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JULY, 1944

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1 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Enemy assault detachments in company strength were successfully repulsed east of the Orne. German artillery bombarded landings at La Breche. Apart from this, nothing of particular importance occurred.

The enemy brought up further forces into the area of penetration west of the Orne, where 4 infantry divisions, 1 armoured division, and 1 - 2 armoured brigades have already been identified.

A German counter-attack was halted by concentrated artillery fire and troops retired to their original positions. At about midday enemy tanks attacked from Baron towards the south-west, and from the Grainville area south of Odon and Tessel-Bretteville towards the south-east. Fighting is still in progress. The enemy penetration north of St Lo from the Villers-Fossard area was blocked and fighting brought to a standstill.

Since midday only small scale reconnaissance raids were carried out, and these were repulsed. Only artillery harassing fire was reported from the rest of the front.

The Keil battle group was pushed back to the north-western tip of the Jobourg Peninsula and is engaged in its final battle.

Situation at Sea

German S-boats were not active owing to weather conditions.

During the night there were heavy shipping concentrations off the Orne estuary, consisting mainly of transport vessels. Among others the following were identified: 2 battleships, about 80 vessels on a southerly course and a further 20 proceeding north approximately 25 km west of Cap de la Heve.

There were about 30 - 40 landing craft off the Orne estuary during the afternoon. Apart from this there is nothing new to report.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy Operations:

About 100 - 150 four-engined aircraft bombed the goods-yard at Hierzon.

Intruders were active in the area of Belgium - northern France, and bombing and machine-gunning attacks were carried out on the airfields at St Trond, Le Culot and Melsbroek.

About 50 Mosquitoes entered the Duisburg area, dropping bombs on Duisburg and Moers.

On the evening of 30 June about 150 Halifax bombers strongly escorted by fighters attacked German contrations in the Villers-Bocage area. Afterwards the escort of Thunderbolts carried out low-level attacks.

Bombing operations were impeded by the weather during the day.

In the afternoon about 300 - 400 Lancaster and Halifax bombers were operational over the V-weapon launching area, dropping bombs in the Neufchatel and Abbeville areas. From 1900 hours about

/40 Liberators

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40 Liberators flew over the V-weapon launching area. Bombs were dropped in the Doullens area.

Fighter and fighter-bomber sorties: Altogether about 600 American and 370 British fighters were operational.

Reconnaissance of road and rail traffic and railway stations was carried out as far as the line Paris-Chartres-Alencon, single aircraft penetrating to Nevers-Bordeaux.

(b) German operations:

Reconnaissance was carried out in the sea area Port en Bessin. About 300 small and medium landing craft were observed at anchor.

Three large transport vessels at anchor and about 80 landing craft (shuttle service) were observed off the Vire estuary.

Low level attacks were carried out against targets on land whenever the weather and air situation allowed.

Mine-laying operations were carried out north of Port en Bessin.

Security patrols were flown over the Biscay area.

Partisan Situation

It is expected that in the coming moon period an increased amount of weapons and sabotage material will be dropped for the Resistance movement. Resistance groups are reported to be awaiting the expected landing in the Somme area at the beginning of July.

2 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

East of the Orne the Merville-Francheville area has been under heavy fire from land-based and naval artillery since early morning.

West of the Orne fighting has ceased, presumably owing to heavy losses on both sides. Apart from heavy harassing fire from land-based and naval artillery in an west of the area of penetration and several reconnaissance raids, some of them supported by tanks, no fighting of particular importance has occurred.

State of readiness Stage II was reimposed on the coastal defence sector at 0940 hours.

Situation at Sea

At midday 2 battleships were reported west of the Orne estuary, and presumably the same formation consisting of 1 battleship and 3 cruisers was reported north-west of the Orne estuary in the afternoon.

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Between 24 June and 30 June, 25,432 tons of supplies, 7,856 vehicles and 44,646 men were landed according to radio reports. These figures probably indicate only a fraction of the landings which were actually carried out during the period.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

About 20 aircraft flew over the Dinan-Laval-Tours area, presumably dropping supplies for partisans.

About 20 Mosquitoes entered the Rhine-Westfalia industrial area. Operations were limited by weather conditions during the morning.

