported by artillery. Enemy attacks are in progress west of St. Martin. Champ du Boulton and Hill 303 have been taken by enemy forces. German counter-operations are in progress against an enemy penetration on a front from Cherence to south of Perriers. The main German defence line between St. Pois and 2 km. north of Cherence has been withdrawn west of Lingard. Enemy reconnaissance raids from the south as far as Baranton have been repulsed. German forces from Javron are in action against enemy armoured units advancing on Javron (12 km. north-east of Mayenne) through Mayenne. Enemy forces from the north have pushed forward into Laval. The western quarter of the town has been abandoned.

Brittany: Enemy forces have overrun the German outpost line from Miniac to Dol de Bretagne. 30 enemy tanks have penetrated to St. Jouan (north of Chateauneuf). Fighting has commenced on the western and eastern fronts of St. Malo; so far all enemy attacks have been repulsed. An enemy attack on Carhaix is in progress. SS troops are in action against enemy tanks and infantry at Morlaix and Huelgoat. 25 enemy tanks and armoured cars carrying infantry are advancing from Guemene towards Nantes. Weak enemy forces are in the Peaule area (about 35 km. north-north-west of St. Nazaire). German reconnaissance troops encountered enemy forces in Vannes. These are alleged to consist of an American infantry regiment and a number of tanks (30 according to one report and 80 according to another) which broke through German units and advanced towards the west.

#### Situation at sea

4 enemy destroyers at anchor in Avranches bay at midday. No shipping reports from the invasion area.

#### Situation in the air

##### (a) Enemy operations:

In the early afternoon British and American four-engined aircraft (about 300 in all) with fighter escort bombed the V1 launching zone and special installations in Paris. At the same time 200 British and American twin-engined aircraft also bombed the V1 launching zone, railway installations at Blois, and the airfield and railway station at Dreux. In the evening 150 British four-engined aircraft flew over the V1 launching zone and 250 British and American twin-engined aircraft bombed the Rouen area and Pont Audemer. Fighter and fighter-bomber operations were carried out over the entire battle area as far as the Loire.

##### (b) German operations:

Ground targets were attacked in the Avranches - Rennes - Fougères - St. Hilaire area. The Mortain and St. Kilaire traffic junctions were destroyed. Towns and troop concentrations along the Pontorson - Pontaubault - Avranches road and bridges at Pontorson were attacked. Attacks were made on shipping in the Seine Bay.

#### Partisan situation

Since the evening of 3rd August Resistance groups throughout the interior of Brittany have risen in answer to the BBC appeal. Repeated attacks have been made on troops on the march and transport columns by strong partisan bands led by men with military experience. Many telephone services have been interrupted. The population is cooperating, partly by shows of strength and flag-waving. In Auray (west of Vannes) and Concarneau (south-east of Quimper) fighting is in progress with terrorist groups over 100 men strong. A large-scale revolt has broken out in and around Dinan. Strong partisan forces are active between Morlaix and St. Brievé and between Huelgoat and Morlaix.

/Situation

Situation on 7th August, 1944

Situation on land

15th Panzer Army (formerly Panzer Group West): after heavy artillery bombardment and use of smoke screens the enemy succeeded in penetrating the main defence line and capturing Grimbosq. An enemy attack supported by tanks south of Hamars was driven back with heavy losses. At Le Plessis enemy forces succeeded in capturing Hill 365. Fighting is still in progress to eliminate a penetration at Crepigny. Enemy forces which had penetrated the German line east of Estry were thrown back in a counter-attack. Concentrations of tanks observed in Estry indicate further attacks. The enemy attack west of the Vire has been resumed. It was necessary to withdraw German units from the northern part of Vire to the southern and eastern districts. An enemy attack in some strength on St. Martin was repulsed. A German attack from the Cherance - Mortain area in the direction of Avranches, which was launched at 2000 hours on 6th August, is making good progress. Le Mesnil-Adelee, Belle-Fontaine, St. Barthelemy, Mortain, Romagny and St. Jean du Corail have been taken. In a German attack on Mayenne, the town of Aron (4 km. east of Mayenne) was retaken. After heavy fighting in Laval the garrison was forced back further west. Measures to re-occupy the town have been brought into operation. Craon has been abandoned owing to threatened encirclement by enemy armoured forces. Segre is in German hands again.

In Brittany very heavy fighting with terrorists is in progress.

East of the Orne an enemy thrust on the Cagny - Vimont road was repulsed. Enemy forces repulsed at Grimbosq made a fresh attack and gained a bridgehead over the Orne at Le Bas. Counter-attacking German forces were unable to break through strong enemy resistance. Enemy tanks and infantry have made a penetration south-west of Hamars. Enemy armoured forces in the Le Plessis penetration area were reinforced, took Hill 365 and penetrated into Bois du Roi. A new German main defence line is being built up. Enemy forces supported by tanks made penetrations at Crepigny.

The town of Vire has been lost. The German front line will be withdrawn to the line Chenedolle - southern edge of Vire during the night 7/8 August. German forces were unable to eliminate enemy penetrations at St. Martin and St. Manvieu. The enemy is forcing the main German defence line back to the line south-west of Vire to south of St. Pois. Attacks on the new main defence line have been repulsed. A concentrated German panzer attack on Avranches was halted by strong enemy defence. Fighting is again in progress at Le Mesnil-Adelee, Juvigny, La Bazoge, Chereville, Mortain and to the east (between Hills 307 and 314). Mopping up operations are being carried out on the Domfront - Mayenne road. Aron (4 km. east of Mayenne) and Evron (20 km. south-east of Mayenne) are in German hands. It has been planned to build up a defence front on the line Vaiges - Meslay - Chateau Grontier - along the Mayenne. The situation to the east of this defence line is confused. According to an unconfirmed report strong enemy armoured forces (50 tanks reported) have pushed forward in an easterly direction, taken Brudon and Loue, and penetrated into Le Mans.

Brittany: Since midday the fortress of Brest has been in a state of siege. There is no communication with German forces encircled in Huelgoat. Enemy tanks are just outside the fortress of Lorient.

According to French reports the Resistance movement is to be fully mobilized by 15 August.

Situation at sea

No shipping reports from the invasion area.

Situation in the air

(a) Enemy operations:

In the morning 1,200 American four-engined aircraft flew over an area

/extending

extending to the line Rotterdam - Brussels - Rheims - Orleans. Single aircraft are reported to have bombed airfields at Gilze Rijen, Cambrai, Rosieres, Chartres, an ammunition dump at Maintenon, and fuel and railway installations on the northern outskirts of Paris. In the afternoon and evening about 500 American and 40 British twin-engined aircraft flew over areas behind the front and the lower Seine district, most of them presumably engaged in army support operations in the battle area. In the morning 1,100 American fighters escorted bomber formations and carried out free-lance fighter and fighter-bomber operations in the battle area and behind the front, between the Seine and the Loire. Attacks were concentrated on German positions at Grimbosq east of the Orne, German road transport in western Brittany, and in the evening on armoured units in the Mortain - Sourdeval area.

(b) German operations:

Aircraft supported a special army operation in the Mortain area. Attacks were made on St. Hilaire, Villedieu, Ducey, Pontaubault, Avranches, St. Martin, St. Pont, and on bridges at Pontorson. Shipping targets were attacked north of the Seine Bay. Night photo. reconnaissance operations were flown in the Avranches - Pontaubault - St. Hilaire area, and security reconnaissance patrols were made over the Channel Islands area.

Situation on 8 August, 1944

Situation on land:

East of the Orne: the enemy continued his heavy attacks throughout the day. On the Cagny - Vimont road 200 enemy tanks broke through the main German defence line and reached the area north-west of Bellengreville. Enemy penetrations in the Bourgebus and St. Martin - Fontenay area led to the loss of Carcelles, May sur Orne, and Rocquancourt (Enemy attacks north of La Hogue were repulsed). German forces were able to block an enemy thrust from the north-east to Poussy, and drive back an attack on Conteville from the St. Aignan area. South of Tilly 300 enemy tanks broke through and pushed forward as far as Cintheaux. Heavy fighting is still in progress there and at Grimbosq.

West of the Orne: enemy armoured forces which penetrated the front line at La Lande were intercepted south of La Mogisiere. A tank thrust in the direction of Le Plessis was repulsed. The enemy is continually reinforcing the penetration area. An enemy attack north-east of Lassy was repulsed. An enemy thrust south-west of Vire was blocked along the St. Germain railway line. The main German defence line has been pushed back to the line Hill 833 - west of Gathemo - east of Berouris. A German attack reached the north-eastern edge of Cherences, where it was halted by artillery fire and strong fighter-bomber attacks. Spearheads of German armoured forces attacking in the direction of Avranches have reached Le Mesnil-Adeleex. Enemy forces have taken Hills 270, 278, 285, 276. An enemy combat group has been out off in Le Neufbourg. Romagny is in German hands. A German attack towards the west made no headway owing to strong enemy fighter-bomber activity. Enemy forces surrounded Le Mans from the south, overran the German garrison, took the town after heavy fighting and are advancing eastwards in strength. According to an unconfirmed report they have reached Savigne - L'Eveque and Connerre.