From 1200 hours about 250 Lancasters and 400 - 420 Flying Fortresses and Liberators flew over the V-weapons launching area, dropping large numbers of bombs in the Berck s.M-Doullens-Amiens-Somme estuary area. Single aircraft flew over the Hazebrouck-Aire and St Pel-Etaples areas.

At the same time 30 - 40 Marauders flew over the Seine Bay area. Bombs were dropped north of Yvetot.

Fighter and fighter-bomber sorties: In all about 800 American and 550 British fighters were operational, concentrating on the area of penetration east of Caen.

Long-range reconnaissance of road and rail traffic extended to the area Bernay-Laigle-Mortagne-Alencon-Domfront.

Close reconnaissance of tank and vehicle movements was carried out as far as the line Beauville-Falaise-Vire.

Low-level attacks were made on bridges over the Orne south of Caen, on concentrations in the St Lo area and in the area of penetration.

(b) German operations:

Mine-laying operations were carried out successfully in spite of bad weather. Reconnaissance 1 km north of Ste Croix revealed an airfield with runways and parking points under construction.

Partisan Situation

An agent's report once again confirms that Resistance groups are being held back, presumably until P-day of the second landing.

Seventy-five cases of sabotage on railways and four of bridge-blowing were reported in the area of Military Commander Belgium-Northern France between 29 June and 1 July.

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3 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Enemy artillery put down harassing fire east of the Orne in the Merville area. Apart from this, nothing of particular importance occurred.

Artillery harassing fire west of the Orne extended as far as the Vire. Enemy attacks in company strength were repulsed north of Hottot.

After heavy artillery preparation the enemy carried out attacks in several places as far as the west coast of Cotentin. Local penetrations were made at St Jores, Pretot and St Sauveur de Pierre Pont, south-west of Varenquebec, and at St Lo Ourville, but these were blocked. Using fresh forces, in particular tanks and heavy artillery, the enemy continually intensified his attacks during the afternoon. All attacks were repulsed at St Jores. St Suzanne was occupied by the enemy. Enemy forces attacking from the Bois de Limors towards the south-west pushed forward into the Neufmesnil area. Counter-measures are in progress. An enemy penetration from the St Lo Ourville sector into the Denneville district has been blocked.

Numerous fresh enemy batteries have been brought up, including a battery of over 20 cm calibre which has been reported for the first time.

As a result of American propaganda, 102 men of the Tartar battalion deserted to the enemy.

Situation at Sea

Extract from an agent's report: On the evening of 2 July, an enemy transport vessel sank in an unidentified position in the invasion area. All on board were rescued. The sinking was presumably caused by a mine.

No reports were made during the day.

In the evening there were two cruisers off the Orne estuary and seven transport vessels and landing craft east of Le Havre.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

Operations were extensively impeded by the weather.

No enemy air activity had been reported by midday.

Long-range reconnaissance of road and rail traffic was carried out as far as the line Laigle-Domfront-Rennes and Le Mans.

Close reconnaissance was concentrated on road traffic, tank and artillery positions as far as the Mezidon-Falaise-Beny-Bocage area. Some bombs were dropped.

Low-level attacks were carried out in the area south-west of Caen and west and south-west of Carentan.

(b) German operations:

Patrols were carried out over the Paris-Ivry area from 1115 to 1245 hours owing to the funeral of Generaloberst Dollmann at 1130 hours.

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Low-level attacks were made on vehicles, matériel, and troop concentrations. Results were not observed. Mine-laying and attacks on shipping were carried out north of Courseulles; airfields in the bridgehead were also attacked.

Partisan Situation

Activity was intensified in north-east France and Belgium; railway sabotage in Brittany has also increased. Considerably more B.B.C. messages were transmitted for the northern district. German operations are being carried out in some strength 20 km north-east of Chalons s.M. and in the Clermont Ferrand area.

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4 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Strong enemy infantry and armoured attacks which commenced in the morning on both sides of the Bayeux-Caen road have pushed forward as far as Carpiquet. Fighting is still in progress. It is expected that the enemy will continue his attacks, especially in view of the fact that tank assembly areas have been identified north of Cambes and north-east of Rosel.

In the Odon bridgehead heavy enemy artillery fire was returned by German artillery and mortars, which bombarded Baron, Mouen and Mendrainville.

The enemy continued his attacks on both sides of the Carentan-Periers road, commencing with small infantry and tank forces which were later strengthened. All the attacks were repulsed or pushed back by counter-attacks. Heavy and costly fighting is still in progress. Local penetrations east of Prairies Marecageuses de Gorges have been blocked, and the enemy penetration at St Suzanne was cleaned up by a counter-attack. Measures are in progress to counter penetrations at La Butte and south of La Poterie. An enemy penetration north-east of La Haye du Puits has been cleaned up and at present German troops are holding the line Bolleville-Baudreville to the west.

Situation at Sea

A shipping concentration including three warships and several transports was observed north-west of the Orne estuary in the afternoon. Two battleships, three cruisers and six mine-sweepers or escort vessels were observed north of the Orne estuary. There is an unloading point on La Breche beach.

One cruiser and eight transports were still located off the Orne estuary in the evening.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

Bombing Operations: In the morning about 520 Fortresses and and Liberators bombed airfields at Evreux, Conches, Marcilly and Beaumont s.O.

In the afternoon 300 Halifaxes operating over the V-weapon launching zone dropped bombs in the Abbeville, Doullens and Neufchatel areas. About 36 Marauders and 30 Mitchells made bombing raids in the Sable, Laval and Le Mans areas.

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Fighter and fighter-bomber operations (including fighter escorts): Altogether about 2,000 American and 800 British aircraft were operational. Bombing and machine-gun attacks were made on Hazebrouck, Cambrai, Beauvais, Mantes, Bernay, Vernon, Tours, Saumur, and in the Le Mans and Laval areas. Attacks were also made on the airfields at Chartres and Mondésir.

Low-level operations: These operations were concentrated against artillery positions, tank and vehicle movements, bridges, supply dumps and battle headquarters in the Carpiquet and Verson areas and between St Lo and La Haye du Puits.

German Operations:

Bombing operations: Mine-laying was carried out according to plan. The effect of anti-shipping operations was not observed.

Reconnaissance: Pier-like installations were observed on the beach north of Bayeux. Airfields illuminated with white lights were identified south-south-west of Valognes, south-east of St Mère Eglise and north-east of Trevières. Aircraft were observed taking off from airfield south-east of St Mère Eglise.

No enemy shipping was observed during reconnaissance of Straits of Dover.

Partisan Situation

Terrorist activity continues to be concentrated on railway and cable sabotage. Groups are being reorganised in the Orleans-Blois and St Quentin areas.

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5 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

The enemy has not continued his attacks in the Carpiquet penetration area apparently owing to the heavy losses of the previous day. Artillery put down harassing fire in the Evrecy area. Apart from this, nothing of particular importance occurred.

The enemy has extended his penetration on both sides of route 171 (from Carentan to the south-west) as far as the heights to the north of Culot. German counter-measures are in progress. In the Le Plessis penetration area we succeeded in pushing the enemy back in a counter-attack. Enemy pressure is still being maintained.

East of La Haye du Puits the enemy succeeded in extending his penetration in heavy fighting. Bois de la Poterie was occupied by the enemy. La Haye du Puits and St Symphorien, which were temporarily lost, have been retaken in a counter-attack. All enemy attacks were effectively supported by strong artillery fire and fighter-bombers.

Front line: Southern edge of Bois de la Poterie - St Symphorien (in German hands) - Biermont - La Faire - Bretteville.

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Situation at Sea

Four cruisers, one monitor, 13 destroyers and 13 escort craft were observed north of the Orne estuary in the morning.

Three large vessels on fire were sighted at Lion s.M in the afternoon with 60 - 80 small craft nearby, presumably carrying out rescue work. Four merchant ships and 20 - 30 landing craft were observed north of Courseulles. The landing craft were operating a shuttle service and were presumably unloading the ships. About 120 landing craft and two large warships were observed off the Orne estuary.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

About 600 four-engined aircraft flew over the area between Paris and the Loire. Bombs were dropped on railway stations at Villeneuve-Triage and Orleans. In addition, about 70 aircraft flew over the Belgium-Northern France area bombing an ammunition dump at Creil.

About 50 Mosquitoes flew over towards western Germany.

During the morning about 180 Fortresses and Liberators bombed airfields at Volkel, Gilze-Rijen, Eindhoven, Melsbroeck, and Le Culot. 120 Liberators bombed an ammunition dump at L'Isle Adam.