Brittany: fighting with enemy tanks and infantry is continuing at Hennebont - Pont Scurff. At Lorient several enemy attacks supported by tanks were repulsed by counter-thrusts. Enemy tanks have pushed forward as far as St. Renan (8 km. north-west of Brest). An enemy attack south of La Roche (4 km. east of Landernau) was repulsed. Enemy tanks, guided by terrorists and avoiding combat with the German garrison, have penetrated into the Brest area. Strong armoured, motorised and infantry forces are assembling in Juipavas and an attack on Brest is expected. Enemy tanks have penetrated into Guincamp. In the evening an American truce

/bearer

bearer with a proposal for the surrender of the fortress of Brest was turned back. The main defence line east of St. Malo was still in German hands at midday, after an enemy penetration had been blocked. At 1200 hours enemy tanks made a fresh penetration south of St. Malo. German troops were unable to retake the former main defence line west of St. Malo owing to strong enemy reserves.

#### Situation at sea

No shipping reports from the invasion area during the day and evening owing to bad visibility. Agents report supply still proceeding according to plan.

#### Situation in the air

##### (a) Enemy operations:

At midday 2 formations of American four-engined bombers (altogether 900 - 1,000 aircraft) with fighter escort approached. Some 400 aircraft bombed targets in the northern France - Seine area, including airfields at Clastres, Athies, Champfleury, Romilly and Bretigny and the V1 launching area. About 600 aircraft carried out Army support operations in the Caen and Mortain areas. At the same time British and American twin-engined formations (about 400 aircraft) flew over northern France. So far bombs have been reported only on railway installations at Mantes.

In the evening 350 four-engined aircraft with fighter escort bombed special installations in the Creil area and V1 launching objectives in the St. Omer - Calais area. 900 American and 900 British fighters were in operation escorting heavy and medium bomber formations and carrying out free-lance fighter and fighter-bomber attacks. In addition to army support operations against tanks, mortars and troop concentrations in the area on both sides of Caen, near Vire and in Brittany, attacks were reported on railway installations in Belgium and on a bridge over the Seine at Elbeuf.

##### (b) German operations

Aircraft attacked four-engined aircraft formations in the Alençon - Falaise area and ground targets in support of the army in the Avranches area. Cover was provided for the V1 launching zone and for warships. Pontaubault, Avranches and Villedieu were attacked and fighters patrolled the Villedieu - Avranches road. Shipping in Avranches Bay was attacked. Supply operations to St. Malo were carried out.

Results: 9 four-engined aircraft shot down,

Positions were attacked west of the Avranches - Villedieu road to the wooded area on the Folligny - Avranches road.

1 merchant vessel was sunk.

Reconnaissance: 4 - 6 vessels in Avranches Bay of about 500 - 800 tons. At 0207 hours at 14 W/2932, one stationary merchant vessel of 10,000 tons and 1 destroyer. 3 small merchant vessels at anchor on St. Malo roadstead.

#### Partisan situation

General increase in sabotage activity. 44 acts of sabotage on Belgian railways, numerous bridges blown up in France.

#### Situation on 9 August, 1944

##### Situation on land

South-east of Caen enemy tanks from the St. Sylvain - Bretteville - Le Rabet area pushed south as far as Soignolles. In the morning the enemy made

tank thrusts towards Estrees. After heavy artillery preparation enemy forces attacked from the Bretteville defence line and 40 tanks made a penetration in the direction of Barbarie. An enemy armoured attack from Le Plessis penetrated south-east as far as Le Reviere after very heavy artillery preparation. An enemy infantry attack from Estry is in progress. Several enemy thrusts were made between Viessoix and St. Germain, resulting in a penetration to Maisonnelles. German counter-measures are in progress. Enemy forces from St. Germain are attacking. Le Mesnil - Tove, and Hill 276 have been retaken. The German defence line was pushed forward to the cross-roads 3 km. north of Barenton. An enemy thrust from Ambrieres was repulsed. Enemy forces have occupied Deux-Evailles and St. Quendes-Vallones (15 km. south-south-east of Mayenne), the northern edge of Bois de la Charmie (9 km. south-west of Sille le Guillaume). Enemy forces from Change (5 km. east of Le Mans) pushed forward towards Sarge (5 km. north-east of Le Mans). Montfort - Le Rotrou (16 km. north-east of Le Mans) has been taken by the enemy.

Britanny: Skirmishing actions with reconnaissance forces have been in progress since early morning 22 km. east-north-east of St. Nazaire. A German attack on partisan forces has reached the line St. Etienne - Blain - Redon - Rochefort - Muzillac. A tank concentration north of Brest was bombarded by our artillery (22 tanks destroyed). Great superior enemy forces are slowly bearing down on St. Malo. Heavy fighting is in progress.

#### Situation at sea

During the night of 8/9 August light naval units sunk and torpedoed the following vessels off Courseulles: 5 freighters of altogether 23,000 tons, 1 LST, 1 destroyer, 1 escort vessel.

Several enemy MTB's off St. Helier (Jersey) during the morning; destroyers and cruisers carried out patrols during the day.

Numerous vessels off Cap de la Hague at midday, including 7 medium-sized transport and passenger ships returning to harbour. In the evening more vessels were in the same sea area, also returning to harbour.

#### Situation in the air

##### (a) Enemy operations:

From midday a total of 300 British four-engined aircraft with fighter escort flew over the Belgium - northern France area in two main groups. Bombs were dropped on objectives in the V1 launching zone and on the army fuel depot on Valenciennes. At the same time and during the late afternoon 520 British and American aircraft were operational over the Somme estuary - Chateau-Thierry - south of Paris - Alençon - Caen area. So far bombs have been reported at Chateau-Thierry railway station, Beaumont sur Oise - Gise - on a bridge at Compiègne and on the town area of Pontoise. In the evening 150 British four-engined aircraft made a further attack on objectives in the V1 launching zone.

In the morning in the Reich area some 1,100 American four-engined aircraft with fighter cover bombed railway installations in Luxembourg, Saarbruecken, Karlsruhe, and Strassburg, as well as several airfields in southern Germany.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations: 1,750 American and 800 British fighters were operational, mainly over the front.

##### (b) German operations:

Attacks were made on Avranches and Brecey. Aircraft flew supplies to St. Malo. Night fighter operations were carried out. Violent explosions were observed in Avranches and Brecey. 62 250 kg. containers of ammunition were dropped by air.

/Partisan

Partisan situation

Increased number of attacks on troops in north-east and southern France. Tension is growing. Numerous bridges blown up.

Situation on 10 August, 1944.

Situation on land

East of the Orne: Enemy tank assembly areas in the Vimont, St. Sylvain and Estrees districts were bombarded by German artillery. Strong enemy artillery fire in the Potigny area. Enemy armoured penetrations are imminent, in the St. Germain le Vasson area and east of Thury-Harcourt in the direction of Falaise.

West of the Orne: An enemy thrust at St. Pierre la Vielle was repulsed. Enemy forces from Le Mans have pushed north (breaking through German defence lines) as far as Rene and Marcelles (occupied by the enemy). These movements are being supported by massed heavy bomber operations. Counter-measures are in operation against enemy forces advancing on Mamers. Enemy attacks on Ballon and Bonnetable were repulsed.

Brittany: Several enemy attacks on Lorient were repulsed. Enemy tank assembly areas north of the Brest fortified zone were bombarded by German artillery. An armoured thrust towards Mullizac was repulsed. Gouesnou has been encircled. 40 tanks were destroyed in the Brest area on 7 and 8 August. Enemy forces have occupied Landernau after heavy fighting. Lezardrieux and Paimbol have been encircled since 7 August. The locks and weir at Paimbol have been blown up. Some enemy units have been cut off at St. Malo. Tank concentrations were dispersed. Heavy fighting is in progress east of St. Malo with American troops who are cooperating with terrorists. St. Malo has rejected a surrender proposal.

Situation at sea

7 LST off the Orne estuary in the evening and also a convoy returning to harbour consisting of 1 cruiser, 1 destroyer, 20 transport vessels and various other ships. Enemy convoys proceeding in easterly and westerly directions in the eastern part of the Channel during the night. 3 destroyers and 10 tankers coming into port north-west of Cherbourg on the morning of 10 August; 1 destroyer and 6 MTB's returning to harbour south-west of Guernsey. 6 enemy vessels of unknown types on an easterly course north of St. Malo in the morning. 5 destroyers north-west of Ouessant (course unknown). 4 destroyers in the Bay of Benodet. 2 convoys at midday, probably coming into Cherbourg, including 15 transport vessels, 1 floating crane and 18 escort vessels. Also 1 departing convoy with 2 LST and 2 escort vessels. 20 vessels of unknown types off Cap de la Hague in the afternoon. 14 incoming vessels of unknown types north of Cherbourg. The battleship "Renown" west-north-west of Cap de la Heve in the evening. 23 transport vessels and numerous escort craft on a southerly course west of Cap de la Heve.

Situation in the air

(a) Enemy operations:

From 0940 hours 200 American and 250 British four-engined aircraft and 320 American twin-engined aircraft bombed installations in the V1 launching zone, fuel depots north of Paris, airfields at Le Bourget and Mondesir, and a viaduct at Chartres. From 1800 hours some 250 American twin-engined aircraft flew over areas behind the front. At 2230 hours 100 British four-engined aircraft attacked railway and harbour installations at Bordeaux.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations: 1,400 American and 700 British fighters provided escorts for bomber formations. Low-level operations were concentrated on tanks and artillery north and north-west of Falaise, roads and bridges in the Mortain - Conde - Domfront area, troops and vehicles

/north-west

north-west of Brest, and shipping on the Seine. Aircraft reconnoitred areas behind the front extending to the line Bernay - Verneuil - Argentan.

(b) German operations:

A concentrated attack was made on St. Hilaire and Brecey. Avranches was also attacked. Security reconnaissance patrols were flown. Night photo. reconnaissance operations were carried out over the Avranches - Pontaubault - St. Hilaire road. St. Malo and St. Nazaire were supplied by air.

Results: Numerous explosions in the St. Hilaire area, including ammunition blown up. 3 explosions were observed in Avranches.

Reconnaissance: Shipping concentration in the Bay of St. Michel. Large fires at Mezidon and in the Vire area.

Partisan situation

Partisans are continuing to concentrate on railways and communications. Tension is increasing. Further attacks have been made on occupation troops.

Situation on 11 August, 1944

Situation on land

The enemy is continuing to bring up armoured forces into the penetration area on both sides of the Caen - Falaise road. A German counter-attack to eliminate enemy penetrations on both sides of the Caen-Falaise road was unsuccessful. Fresh enemy penetrations have been blocked. West of the Orne enemy attacks from the Culey area towards the south were repulsed by successful German counter-attacks. Fighting is still in progress. An extended enemy penetration in the Chenedolle (held by enemy) area was blocked on the line Capon - Hill 285 - La Vauterie - Campinots - L'Aunay - southern edge of La Jarriere. Battles are still in progress north-west of Sourdeval and in the Mortain area. In the area north of Le Mans the enemy has resumed his attack towards Alençon. Mamers has been captured, and enemy forces are advancing along the Mamers - Alençon road.

Brittany: Heavy fighting is in progress in the St. Malo area. German troops are at a great disadvantage owing to lack of ammunition. Contact has been made with enemy armoured reconnaissance forces on the Nantes - Temple - Lorient road. Enemy units in the area east of Lorient are being supplied by freight gliders.

Situation at sea

MTB's were in action in the invasion area during the night of 10/11 August. No shipping reports from the Seine Bay owing to bad visibility. During the day destroyers and larger naval units were located and sighted in the sea area west of Brest to La Rochelle. A large number of incoming enemy vessels north of Cherbourg in the afternoon. In the invasion area a German submarine sank 4 ships totalling 22,000 tons; another vessel was torpedoed.

Situation in the air

(a) Enemy operations:

In the morning some 450 American four-engined aircraft flew over the Seine Bay area. 150 continued on into the Reich and bombed transport installations in Muehlhausen. 330 aircraft attacked airfields at Villacoublay and Coulommiers, and, according to the B.B.C, 2 fuel depots south-west of Paris. Twin-engined formations approaching over the Somme estuary. Attacks were carried out in the area of Le Havre and to the east. In the afternoon 450 American four-engined aircraft bombed

/railway

railway installations at Saarbruecken and Strassburg. The V1 launching zone was bombed in the afternoon and evening, once by 500 British four-engined aircraft and once by 300. In the afternoon and evening strong American four-engined aircraft formations flew over Cherbourg to the St. Malo area. Some 1,600 American and 1,100 British fighters carried out free-lance fighter and fighter-bomber operations. Low-level attacks were concentrated on railway transport, mainly in the area of the lower Seine extending to areas north and east of Paris. Shipping on the Seine was also attacked.

(b) German operations:

Concentrated attacks were made on Brecey and Juvigny; Vire was also raided. Shipping off Asnelles was attacked. Night photo. reconnaissance operations were flown over Cherbourg. Security reconnaissance patrols were carried out over the Channel Islands. Aircraft flew supplies to St. Malo and St. Nazaire. Night fighters were in operation.

Partisan situation

A large-scale action is expected in southern France in the next few days. A strike by 5,000 railway and 2,000 industrial workers in the Paris area has been broken by counter-measures. Attacks on railways and war production continue in the Belgium - northern France area. Several successful operations have been carried out in southern France. The Vercors operation has so far yielded the following results: 1031 partisans killed, 288 taken prisoner.

Situation on 21 August, 1944

Situation on land

East of the Orne enemy forces south-east of St. Silvain have penetrated to Le Bu, South of Rouvres. The enemy is attacking south of Grainville and east of St. Germain. South of Barbery enemy infantry and armoured forces pushed forward through Cougal as far as Moulines after heavy artillery preparation. German counter-measures are in progress. East of Fresney enemy forces penetrated to Bois Halbout, but were thrown back towards the north by an immediate German counter-thrust.

West of the Orne: A German attack to retake Hill 141 was halted by heavy enemy artillery fire. Between St. Pierre la Vielle and St. Remy enemy forces advanced to Les Forges and 2 km. south-west of St. Denis de Mere, occupying Hill 249 and 262 (between Les Forges and Clecy). The situation is confused. The main defence line between Estry and 2 km. east of Chenedolles has been withdrawn to the western edge of Le Theil (Hill 197) and 2 km. south of Pierres (Hill 285). Enemy artillery bombarded the German main defence line east of Vire. Enemy forces made a penetration in the Mainsoncelles area after heavy artillery preparation. The main defence line east and south-east of Vire has been withdrawn to the line Les Haut Vents - 3 km. south-west of La Land - Vaumont. The enemy attacked east of St. Barthelemy, north-east of Barenton, and south-west of Domfront. Enemy motorised columns were observed moving northwards on the Alençon - Sees road. Enemy forces are pushing forward north-north-east through Sees to the Caillons area and north-west to Mortree (in enemy hands). A German attack on Sees was halted by strong enemy artillery fire. A German anti-tank defence line has been established directly north-west of Mortree. Enemy armoured forces have occupied Le Mele, South of Sarthe and the western edge of Mortagne, and according to an unconfirmed report, have reached Argentan and Gacé. German reconnaissance forces operating 70 km. south and south-west of Chartres did not encounter the enemy. Fighting with enemy tanks is in progress north-east of Malville (28 km. north-west of Nantes). Contact was made with enemy reconnaissance forces 4 km. south of Plesse (20 km. south-east of Redon). Enemy airborne operations must be expected soon.

Brittany: Enemy forces have retired from the fortress of Lorient towards the north-east. German reconnaissance forces encountered strong enemy defences at Nostang and Hennebont. Fighting is continuing around the fortress

/of

of St. Malo. In addition to fortifications on the Atlantic coast German troops have occupied the following strong points: Lezardrieux, Paimpol, L'Abervrach, Aber-Benoit, Le Conquet, Audierne, Concarneau, Laita estuary, Etal estuary, the "Plouharnel" battery. Heavy artillery on the mainland has been bombarding the island of Alderney since 1425 hours.

Situation at sea

4 enemy MTB's on a northerly course west of Guernsey at midday. 3 destroyers south-west of St. Nazaire. 2 transport vessels, 3 freighters, 1 cruiser, 8 destroyers and 3 other outgoing vessels north of Courseulles in the afternoon. 10 vessels of unknown types north of Courseulles and 3 large outward bound transport vessels off Cap de la Hague in the evening.

Situation in the air

(a) Enemy operations

In the morning 600 American four-engined aircraft bombed airfields at Couvren, Athies, Juvincourt, Mourmelon, Creil, Beaumont, Coulommiers, Bus, Mondesir. A small formation continued on into the Metz area and bombed railway installations. 150 American twin-engined bombers flew into the Pois - Beauvais - Rouen area. From midday 300 American four-engined aircraft and 200 twin-engined aircraft flew into the Nice - Toulon area. In the afternoon 200 British four-engined aircraft bombed Bordeaux and La Pallice. In the evening 150 American twin-engined bombers flew into the Chartres - Fontainebleau area. According to an unconfirmed report, bombs were dropped on Fontainebleau. 1,600 American and 900 British fighters escorted bomber formations and carried out free-lance fighter and fighter-bomber operations. Low-level operations were directed against tanks, assault guns, vehicles, artillery positions and troop concentrations in the battle area east of the Loire. Operations were concentrated on the area north and north-west of Falaise. In addition, continuous fighter-bomber and strafing attacks were made on railway transport and installations as well as airfields in the area of Belgium - northern France.

(b) German operations:

Artillery positions and troop concentrations in the Vire - St. Germain - Gathemo area were attacked. A concentrated attack was made on Juvigny. Mining operations were carried out between 15 west/1053 and 1064. Destroyers were attacked in the sea area Gironde estuary - Lorient. Security reconnaissance patrols were flown. Aircraft shot up artillery positions in the Vire area and between Vire and St. Sever, which resulted in a partial cessation or slackening of artillery activity. Mining operations were carried out according to plan. There was a large explosion in the target area and aircraft scored near misses with HS 293 on a destroyer in 14 west/3765 and a landing vessel of 2,000 tons (explosion and patch of oil to left of stern).