At about midday some 500 Fortresses and Liberators from Italy approached southern France and bombed Toulon, Sète, Agde, Béziers, and the airfield and railway station at Montpellier. Some of these aircraft flew on to England.

Altogether about 250 Marauders flew over the battle area and V-weapon launching zone during the morning and afternoon, making numerous bombing attacks on Seine bridges and ferries north-west of Paris.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations: Altogether about 2,500 American and 650 British aircraft were operational.

(b) German operations:

Attacks were made on shipping off the Orne estuary.

Sunk: 1 destroyer, 1 freighter of 7,000 tons.

Damaged: 1 merchant vessel of 6,000 tons, 1 light cruiser, 1 destroyer, 1 passenger ship of 9,000 tons.

Two illuminated airfields south-east of the Vire estuary were attacked.

Partisan Situation

Continued railway, bridge, and cable sabotage and an increasing number of attacks in Belgium, southern and south-eastern France, and in Brittany.

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6 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Enemy artillery concentrations and intense air activity were reported along the whole Panzergruppe West front. The enemy is digging in at Carpiquet and has made local withdrawals north of Hottot. The German attack north of Culot has been recommenced.

The enemy penetration at Beaucoudray achieved with strong artillery and air support has been blocked on the line Le Plessis - La Vielle - Hill 41.

Hill 122 on the northern edge of the Forêt Mont-Castre has been retaken in a counter-attack. Preparations to close the gap made at this point with a Panzer division are proceeding according to plan. Bretteville and Montgardon have been retaken in a counter-attack. An enemy penetration east of Montgardon was blocked in the La Surellerie area.

Situation at Sea

In the morning there were 100 vessels of various types north to north-west of the Orne estuary, one battleship north and another north-east of Courseulles and a monitor off Arromanches.

Heavy shipping concentrations were observed along the whole invasion coast in the afternoon. A semi-circular unloading point was located at Arromanches with a quay consisting of old ships. The English coast both sides of Dover was screened by smoke.

Air Situation

Enemy operations:

(a) About 500 four-engined aircraft flew into the V-weapon launching zone and dropped a large number of bombs in the St Omer - Hazebrouck and Neufchatel - east Yerville areas. A further 100 four-engined aircraft bombed the marshalling yard and airfield at Dijon.

Aircraft dropped supplies for partisans in Brittany and Belgium.

About 70 Mosquitoes bombed the Dueren and Muenchen - Gladbach areas.

In the morning about 800 Liberators and Fortresses, 250 Halifaxes and 200 Marauders were operational over northern France. Bombs were dropped on targets in the V-weapon launching zone, the airfields at Moorsele, Vitry en Artois and Denain, and on Armentieres.

In the evening about 500 Fortresses and Liberators, 400 Lancasters and Halifaxes and 150 Marauders were operational over northern France and west of Paris. Bombs were dropped on targets in the V-weapon launching zone, Chartres airfield, and the Loire bridges at Gien and Sully.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations:

About 2,300 American and 1,000 British aircraft were operational and numerous bombing and strafing attacks were

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made in the district south of the battle area as far as the Loire in the coastal area of Vierzon station, on three gasometers at Lille and on railway targets at Armentieres.

About 300 Liberators attacked Kiel, dropping bombs in the city area.

German operations:

Attacks were made on airfields, on occupied roads and villages in the bridgehead and west of the Orne.

Result of armed reconnaissance operations of 5 July, 1944 (obtained only with the help of very strong fighter cover):

About 120 landing craft deployed to a depth of two kilometres, 2 large warships and 5 large merchant ships between the Orne estuary and Arromanches. Six advanced landing grounds with runways west of Caen. Large concentrations of vessels of all sizes in the area north of Grandchamp - Les Bains - Bayeux. 15 ships burning in the Orne estuary.

Partisan Situation

Undiminished sabotage activity in Brittany and continued air supply operations. During the night of 4/5 July there were twenty-two cases of railway sabotage and two of bridge-blowing in the area of Military Commander Belgium-Northern France.

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7 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

The enemy made slight local withdrawals at Verson and Longraye. Northwest of St Lo the enemy has extended his offensive to the Vire. West of Aire, pont de St Fromond and La Lande have been captured.