Situation on 13 August 1944

Situation on land

The enemy is reconnoitring the front on both sides of the Caen - Falaise road. German artillery bombarded enemy tank and infantry assembly areas. Brisk enemy fighter-bomber activity. The main defence line south-west of St. Germain is in German hands once again. There are gaps in the front between St. Germain and Moulins. The main defence line between Moulins and Chenedolle has been withdrawn to the line Cesny - Esson - north of Caumont - along the Orne - 2 km. east of St. Remy - Proussy - La Chapelle La Rocque - 2 km. east of Chenedolle. Withdrawals to the front line La Lande - Vaumont - 2 km. east of Rancoudray were carried out according to plan. Hill 275 (4 km. east-south-east of Maisonnelles) has been retaken. The main defence line between Domfront and west of Alençon

/has

has been withdrawn to the line Domfront - southern edge of Juvigny - southern edge of Neuilly - southern edge of Pre en Pail - northern edge of Pace - western edge of Cuissai - western edge of Fontenai - 1 km. south of La Lande de Gault - western edge of Carrouges (in enemy hands) - northern edge of Bouce. There is a gap in the front between Bouce and Ecouche. Front line in the Argentan area; north of Ecouche (in enemy hands) - south-eastern edge of Argentan (in German hands) - southern edge of Urou - southern edge of Silly - southern edge of Le Bourg.

Brittany: Harassing fire on the St. Nazaire bridgehead and on La Roche-Bernard. Enemy forces have retired from the eastern edge of St. Nazaire. Fighting with enemy tanks and terrorists is in progress in the Lorient area. An enemy attack on Guipavas was beaten back. Increased tank activity east of Brest. 30 enemy tanks were destroyed by German artillery at Guipavas. L'Abervrach is in enemy hands. Violent fighting is in progress south of St. Malo. The town of St. Malo was repeatedly attacked by rocket-firing aircraft.

#### Situation at sea

In the afternoon Alderney was bombarded, presumably by a battleship with 38 cm. armament, from the direction of Cap de la Hague. Considerable shipping activity in the Orne estuary. The following incoming vessels were observed: 1 cruiser, 8 destroyers, 4 transport vessels, 3 freighters, 3 warships of unknown types; 1 cruiser, 1 tanker, 1 repair ship, 6 LST and several other vessels were observed leaving the estuary. The following were also observed in the same area: 20 freighters, 2 monitors, 1 cruiser, 4 destroyers, about 9 escort craft and 1 minelaying vessel. 30 - 40 outward bound transport vessels off Cherbourg. According to air reconnaissance photographs Cherbourg harbour has undergone considerable repair. The following were identified: 5 destroyers, 3 MTB's, 2 escort vessels, 6 minesweepers, 6 LST, 46 large landing vessels, 38 small landing craft, 39 freighters totalling 234,000 tons. No more than the usual amount of shipping in the harbour and on roadstead at St. Vaast.

German E-boat operations were broken off during the night 12/13.8.

4 enemy small craft south-west of St. Mathieu and 1 cruiser and 2 destroyers 15 - 20 km. west of Ile de 'Yeu in the morning. Several enemy torpedo boats 13 km. north of Lizardrieux at midday. 3 enemy vessels in the Ile d'Oleron sea area. 2 enemy destroyers on a northerly course south of Ile D'Yeu in the afternoon. 1 destroyer north of Guernsey and 3 vessels of unknown types on a westerly course south of Belle Ile in the evening.

#### Situation in the air

##### (a) Enemy operations:

From midday very strong formation of American four-engined aircraft (1,100 - 1,200) with fighter escort flew over the Somme estuary - Paris - Seine Bay area. The B.B.C. confirmed that the aircraft dropped bombs on transport targets (roads, railways, river crossings etc.) over a wide area. British four-engined aircraft bombed harbour installations at Brest. In the morning and afternoon some 450 British and American twin-engined aircraft also attacked transport targets behind the front. Altogether 2,350 American and British fighters provided cover for bomber formations. Fighter-bomber attacks were similarly directed against transport targets and also troop movements, and were concentrated in the area on both sides of Falaise. Very active reconnaissance of troop movements, mainly in the Argentan area and from the Alençon - Mamers area towards the east. Only reconnaissance activity over the Reich.

##### (b) German operations:

A "Wilde Sau" attack was made on Le Melo south of Sarthe. A concentrated attack was made on Alençon. Aircraft flew supplies to Brest.

Reconnaissance: Several fires in Chartres and Dreux. Large fire extending 1 - 2 km. 10 km. east of St. Andre. Large fire in Dreux.

Situation on 14 August, 1944.

Situation on land

East of the Orne: On the evening of 13 August the enemy opened an attack between Grainville and St. Remy strongly supported by artillery and fighter-bombers. Several breaches necessitated the withdrawal of the main defence line to the following position: 3 km. south-east of Grainville - southern edge of Fontaine - northern edge of Martainville - southern edge of Combray - northern edge of Glecly. The enemy launched an offensive with several hundred tanks at midday on 14 August and broke through the main defence line at Estrees with 80 tanks (30 destroyed). Ernes and Hill 79 (to the south), Maizieres, Rouvres and Ouilly-Le Tesson are in enemy hands. Local penetrations have been made on the new main defence line south-east of Grainville - Glecly. The 12th SS Panzer Division is in action against superior enemy forces.

West of the Orne: An enemy penetration in the Proussy area was blocked, and an enemy attack on the town is in progress. The enemy is attacking south of Chenedolle and in the Maisonnelles area. An enemy armoured attack on Hill 279 (4 km. east of Maisonnelles) was repulsed. South of this place enemy forces broke through the main defence line and occupied Le Fay and Hill 304. The enemy pushed on in the direction of Tinchebray. A penetration was blocked with final German reserves. The enemy is bringing pressure to bear on Lonlay - L'Abbaye. Enemy forces have penetrated into Domfront and have broken through German defences west of Perroux. German counter-measures are in progress. The Army reports a considerable drop in German morale and also lack of ammunition. Panzer Group Eberbach has been forced on to the defensive. The line Carronges - Bouce - Hill 173 - south-west Ecouche will be defended against enemy forces attacking from the south and east. The situation is confused south of Bouce and at Ecouche. In order to free armoured units for mobile operations in the western sector the main defence line will be withdrawn to the general line Glecly - Conde - Flers - Domfront by the night of 16 August.

Brittany: Enemy operations on the eastern sector of the St. Nazaire front. Enemy artillery bombarded positions and the town of Laroche-Bernard. Armoured thrusts towards Brest were repulsed. Enemy forces feeling their way forward towards Brest-Nord airfield were bombarded by their own artillery. Heavy fighting is in progress around the fortress of St. Malo. The enemy is massing anti-tank guns for a concentric bombardment of the main strong point.

Situation at sea

German minesweepers, supported by island artillery, fought an action with at least 3 enemy destroyers and 4 MTB's between Jersey and Guernsey. Hits were observed on the destroyers. German E-boats carrying out mining operations encountered enemy motor gunboats. The small craft were later attacked by an enemy destroyer which fired on its own vessels. 8 freighters each of 7,000 tons, 3 destroyers and 4 other warships on a north-easterly course at South Foreland in the morning. Enemy convoy about 300 miles west of Land's End at midday, course 60°, consisting of 1 battleship (?), 1 cruiser (?), several destroyers and 40 freighters, each of 5,000 tons. According to an agent's report the convoy is probably carrying supplies from the U.S.A. and is bound for St. George's Channel.

Situation in the air

(a) Enemy operations

In the morning 1,200 American four-engined aircraft bombed Stuttgart, Ludwigshafen, Kaiserslautern, and airfields at Metz, Hagenau, Chievres, Florennes, and Dijon. At the same time 80 American aircraft flew over

/Brittany.

Brittany. In the afternoon 600 - 800 British four-engined aircraft were operational over the battle area, presumably concentrating on the area north of Falaise. At the same time part of the formation attacked Brest (according to the B.B.C.). In the evening 80 - 100 British four-engined aircraft flew over Brittany. Unconfirmed reports state that bombs were dropped on St.Malo. In the morning about 150 British and American twin-engined aircraft were in operation over the lower Seine area and over northern France. In the afternoon and evening some 200 American twin-engined aircraft operated over the same area. In the morning some 300 American four-engined aircraft and 250 twin-engined aircraft approached the Toulon - Avignon - Nice area. Bombs have been reported on Toulon. In the afternoon a further 150 - 200 American four-engined aircraft were over the Toulon area.

Fighter operations: Altogether some 1,400 American and 800 British fighters escorted bomber formations and carried out free-lance fighter and fighter-bomber operations against railways in northern France and airfields at Villeroche, St. Dizier and Tavaux. Low-level operations were concentrated on bridges and roads in the Falaise and Argentan area, positions in the Paimpol area, and on the German defence position Maizieres - Rouvres - Oully (Falaise). Armed reconnaissance operations were concentrated on the Falaise - Bernay - Verneuil area, partially extending to the lower Seine. In the south fighter-bombers attacked battle headquarters of the 2nd Flieger division and Jagdflieger Southern France.

(b) German operations:

Montree (Argentan area) and Sees (Alençon area) were attacked. Mining operations were carried out north of Courseulles. Aircraft carried supplies to Brest and St. Malo (1 aircraft flew to the island of Jersey). Explosions observed in Alençon. Mining operations were carried out according to plan.

Partisan situation

Terrorist groups in St. Calais, Vendôme, Faye, Selornnes and the area along the railway line Vendome - 3 km. before Blois. A report that large-scale strikes and risings are to commence on 14 or 15 August have been confirmed several times. The railway strike in Paris was settled on 14 August.