Enemy tanks advancing through Le Mesnil to the south and through the Culot penetration area reached Les Ormeaux and Sainteny and took Raffoyville after pivoting to the west. A German counter-attack blocked the enemy penetration at Sainteny.

South of Beaucoudray encircled enemy units are being annihilated. Fighting is still in progress with enemy units which pushed forward into the Mont Castre area.

Situation at Sea

During the night 6/7 July German S-boats sank one cruiser, two destroyers, and one transport vessel.

One medium warship and 15 - 20 small craft were observed north of the Orne estuary. One cruiser, two destroyers and 20 other vessels, including large landing craft, were identified north of Port en Bessin.

One battleship, two cruisers, one monitor and a large number of transport vessels were sighted north of Courseulles.

There were smoke screens both sides of Dover.

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Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

(Night of 6/7 July). Sixty aircraft were operational over the Belgium-northern France area and over western France as far as the Loire, presumably supplying partisans.

Night-fighter operations and intense enemy activity were concentrated in the Seine Bay sea area.

About 35 - 40 Mosquitoes were active over the Rhine - Ruhr area.

During the morning about 1,100 - 1,200 Fortresses and Liberators strongly escorted by fighters bombed aircraft works and hydrogenation plants at Halle, Leipzig, and Aschersleben. (At the same time about 500 four-engined aircraft from Italy bombed hydrogenation plants at Heydebreck, Odertal, Ratibor and Cosel).

In the west enemy daylight air operations were more limited than of late owing to weather conditions. However, in the late evening about 400 Lancasters and Halifaxes and about 250 Marauders approached western France and dropped bombs, presumably in the bridgehead.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations:

About 650 American and 800 British aircraft were operational, concentrating on the landing area and to the south.

(b) German operations:

Operations continued to be severely impeded by enemy air superiority and were limited to mine-laying activity in the Seine Bay and bombing and strafing attacks on airfield and villages in the bridgehead.

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8 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Panzergruppe West: On the morning of 8 July the enemy commenced a concentric attack on Caen from the north-east, north, and north-west of the city after large scale operations by four-engined and twin-engined aircraft and very concentrated artillery preparation. Hérouville has been captured by the enemy. Enemy forces made a penetration at Lebisey (north of Caen) and advanced to La Giraffe - Calbaret. Epron has been retaken after a German counter-attack. An enemy armoured attack on Galmanche was repulsed. German forces were able to contain penetrations on both sides and directly south of the Tortevalle-Caen road and north of Bois de St Germain by the evening of 8 July. German counter-attacks are in progress north and north-west of Caen and at Bois de St Germain.

AOK 7: The enemy bridgehead over the Vire has been extended to the line St Fromond - La Perrine - Chateau le Mesnil - Thiebaut - southern edge of Graignes. So far it has not been possible to block the penetration. An

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enemy group was annihilated in the south-eastern part of Foret de Mont Castre. The north-eastern part of Foret de Mont Castre is once more in German hands and La Haye du Puits has been retaken after heavy, fluctuating fighting.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

During the night about 600 four-engined aircraft bombed railway installations in the Paris area and special installations in the V-weapon launching area at Creil. About 50 - 60 aircraft were operational over western France as far as the Loire, presumably supplying partisans.

About 70 Mosquitoes bombed Berlin, and a further 20 attacked Gladbeck and Scholven.

During the morning about 1,400 Fortresses and Liberators were operational. About 300 - 400 aircraft operating over Holland and Belgium bombed the Vlakte bridge and railway installations in the Denderleu area, and about 600 made numerous attacks on targets in the V-weapon launching zone, airfields at Poix-Nord and an ammunition dump at Creil.

At the same time about 250 Marauders attacked targets in the V-weapon launching zone.

At midday and towards evening Marauder formations (220 - 230 aircraft) flew over Brittany as far as the Loire and bombed Nantes, Rennes and Chateaubriand.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations:

About 3,000 American and 600 British aircraft were operational. Bombing and strafing attacks were made on the railway station at Villers-Cotterets and on airfields at Corneilles, Coulommiers, Marzilly, Evreux and Laval.

Reconnaissance:

Reconnaissance aircraft concentrated on railway installations in Belgium and on road and rail traffic in western France. Low-level armed reconnaissance was concentrated on the Caen area and north of Villers-Bocage.