Situation on 15 August, 1944

Situation on land

Enemy broke through our own defence line near Le Bû with very strong air support and heavy infantry and tank forces, pushed through with 80 tanks on Condé (in our own hands). Both sides of the Caen-Falaise road the enemy is carrying on the attack with strong armoured forces on a 15 km. front. Enemy breakthrough 8-10 km. deep, not yet sealed off. 40 enemy tanks shot up. Enemy is attempting to complete an encircling movement round the western part of the 5th Panzer Army and the 7th Army and push forward to Argentan via Falaise.

East of the Orne: our main defence line running through the recently retaken positions in a course Airan - Vieux Fumé - Magny la Campagne - Fevrières - east of Hill 79 - western edge of the wood north-west of Vendevre - Hill 8 - (west of Morières) - Hill 86 - north of Perrières - Epaney - South of Soulagy - south of Le Hamel - Trépel. After heavy gunfire on new main defence line enemy attack in the direction of Vendevre with 100 tanks. 30 enemy tanks in the thrust on Epaney. St. Pierre (on Caen-Falaise road) occupied by the enemy.

West of the Orne: Enemy advanced from Proussy towards St. Denis (occupied by the enemy). Withdrawal movements in the western sector not yet completed. Enemy is advancing from La Ferte-Mace (enemy occupied) towards the north-east and is threatening our own right wing. Enemy tanks have taken Ranés (south-west of Ecouché). From the Ecouché - Argentan area advance towards the west, north-west and north of Batilly, La Courbe, Montgaroult, Sentilly enemy occupied. Enemy tanks reported eastern sector Forêt de Gouffern. Enemy has advanced on

/Chartres

Chartres in the strength of an augmented reconnaissance regiment (reckoned at 60 tanks and 15 - 20 armoured patrol vehicles) from 3 directions (from Illières, Courville, Châteauneuf). Enemy is bringing up fresh forces. Bombing of AA positions in the town, gunfire on the edge of the town and on the town centre. Reconnaissance over Dreux; ammunition and fuel situation critical in 7th Army area.

Brittany: Enemy fighter-bomber attacks in the Lorient fighting area. Tank attack near Paimpol repulsed. After long continuous gunfire preparation, Dinard taken by enemy tanks and infantry. Town of St.Malo had to be given up during the night of 14/15 August.

Southern front: Heavy bombing raids during the evening of 14 August on Toulon and Marseilles, dropping of dummies by parachute at the same time in the Marseilles area. Since 0530 hours, landing from the sea between Toulon and Nice, concentrating on St. Raphael area. Landing points: Nice, Cap de Drammont, St. Raphael, St. Maxim, Cavalaire, Le Lavandou and east of Toulon. Landing of parachute troops in the area Nice, Cannes and St. Raphael, as well as landing with troop transport gliders between Grasse and Draguignan. Strength of the landed troops estimated at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  - 2 divisions.

#### Situation at sea

Off Orne estuary about 1930 hours 15 transports each of about 7000 tons. North of Luc sur Mer 1 battleship or heavy cruiser, as well as 6 - 8 light cruisers or destroyers.

Southern France: In Bay of Maxime 6 cruisers, 12 destroyers, 2 IST, 7 tank landing craft, 130 motor landing vessels, 10 km. east of St. Raphael 1 cruiser, 3 destroyers, 15 tank landing craft, 120 motor landing vessels; off St. Raphael 1 cruiser apparently damaged. Near Cavalaire 3 escort boats, 15 tank landing craft, 25 motor landing vessels (8 of them apparently on fire). Off Cannes at 1530 hours, 1 battle cruiser, 5 cruisers or destroyers and 10 - 12 smaller ships.

#### Situation in the air

##### (a) Enemy operations:

In the forenoon heavy American (about 1000) and British (about 800) four-engined formations. Bombing by British formations on Luftwaffe stations at Volkel, Eindhoven, Venlo, Gilze, Rijen, St. Trond Tirlemont, Le Culot, Melsbroeck, Florennes and by American formations on Luftwaffe stations at Soesterberg, Deelen and Twente; also the greater part of the formations against Luftwaffe stations in the area Bremen - Muenster and Cologne - Frankfurt. In the morning, afternoon and evening American twin-engined formations (altogether about 300 aircraft) in the area of the Lower Seine, eastwards of Paris, bombing so far reported on Luftwaffe special installations "Leopold" and in the Rouen area.

South coast of France: continuous bombing by twin and four-engined formations. Glider towing and pamphlet dropping taken place.

Fighter and fighter-bomber activity: on escort duties or independently 900 American and 800 British fighters observed in action against Northern France area, concentrating on German troop movements and withdrawal movements to the East of Condé - Falaise.

##### (b) German operations:

Special operation against supply to agents. Raid on St. Sylvain. Mining. Concentrated attack on southern sector of Caen. Attack on Bretteville, in cooperation with road-strafing. Attack on Malzieres.

/Situation

Situation on 16 August, 1944

Situation on land

East of the Orne: In the night of 16 August our main defence had to be withdrawn to a line running Dives sur M<sup>er</sup> - St. Pierre du Jouquet - 1 km. west of Méziden - St. Pierre St. Dives - eastern edge of Lieury - southern edge of Courcy - 2km. east of Bernieres - eastern edge of Coulibœuf - northern edge of Versain ville - northern edge of Aubigay - western edge of Martigny - northern edge of Oully le Basset - southern edge of Pont d'Oully - eastern edge of Berjou - 3km. south-east of St. Pierre du Regard. Details on the course of the withdrawal movements are not yet to hand. Enemy has broken through new defence line south-west of Percy-en-Auge and has thrust forward up to two km. east Bretteville south of Dives; is turning towards the north-east into the same area. Battles around St. Pierre still in progress. Enemy tanks pushed through new main defence line and reached the area Morteaux - Coulibœuf with armoured spearheads. Enemy attack from Aubigny in the direction of Falaise has been intercepted 2 km. north-north-west of Falaise (crossroads).

West of the Orne: 5 km. east of Condé, south of Noireau enemy broke through new main defence line near Berjou (enemy occupied), pushed on further towards the south and was intercepted with last reserves. Enemy is bringing in strong infantry and armoured forces. Left wing of western sector 7th Army withdrawn to Flers - Saires la Verrerie. Supply traffic over the Orne from east to west most severely hampered by blocking of roads and the air situation. The shortage of fuel is becoming very noticeable. Our own flak group 8 km. south-west of Dreux encircled by the enemy. According to an unconfirmed report enemy armoured forces have pushed south-east past Dreux. Fighting round Chartres (enemy occupied) with strong enemy armoured forces is still going on. Contact with the enemy near Nogent-le-Roi and Maintenon. About 1200 hours, enemy motorised units with mounted infantry 10 km. north-north-west of Rambouillet on the Houdan - Rambouillet road. 15-20 vehicles on the St. Leger - Rambouillet road. St. Leger en Yvelines, Rambouillet, Ablis free of the enemy. Bonneval occupied by the enemy. 40 enemy tanks near Ormes (8 km. north-west of Orleans). Northern part of Orleans possibly occupied by the enemy.

Brittany: Brest fighting area: Milizac free of the enemy. Enemy concentrations south-east of Guipavas bombarded by our own artillery. Heavy fighting is still going on around the St. Malo citadel.

Southern front: Breakthrough area Cap Negre and near Cap Drammont sealed off by continuous counter-thrusts by local reserves. Enemy strength has not yet been estimated. Street fighting in St. Raphael towards evening. The 19th Army is coping with further strong landings in the breakthrough area and also west of Marseilles.

Situation at sea

No ships reported in the invasion area; poor visibility.

Situation in the air

(a) Enemy operations

Slight owing to weather conditions. In the evening American twin-engined formation in the front line zone.

Reich area: In the morning heavy American four-engined formations (1200 aircraft) bombed industrial and fuel installations in the central Germany area. Simultaneously about 150 American four-engined aircraft from the Italian zone bombed aircraft and armament industry at Friedrichshafen.

About 600 American and 400 British fighters observed in fighter and fighter-bomber operations concentrating on Orne battle area. Low-level bombing operation against withdrawal movements in the Dreux area. Armed reconnaissance against infantry, tanks and guns in the Falaise area.

/(b)

(b) German operations:

Escort for Navy. Concentrated attack Ernes - Maizieres, combined with strafing of motor vehicles. Concentrated attack Olendon - Sassy - Ernes. Support for special naval operation. Attack on landing fleet in the area St. Raphael - St. Tropez.

Internal situation, France:

General de Gaulle has made an appeal to the French people, in which he calls them to rise against the German armed forces and to stage strikes. The rising is to be general in Brittany, aiming at isolating the German garrisons to the north of the Loire. The population is to secure weapons, form small groups and attack small German columns, while between the Loire and the Garonne, German columns on the march and German garrisons remaining behind are to be attacked. According to the reports handed in up to the present moment, the effect of this appeal has not been assessed.

Situation on 18 August, 1944

To the east of the Orne the enemy succeeded in breaking through our new main defence line; Mezidon and St. Pierre occupied by the enemy. Enemy is pressing forward strongly on both sides of Falaise in the direction of Trun. Damblainville, Fresne, Falaise and Rappilly occupied by the enemy. The curve of the front to the west of the Orne has been pushed back to behind the river. Fighting is going on during the retreat in the area Carneille and Le Menil de Briouze. West of Argentan and in the Forêt de Gouffern the enemy has been thrust back towards the south and south-east by our own tank formations.