(b) German operations:

Mine-laying north of Luc s.M. and Courseulles; attacks on occupied roads and villages west of the Orne; attacks on airfields in the Caen-Bayeux area; weather reconnaissance west of the Orne; reconnaissance of London and the Seine Bay. (Large shipping concentrations north of Arromanches. Intense shipping activity in the whole of the sea area covered).

Situation at Sea

A shipping concentration, including 16 transports and 9 landing craft, was observed west of Le Havre in the morning. A group of transports was sighted north of the Orne estuary in the evening. No details were observed owing to bad visibility. A battleship was identified off Luc s.M.

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Partisan Situation

Further intensified activity by Resistance movements and groups of agents.

Numerous trunk cables were sabotaged after midnight on 7 July in the Belgium/northern France area, being the first occasion on which operations have been carried out to this extent.

In the battle area increased cases of treachery have been established among the French population.

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9 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Very heavy artillery and mortar fire was put down east of the Orne. West of the river heavy and costly fighting continued into the night.

In spite of stubborn German resistance enemy forces from the north and north-east who lacked nothing, succeeded in penetrating the northern quarter of Caen, where heavy fighting is still in progress.

St Germain has been occupied by the enemy and the German line pushed back to Caen-south - Le Mesnil - Jumeaux.

Units of the 12th Hitler Youth SS Panzer division surrounded in the Epron - Galmanche area are continuing to offer the enemy stubborn resistance. Throughout the day Caen and the 12th SS Panzer division battle area were subjected to very strong enemy artillery bombardment.

The newly arrived 1st SS Panzer division, which already has units in action south and south-west of Caen, is being used to prevent an enemy breakthrough towards the south.

An enemy attack supported by artillery and mortar fire was repulsed south-west of Grainville.

Fighting is still in progress at the penetration north of Bois de St Germain.

AOK 7: After enemy forces had extended the bridgehead over the Vire to the line Cavigny - Rauline - east Le Desert - east Le Mesnil - Angot and thrust forward to Tribehou, the right wing of the 17th SS Panzer-Grenadier division was pushed back to the line Bahais - La Cocquerie. Fighting with infantry and armoured forces is in progress on both sides of the Montmartin - Pont Hébert road in the St Fremond penetration area. The situation in the Tribehou penetration area is confused. Enemy attacks supported by tanks on both sides of Sainteny have been repulsed. A local penetration south-west of La Haye du Puits (again in enemy hands) is being cleaned up.

Situation at Sea

One hundred ships of various types were observed in the sea area north-west of Port en Bessin, including six freighters each of 6,000 tons. Forty large vessels and many small craft were sighted 10 - 15 km off the Orne estuary. Shuttle traffic is operating between ships. Thirteen transports and several escort vessels were observed in the afternoon north of Courseulles - Luc s.M. on a level with Le Havre. Further north a convoy was sighted proceeding on a northerly course.

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Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

About 100 aircraft flew in between the Scheldt and Loire estuaries, the majority presumably to drop supplies for partisans. No bombing attacks were reported. About 15 - 20 Mosquitoes bombed the hydrogenation plant at Scholven.

In the morning about 150 American four-engined aircraft and 350 twin-engined aircraft flew over the Somme estuary - Paris - Orleans - Caen area.

Bombs were dropped on the airfield at Chateaudun, bridges at Tours, and an unsuccessful attack made on the Seine bridge at Mantes.

At midday about 800 American and British four-engined aircraft dropped bombs in the V-weapon launching zone.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations were directed against tanks, bridges, artillery positions and troop movements in the Caen area and against supply traffic of all types in the area south-west of Carentan - Periers - Lessay.

(Altogether about 1,300 American and 600 British fighters were operational.)

(b) German operations:

Operations planned by the Luftwaffe were greatly impeded by enemy air superiority during heavy bomber incursions.

Attacks were made on a beached battleship off the Orne estuary, occupied villages on the Cotentin peninsula and on airfields and roads in the area north of the line Caen - Bayeux.

Mine-laying operations were carried out according to plan.

Partisan Situation

According to the B.B.C., General Koenig has arrived in Cherbourg.

Orders regarding the execution of members of the German Armed Forces and documents calling for the good treatment of German auxiliary troops were found in copies of "Franc-tireurs et Partisans".