According to unconfirmed reports there has been dropping of enemy parachute troops in the Evreux-Dreux area, landing from the air by transport gliders to the south of Mantes. In a further advance the enemy succeeded in capturing Dreux and Chartres and forming bridgeheads over the Eure. Enemy tank spearheads were held up in the area Rambouillet and St. Arnot. According to unconfirmed report enemy advance section past Etampes in the area Fontainebleau. Châteaudun, Vendôme and Orleans (enemy occupied). The citadel at St. Malo had to be given up after heroic fighting. Local engagements in the area Brest and Lorient.

On the south front the enemy is attempting to establish liaison between the bridgeheads formed and is at the same time advancing towards the north from St. Raphael and Cannes.

Situation on 20 August, 1944

Situation on land

5th Panzer Army and 7th Army: the enemy has pushed past some positions on the main defence line on the eastern front. Survey of own forces and preparation for advance on Touques sector. Near Brucourt the enemy has advanced 3 km. towards the east and is turning towards Barville; fighting still going on. Enemy assembly positions in the Putot area bombarded by our artillery. From the St. Michel area the enemy has pushed forward through the breach in the front towards St. Marguerite, object of attack probably Orbec. Own main defence line retaken in an enemy thrust on a line Cabourg - Dozulé - Notre Dame D'Estéréés - Notre Dame de Livaye - western edge of Le Mesnil Simon - eastern edge of Livarot - Breviere - eastern edge of Renouard - northern edge of Les Champeaux - 3 km. west of Vimoutières. An attempt on the morning of 19 August to make an opening in the encircled area of the 7th Army proved fruitless, in consequence of lack of fuel and very heavy enemy fighter-bomber activity. Renewed attack on the morning of 20 August from the Vimoutières area in the direction of Trun increased in pressure. Details about the situation in the pocket not known. Argentan presumably occupied by the enemy.

/1st Army

1st Army: Our battle group has prevented the crossing of the Seine by the enemy, who have pushed forward to Mantes and Vernone. Reconnaissance reports the northern bank of the Seine north-west of Paris free of the enemy. Measures taken to clear the Bonnières - Mantes road of the enemy. Enemy tanks advancing between the Eure and the Seine to Louvières have occupied Gaillon. Since the evening of 19 August there has been an attack by strong enemy infantry and armoured units from the west on the bases of Orgeval and Neauphle. On the whole of the remaining front west of Paris only strong enemy reconnaissance concentrating on line of barriers south-west of Paris. Strong enemy tank assembly positions spotted in the area of Merville (15 km. south-south-west Etampes).

#### Situation in the air

##### (a) Enemy operations:

Owing to weather conditions no activity by twin and four-engined formations. Close-range bombing operations, in the north on tanks and motor vehicles in the area north of Bernay and in the south, against motor vehicles in the Mines area. In the morning about 200 American and 100 British fighters, concentrating on the upper Seine, in the afternoon about 400 American and 200 British fighters, concentrating on Versailles, as far as Chantilly.

##### (b) German operations:

Raids on the area Rouen - Elbeuf. Raids on Mexidon and road strafing in the Falaise area. Air supply in the area north-east of Argentan (Hill 262, 8 km. east of Trun).

#### Partisan situation

In Paris strike by police and railwaymen, several attacks by terrorists on German units in Paris. Appropriate counter-measures restored quiet.

#### Situation on 21 August, 1944

#### Situation on land

Today the enemy opened an encircling attack during the noon hours against the 5th Panzer Army front established on the south bank of the Seine. The main concentration was in the area round Lisieux and to the south of and between Verneuil and Dreux. Superior enemy armoured forces succeeded in pushing through to Lisieux; a further thrust was held by a counter-attack by units of the 21st Panzer Division. Between Verneuil and Dreux extensive defence front held by units of the 344th Division and 17th Luftwaffe Field Division was broken through; by evening the enemy had reached the line Rugles - Bretauil - Damville - south of Pacy. Between the Eure and the Seine the Fick battle group is engaged in heavy fighting against superior enemy armoured forces. II SS Panzer Corps succeeded in making contact with units of the 7th Army. The heavily wounded C-in-C. 7th Army as well, General Hausser, has fought his way through with a combat group. Between Vernon and Mantes the enemy has formed bridgeheads and is carrying out reconnaissance towards the north. The west front of the 5th Panzer Army was withdrawn on the night of 21/22 August to the line running from Touques to Lisieux - Glos - Orbec - Rugles. On the north bank of the Seine, units of the 16th Luftwaffe Field Division have opened a counter-attack. Near the 1st Army the enemy opened the attack towards the east during the afternoon between Etampes and Pithiviers. Etampes and Malesherbes taken. In Paris terrorist activity is increasing; construction of barricades in progress, concentrating on islands in the Seine and outskirts.

Southern front: Camec outflanked to the north by the enemy. Enemy is established 7 km. west of the town, our own forces fighting back on a defended position Montauroux - Gallian - Fayence. Commencement of fighting east and north-east of Toulon. Defence position set up north-east of Toulon taken from the enemy. New line: Cuge les Pins - St. Zacharie - Pourcieux - Rians - St. Paul les Durance. Between Donce and Valence strong saboteur activity. All the Rhone bridges between Lyon and the estuary destroyed. Crossing

/possible

possible only on single ferries which are not easily enough available. Fighter-bomber activity is hampering our own movements.

Situation at sea

From the northern and southern France area no shipping reports.

Situation in the air

(a) Enemy operations

No activity by bomber formations. Only minor activity by fighter forces mainly in the area of the Lower Seine; sorties into the area Rethel - Reims. Mosquito sorties reconnoitring towards south-west Germany.

(b) German operations

Air supply in the area 11 km. east of Vimoutiers (Hill 232). Bombing on AA and gun positions as well as on columns of vehicles. Mining according to plan.

Situation on 22 August, 1944

Situation on land

Northern front: 5th Panzer Army area north-west of Paris: Enemy attempts to cut off our own forces in the area between the Touques position, Evreux and the lower Seine have been continued. Enemy armoured forces have pushed forward to Pont L'Évêque to the east of Pierrefitte and Lisieux. Our own artillery has bombarded enemy assembly points south of Lisieux. Most of II SS Panzer Corps arrived in main defence line between Lisieux and Hilles. The enemy has advanced with 120 tanks from Damville (enemy occupied) and Garancière towards the north and pushed forward as far as Le Mesnil-Hardray and Gravigny and occupied Hill 123 north of Evreux with weak forces. La Heunière occupied by the enemy. Attack on Vernon repulsed. Enemy is attempting to extend Bonnières bridgehead. Our own attack is in progress against the bridgehead at Mantes on a line Mézy - Sailly.

Paris: Appearance of strong terrorist groups, mainly in the south-eastern suburbs. Combined thrust by terrorists with collaborationists, surprise attacks on German motor vehicles, flag hoistings. Erection of emergency rear position north and north-east of Paris in a line Conflans - Montmorency - Le Raincy - heights round Champigny is in progress.

Battle area south-west of Paris: Very strong enemy attacks in progress to reach east bank of the Seine south of Paris and to advance through in the direction of Troyes and Romilly. American XII Corps also opened an attack from the area south-west of Chateaudun. Our own main defence line Arpajon - La Ferte Alais - Prunay south of Essone - La Chapelle la Reine - Nemours - Montargis penetrated at several points by strong enemy armoured forces. Enemy crossing of the Seine near Mélum on the night of 22 August not confirmed. Enemy armoured forces have crossed bridge near Souppes. Senes occupied by terrorists to the strength of 2 battalions with 20 small one-man tanks. Enemy tanks have advanced with terrorists in the direction of Troyes and Romilly. Sens-Romilly area is thickly infested with terrorists. Our own bridgehead position both sides of Montereaux occupied. Enemy advance on Montargis. 1st Army is to withdraw across the Seine on the night of 23 August.

Brittany: Enemy gunfire in the areas St. Nazaire, Lorient, Brest. Fighting in the defence line before St. Nazaire. The commanding officer and German personnel of a Georgian Company have been massacred near Lorient. Some units deserted, the rest have been disarmed. Strong terrorist activity in the Crozan Peninsula sector.

St. Malo fighting area: Cécembre Battery in action against 2 enemy destroyers.

/Southern

Southern front: According to unconfirmed reports enemy landing have been going on near St. Jean de Luz since the morning of 22 August. Our own rearguards are resisting near Bayonne. Mont-de-Marsan area enemy occupied.

Situation at sea

No shipping reports from Seine bay. Reports state that supply traffic is proceeding according to plan.

Situation in the air

(a) Enemy operations

Very slight during the morning, some revival of fighter activity in the later afternoon, small fighter formations in the areas St. Quentin, Reims, Château-Thierry. Bombing unconfirmed in St. Quentin and Montdidier.

(b) German operations

Weather reconnaissance. Concentrated raid on Mantes. Supply in Broglie area. Target in Dreux area attacked without observation of effect. 250 kg. motor fuel, 18 containers each holding 250 kg. of ammunition, 3 containers each with 1000 kg. of ammunition, 1 container with 1000 kg. of provisions were dropped.

Situation on 23 August 1944.