On 7 and 8 July, 1944, there were twenty-nine cases of sabotage on railways in the district of Military Commander Northern France, while instances of sabotage of cables suddenly increased to nineteen.

The sabotage situation remains unchanged in other areas.

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10 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Panzergruppe West: During the morning the enemy succeeded in pushing German troops back to the line Colombelles - Calix - southern edge of Caen - Verson in spite of stubborn resistance.

In addition to units of the 12th SS Panzer division already reported encircled to the north of the city, small battle groups are still fighting in the rubble of Caen. (Lack of artillery ammunition has had a particularly disadvantageous effect during the heavy fighting).

An enemy attack from Baron towards the south-east has so far been repulsed.

A German counter-attack against Bois de St Germain broke down with heavy losses in face of flame-throwing tanks.

In the afternoon Maltot and Eterville were lost in fighting which proved costly for the enemy. Maltot was retaken in a counter-attack in face of stubborn enemy resistance.

An infantry attack from the wood west of Tessel-Bretteville was repulsed; a fresh attack is in progress.

AOK 7: Le Desert and Cavigny were taken in a fresh enemy attack (from the St Fromond penetration area). The front line in this sector runs as follows:- Bahais - La Cocquerie - Chateau de la Mare de Cavigny - north-eastern edge of Le Desert Chateau - Le Mesnil - Angot. The enemy attacked north and east of the salient at Graignes and pushed forward from Thiebaut to Verney.

German troops encircled in the Graignes area have been ordered to break through to the south.

Enemy forces which broke into St Andre from the north are being counter-attacked. Sainteny has been captured by the enemy and the German main defence line in this sector has been under an uninterrupted bombardment since 1300 hours. It is expected that attacks on both sides of the Carentan-Periers road will be resumed immediately.

Enemy troops who infiltrated into Foret de Mont Castre were wiped out. Hill 95 (1 km east of La Haye du Puits) was captured by the enemy after heavy and fluctuating fighting, in which German forces suffered considerable losses.

An enemy penetration at Hill 89 (east of La Barville) has been cleaned up in a counter-attack.

Situation at Sea

About 30 large freighters engaged in landing operations were observed in the sea area north of Courseulles - Arromanches in the morning.

During the day landing operations in the invasion area were presumably greatly impeded by the weather.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

Nuisance raids were made in the Belgium-northern France area and over western France as far as the Loire. About

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10 - 15 aircraft bombed Rechlinghausen and Buer. In the early morning about 150 four-engined British aircraft bombed the "Nordpol" installation (south of Gisors). During the day operations were greatly impeded by weather conditions.

(b) German Operations:

Roads in the St Lo area were reconnoitred and nuisance raids made on occupied villages in the Cotentin peninsula. Mine-laying operations were carried out according to plan.

Partisan Situation

In Belgium twenty-nine cases of sabotage on railways and twelve instances of sabotage of cables and telephone communications were reported; otherwise the general situation remains unchanged.

11 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Colombelles has been retaken in a German counter-attack in the penetration area south-west of St Honorine. The former main defence line has been restored. The enemy did not continue his offensive from Caen towards the south owing to heavy losses in men and material. German units encircled in the Epron area have fought their way through to the south.

A fresh attack has been launched on Eterville after fluctuating fighting in the Odon sector. Enemy assembly areas and tanks moving from the Carpiquet area towards the south were bombarded by German artillery. Enemy attacks between Juvigny and Longraye were beaten back.

The enemy has launched an offensive towards St Lo on a broad front between Berigny and Vire. An enemy penetration south of St Georges d'Elle has been blocked. La Croix Rouge and La Meauffe have been captured by the enemy.

A German Panzer division forming up for an attack encountered two American divisions which were also about to attack. German Panzer spearheads are 1 km south of Cavigny - 500 metres south of St Jean d'Aye - Les Landes. Details of the situation are not clear.

South-west of Le Mesnil - Angot the enemy has pushed forward into the Bois du Hommet as far as Tribenhon.

Enemy attacks north of La Roserie and at Beaucoudray have been repulsed. West of Foret de Mont Castre the enemy has advanced from the Barville area as far as Angoville-sur-Ay. Counter-measures have been put into operation.

Situation at Sea

No details owing to bad visibility.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

About 40 Mosquitoes bombed Berlin.