Situation on land

Northern front: On the front Deauville - Lisieux - Rugles enemy attacks are concentrating south-east of Lisieux, enemy armoured forces have thrust forward to south of Courtonne. Situation in the Conches area and in the area south-east and north east of Le Neubourg, unsettled. Heavy fighting in progress near Le Neubourg. The battle group established along the Eure has occupied a new front line Heudebouville - Amfreville in spite of stronger enemy attacks. Our own attacks against the bridgehead Mantes-Gassicourt have not been successful. Defence line is from Juzieres - Laville - Guitran court - Fontenay - Drocourt to Vetheuil.

Paris: Terrorists have taken up their position in the Louvre with machine guns. Grand Palais burning. Surprise attacks on vehicles, mainly on the outskirts of the town.

1st Army combat area south-east of Paris: front line between Orsay and Corbeil retaken. Southern part of Melun occupied by the enemy. Forêt de Fontainebleau occupied by the enemy. Town in our own hands. Fighting in progress north of Nemours. Our battle group from Troyes moving in the direction of Sens, east of Villeneuve surrounded by the enemy, fought their way back to Troyes. Enemy in something like regimental strength east Villeneuve. Presence of the enemy near Romilly south of the Seine reported, not yet confirmed.

Brittany: Increased gunfire on the Lorient battle area. Luftwaffe station at Lorient partly destroyed by enemy action.

Southern front: Withdrawal movement according to plan. Enemy pressure negligible. Saboteur activity with heavy weapons in the area Montelimar - Loriol. Toulon: fighting still going on. According to unconfirmed reports the enemy is established 5 km. west and north-west of Marseilles.

Situation at sea

In the sea area off Cherbourg considerable traffic in north-south directions. In the morning minesweeping enemy unit west of Le Havre.

Southern France: In the afternoon Marseilles land front under fire from the sea. 1 battleship and 1 heavy cruiser took part.

/Situation

Situation in the air

(a) Enemy operations:

In the forenoon only slight reconnaissance activity. From 1400 hours, intensive fighter-bomber activity and armed reconnaissance activity in the fighting area and in the front line zone north of the Seine up to the estuary of the Scheldt. Low-level bombing attack on German motor vehicles and troops in the area Fontainebleau - Melun - Provins as well as on positions in the Angers area. Very strong reconnaissance concentrating in the Rouen - Dieppe area, as well as in the Melun - Gien area between the Seine and the Loire against troop movements and ammunition dumps, against strong vehicle concentrations in the Gisors area, river craft on the Seine near Quillebeuf, and against tanks, artillery and troops in the battle area west of the lower Seine.

(b) German operations:

Air cover over ferries both sides of Rouen. Raid on troop concentrations in the bend of the Seine north-west of Mantes. Air supply to area 3 km. east of Beaumesnil (Vernay area).

Partisan situation

Considerable saboteur groups in the area Orleans - Blois a Tours - Romocantin. Limoges, Chateauroux, Toulouse, Pau, Perigueux said to be occupied by terrorists.

Situation on 24 August, 1944

Situation on land

Northern front: 5th Panzer Army battle area north-west of Paris. Enemy has been concentrating largely on the hemming in of the German battle group in the La Touque - Evreux - lower Seine area. Pressure from the west is being strengthened by the engagement of an American Army Corps from the south. Enemy is presumably planning an advance in the direction of Rouen. Partial destruction and blocking of Rouen harbour in progress. Enemy attack against south front of the 5th Panzer Army between Risle and Eure with strong armoured forces in the area north-west of Dreux. Attacking spearheads intercepted in the Le Neubourg area. Enemy has occupied the town. The freeing of our own forces by a withdrawal in the night of 23/24 August on to a line running Honfleur - Bernay - northern edge of Le Neubourg - Acquigny (Eure) - Seine. Our battle group in the line Amfreville - Heudebouville had to fall back on to a line Louviers - bend of the Seine. On the north bank of the Seine our own counter-attack at first gained ground towards the west, then had to halt in the face of heavy enemy gunfire. La Roche-Guyon taken, bend of the Seine south-west of it cleared up.

Paris: Single enemy units pushed through as far as Paris (Etoile).

Battle area south-east of Paris: all bridges north of Corbeil mined. Since the morning of 23 August, strong enemy attacks in the Fontainebleau area. Enemy went north-west from there both sides of Vulaines over the Seine. Counter-thrust in progress. Between Sens and Troyes the enemy has not pressed any further towards the east. Likelihood of a continued enemy attack has to be prepared for. Our own forces are fighting their way back from Montargis (enemy occupied) to Auxerre.

Brittany: Lorient battle area: increased enemy gunfire on our own defence line. Our artillery brought in in defence against terrorist groups. Brest battle area: artillery activity on both sides. Battle area St. Malo: the Cécembre battery is still in action.

Southern front: The course of the progress of the enemy's forces confirms their intention to push forward in simultaneous attacks on Toulon on a broad front into the lower Rhone valley and in the direction of Grenoble. Up to

now there have been observed altogether 3 American infantry divisions, 3 French infantry divisions and 1 French armoured division. According to reconnaissance reports received up to the present moment, landing near St. Jean de Luz apparently only by commando troops. The enemy is not making a frontal pursuit on our own withdrawal movements to new line south of Avignon. Encircling movement in pursuit north of Durance - Lyons prevented by barrages and the activity of a panzer division. Continuous terrorist activity in the area Avignon, Carpentras, Montelimar.

Alpine area: Heavy fighting with terrorists in Haute Savoie. Annecy (35 km. south of Geneva) occupied by the enemy. Situation in the Grenoble area has grown more acute. Strong saboteur activity. It is no longer possible to hold the small town of St. Bernhard.

Saone-Rhone valley: partisan activity on roads along the Rhone south of Lyon.

Massif central: Considerable terrorist risings in Corrèze. Unit at Limoges is fighting its way back towards the east via Bourgneuf.

#### Situation at sea

Ships concentrated in the evening and night south-west Cap de la Hève. A large number of small vessels the beach. Enemy destroyers and MTB's trying to engage our Channel Island convoy were forced to retire by the Jersey battery. Convoy arrived according to plan. Our own patrol vessels on a supply run in Audierne bay intercepted by enemy sea forces.

#### Situation in the air

##### (a) Enemy operations:

About 50 aircraft in the area north of the lower Seine, and about 30 in the Belgium zone. Bombing reported only in the Somme estuary area. 50 - 60 Mosquitos in the Rhineland bombing in the area Cologne and Moers.

##### (b) German operations:

Strafing and mortar attacks on enemy-held bridge near Mantes and troop concentrations both sides of the bridge. Strafing and mortar attacks on bridge near Souppes and vehicle columns on the road Souppes - Sens - Troyes. Reconnaissance on roads and bridges. Reconnaissance in area Montargis - Sens - Romilly. Armed reconnaissance in Elbeuf - Mantes area.

#### Daily report for 27 August, 1944

##### German operations:

During the night formations of Fliegerkorps IX attacked the Sceaux district of Paris, bombing the main supply routes on both sides of Sceaux.

During the day formations of II Jagdkorps carried out operations against fighter-bombers and artillery-spotter aircraft.

##### Enemy operations:

Slight enemy activity over western occupied areas during the night. A strong R.A.F. heavy bomber formation flew over to attack targets in the Reich.

Around midday a strong formation of R.A.F. heavy bombers passed over to attack targets in the Reich, while 100 American twin-engined aircraft penetrated the battle area south-west of Rouen at approximately the same time.

Brisk fighter and fighter-bomber activity throughout the day.

/Sorties

The enemy

Sorties

Night:

70 intruders and long-range night fighters were in operation over the whole of the Holland - Belgium - northern France area. Bombs were reported on Arnheim and Venlo. Over the Reich strong R.A.F. heavy bomber formations consisting of some 700 - 800 aircraft attacked Koenigsberg, Kiel and Hamburg. About 30 Mosquitos flew over to make a nuisance raid on Berlin.

Day:

Around midday a strong R.A.F. heavy bomber formation flew over the Scheldt estuary into the Ruhr, dropping bombs on Homberg.

(First R.A.F. day attack on the Reich! )

At approximately the same time an American formation of some 100 twin-engined aircraft was in operation over the battle area south-west of Rouen. Fighters and fighter-bombers were very active from 0930 hours. R.A.F. formations numbering about 200 aircraft operated over the Rouen area, and some 500 American aircraft over the Mantes and Melun areas, attacking troop movements, tanks, vehicles, ships and a battle headquarters.

Fighter-bombers were very active throughout the day. Some 300 American fighters were in action over the whole of the Belgium-northern France area, attacking transport targets.

Aircraft reconnoitred movements on roads in the Rouen and Senlis areas.

Defence

In an attack on the Paris district heavy concentrations of A.A. were encountered in the target area.

German operations

Orders

Operational order No.125 for the night 26/27 August,1944.

1. Fliegerkorps IX will make a heavy attack with mixed bomb load on the Sceaux district (southern outskirts of Paris), concentrating on the main supply routes on both sides of Sceaux from Chatenay Malabry to Montrouge (route 20) and from the crossroads directly east of Villacoublay to Montrouge.
2. The city centre will be avoided at all costs.
3. The Army will bring some containers of leaflets to Le Culot for K.G. 30, which will be taken on the operation and dropped over Paris if they arrive in Le Culot by 1800 hours.
4. Navigational aids: none.

Results of the day's operations:

Operational Strength:	Night	Day
II Jagdkorps	16	106 aircraft
Fliegenkorps IX	111	3 "
Long-range recce Gruppe 123	-	4 "
	127	113 aircraft
Total	240 aircraft	

/Successes



5. H.Q. Luftflotte 3 reports to OKL Operations Staff that Arlon will be the next battle headquarters in the east.

Transfers, arrivals, departures:

1. 3/NJG 4 will transfer to Bayreuth - Bindlach.
2. Long-distance recon Gruppe 123 with Staff will transfer immediately from Rheims to Luxembourg - Sandweiler.
3. Luftflotte 3 requests OKL Operations Staff to transfer I/JG301 back to the Reich area at once.
4. 4(F)/121 will transfer from Juvincourt to Florennes and 4(F)/123 from Rheims to Charleville.

Daily report for 28 August 1944

Transfer of H.Q. of Luftflotte 3 from Rheims to Arlon:

In accordance with the transfer order issued on 25 August, Luftflotte 3 units stationed in Rheims set out for Arlon in M/T at 0400 hours.

Accommodation in Arlon: Führ. Abt. in the Palais de Justice; O.Qu. and Höh. Nafü in the convent of the Soeurs de Sacre Coeur, and the in-lying piquet in a bank building.

No reports on German operations during the night of 27/28 August or on 28 August have been submitted.

Enemy operations

Slight activity during the night.

Brisk fighter and fighter-bomber activity during the day, and also operations by twin-engined formations over the battle area, and by four-engined formations over the Reich.

The enemy

Sorties

Night:

Slight long-range night fighter and intruder activity over Belgium and northern France. Single aircraft were in operation over northern Germany as far as the Berlin area, and a Mosquito formation attacked Mannheim.

Day:

Brisk fighter and fighter-bomber activity over the whole of the Belgium - northern France area. Bombing attacks were made on railway installations, flak positions, and a fuel plant in Givet.

Twin-engined formations approached in the afternoon; no bombing attacks reported.

Towards evening a large R.A.F. heavy bomber formation attacked installations in the V1 launching zone.

In the morning some 300 American fighters attacked railways in western Germany.

(No air defence or reconnaissance reports.)

/German

German operations

Orders:

Operational order for the night 27/28 August:

Fliegerkorps IX

Concentrated attack on Melun. Main objectives: Bridges and arterial roads in the north and east.

No other reports on German operations have been submitted owing to transfer of units.

Daily report for 29 August, 1944

German operations:

Fliegerkorps IX made a concentrated attack on Melun during the night.

Units of II Jagdkorps carried out fighter-bomber sweeps over the Soissons - Rheims - Chalons sur Mer - Chateau Thierry area.

Only slight enemy activity during the day and night.

The enemy

Sorties

Night:

Small-scale long-range night fighter and intruder operations over Belgium and northern France, carried out by about 15 aircraft.

About 50 Mosquitoes attacked Essen.

Day:

Only incomplete reports are available owing to land line difficulties.

Four-engined and twin-engined formations did not carry out operations over the western occupied area.

Owing to weather conditions fighter and fighter-bomber operations were on a smaller scale than those carried out yesterday. Some 200 aircraft bombed St. Trond and Bouchain airfields in Belgium.

No reports of air activity in other areas have been submitted.

Defence:

Moderate, accurate light and heavy A.A. defence encountered in the attack on Melun.

German operations

Orders:

Operational order for Fliegerkorps IX is not available.

Results of the day's operations

Operational strength	Night	Day
II Jagdkorps	-	74 aircraft
Fliegerkorps IX	118	- aircraft
	118	74 aircraft
	Total: 192 aircraft	

/Successes:

Successes:

(a) Against enemy aircraft:

By units of II Jagdkorps 1 aircraft shot down

(b) Against targets at sea: none.

(c) Against targets on land:

Fliegerkorps IX: Bombs fell in the target area in Melun. Several large fires and heavy explosions with sheets of flame - presumably an ammunition dump - were observed.

German losses

Fliegerkorps IX	1 Ju 88
II Jagdkorps	1 Fw 190
Transport Command 1	2 Ju 52

Detailed report:

(a) Night operations:

Operations by units of Fliegerkorps IX

Of 118 aircraft sent to make a concentrated attack on Melun, 116 reached the target area and carried out the operation as described above.

2 aircraft broke off owing to technical difficulties.

1 aircraft was shot down by a night fighter over Chievres airfield. 1 man was slightly injured, and another rescued unhurt.

(b) Day operations:

Operations by units of II Jagdkorps:

74 aircraft carried out fighter-bomber sweeps in the Soissons - Chalons sur Mer - Chateau Thierry area and armed reconnaissance operations during the course of the day.

Orders and instructions:

1. Re-deployment of flak: 16th Flak Division will command flak units in Army Group B area and III Flak Korps, with subordinated 13th Flak Division, will assemble remaining flak units in the Luxemburg area and command flak in Army Group G area.

2. Order to both Feld Lg. Kdos with reference to A.A. defence of the Arlon transport junction.

Daily report for 30 August, 1944

German operations:

No operations during the night.

During the day units of II Jagdkorps carried out low-level attacks on ground targets in the Chalons sur Mer area. Transport Command 1 transported women, wounded and equipment from the Dijon area.

Enemy operations:

Only slight activity in the west during the night.

/In

In the morning a medium-sized bomber formation was in action over the V1 launching zone. Fighter and fighter-bomber activity was slight, but increased in the afternoon.

The enemy

Sorties

Night:

About 15 long-range night fighters and intruders were in operation over the Belgium - northern France area; no bombing attacks were reported.

Day:

In the morning some 500 American heavy bombers approached the V1 launching zone in two waves.

At the same time fighters and fighter-bombers carried out limited operations over the lower Seine battle area. In the afternoon there were somewhat more extensive operations over the northern France - Belgium area.

German operations

Orders:

Operational order No.127 for the night 29/30 August:

Fliegerkorps IX

All available aircraft will attack the southern quarter of Chalons sur Mer, concentrating on bridges and crossings.

Results of the day's operations:

Operational strength (day only):

II Jagdkorps:	48 aircraft
Long distance recce	
Gruppe 123:	1 aircraft
Transport Command 1	21 aircraft
	<hr/>
	70 aircraft

Successes:

- (a) Against enemy aircraft: no report.
- (b) Against targets at sea: none
- (c) Against targets on land:

By II Jagdkorps: Low-level attacks were carried out on tank assembly areas east of Cahlons sur Mer and on tank-borne infantry. Results were not observed.

German losses:

II Jagdkorps:	1 Me 109
Transport Command 1	8 He 111 (shot down or missing during transfer)

Detailed report: (day operations only)

Operations by units of II Jagdkorps:

48 aircraft in 8 groups attacked tanks and troops in the Metz - Charleville - Mourmelon - Rheims - Laon - Soissons - Chalons sur Mer area. For results see above.

/Operations

Operations by Transport Command 1:

21 Ju. 52's transported a total of 34 women and 342 wounded from Dijon.

Operations by long distance Recce Gruppe 123:

1 aircraft reconnoitred roads in the Sedan - Hirson - Montcornet - Rehel - Vouziers area. No information of importance was obtained.

Orders and instructions:

1. OKL order issued regarding complete subordination of all Luftflotte 3 night fighter units to Luftflotte Reich. Luftflotte 3 requests for night fighter operations over Luftflotte 3 area will be complied with by Luftflotte Reich.
2. Reports of German bomber operations over the invasion front submitted by the commander of the 3rd Paratroop Division will be passed on to OKL Operations Staff and to Fliegerkorps IX. It is mentioned in an extract that enemy batteries ceased firing as soon as German night bombers appeared, affording troops considerable relief, and allowing withdrawals to be carried out practically unnoticed by the enemy and supplies to be brought up without interference.

Marking German advanced lines by firing green Verey lights has not proved successful, as the enemy soon began to make use of these signals to cause confusion, which led to German losses through bombing. It is suggested that Verey light signals be constantly changed.

3. III/K.G.3 is instructed to co-operate directly with LXV Army Corps.
4. Subordinate authorities are expressly instructed that the Luftgan Field H.Q. is to be informed of unit transfers punctually, as regulated supply of units will otherwise be endangered.
5. OKL Operations Staff is to be informed of units transferred to the Reich because of the situation. It is also requested that the necessary flak defence be provided, and that Luftflotte Reich be informed, because of supplies.
6. OKL Operations Staff is requested to give permission for the construction of the following battle headquarters as quickly as possible:
  - (a) Luftflotte 3 Staff:
    - (i) Mayen district provisionally
    - (ii) Ultimately the Frankfurt/Main area (Usingen)
  - (b) II Jagdkorps: Aachen
  - (c) 4th Jagd division
    - (i) Temporarily Metz
    - (ii) Construction in the Karlsruhe area
  - (d) Fliegerkorps IX: Stuttgart area
7. The Chief of the Luftwaffe General Staff is urgently requested to represent to the Reichmarshall the necessity for immediate preparation of further battle headquarters behind the German defence line in the west.

Luftflotte 3: at Usingen nr. Friedburg.

Fliegerkorps IX: in the Osnabrück and Stuttgart districts.

II Jagdkorps: in Aachen district.

4th Jagddivision: in the Karlsruhe district.

A.H.B.6 Distribution

Same as for Translation VII/85