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About 28 aircraft approached the coast near the west and east Frisian islands, presumably carrying out mine-laying operations.

During the morning 100 Liberators from the south bombed the city area, harbour and arsenal of Toulon.

During the afternoon a Lancaster formation carried out operations over the V-weapon launching zone.

Towards evening about 180 Marauders attacked the V-weapon launching zone and areas behind the front, dropping bombs on Abbeville and south of Flers.

Munich was the main objective of 1,000 - 1,200 Fortresses and Liberators operating over the Reich.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations:

About 1,250 American and 500 British fighters were operational. Loire bridges at Tours and Seine bridges at Vironvay, Pont de L'Arche, Le Manoir and Quiebeuf were bombed and shot up.

Low-level operations were carried out against tank and troop movements, artillery positions, bridges and battle headquarters between Odon and Orne, and on supply and ammunition dumps south of Lessay.

(b) German operations:

Mine-laying operations were carried out according to plan.

Security patrols over the Biscay area were broken off. Patrols were flown over the Mediterranean area without sighting the enemy. Photo-reconnaissance of the harbours of Mers el Kebir revealed an increase in shipping since 12 June. The following vessels were observed: one battleship, two cruisers, twelve destroyers and escort vessels and about 100,000 tons of merchant shipping.

Partisan Situation

Railways and communications were sabotaged in the Belgium-northern France area. Sabotage activity in Brittany and attacks on single soldiers continued. A lock on the Marne canal 8 km south-west of Meaux was blown up, interrupting shipping movements.

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12 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

The former main defence line north-north-east of Colombelles has been reached. West of the Orne, Eterville has been retaken by the enemy after heavy fighting. Enemy infantry and tank formations assembling north of

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Hill 112 were bombarded by German artillery. Enemy night attacks on Hill 112 were repulsed. Gliders began landing on Carpiquet airfield at 1500 hours.

The former main defence line was retaken in a counter-attack in the Juvigny - Longraye sector.

At 1130 hours the enemy attacked again towards the south and west from positions south of St Georges-d'Elle and south of and in St Andre de L'Epine after a continuous thirty-hour bombardment. All the attacks were repulsed.

Enemy forces which had advanced to Eslandes were thrown back, the breach in the front line closed and Eslandes retaken.

The Panzer Lehr/division battle group which had advanced to south of St Jean d'Aye made a fighting withdrawal to the main defence line.

During the day the enemy succeeded in extending his penetration from Le Port towards the south. St Andre-de Bohon was lost after heavy fighting and in the evening German forces held the line Gournay - north-eastern edge of Tribehou - Le Port. A gap in the front line south of Chateau de Bois Grunot was closed by using the last available infantry reserves. All attacks launched on both sides of the Sainteny - Périers road after maximum artillery preparation were repulsed.

An enemy penetration from the Le Plessis area into St Germain was blocked at the ridge south of the town.

Withdrawals to the new main defence line Le Hommet - Gorges - Gerville-St Germain-sur-Ay were carried out according to plan, but Vesly and Hiesville were lost in an enemy attack. The enemy pushed forward into the western part of St Germain-sur-Ay.

Situation at Sea

In the morning one battleship, two cruisers, one monitor, about 45 freighters and numerous escort and landing craft were observed north and north-west of the Orne estuary. Further to the north 12 large transports were sighted proceeding on a northerly course.

There was still a number of vessels in the sea area north - north-west of the Orne estuary at midday, including two cruisers, one monitor, several freighters and one large transport.

Large scale unloading operations were in progress off Bernieres; vessels in the area included one battleship, four cruisers, six destroyers and twenty large freighters.

A convoy was observed moving out to sea north of Luc s.M. About 70 vessels were sighted west of Le Havre (course unknown). Two cruisers on the westerly course and 15 destroyers(?) were observed in the sea area off Cap de la Hague, probably screening the landing area from the west.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

Single aircraft flew over the Orleans - Bourges - Nevers - Auxerre area on partisan supply operations. About 10 - 15 aircraft bombed the Moers area in Germany.

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During the morning about 250 American four-engined aircraft and 300 twin-engined aircraft dropped bombs in the Abbeville area and in the V-weapon launching zone.

Some 400 - 500 American four-engined aircraft approaching from the south bombed Vare bridges at Nice and the railway bridge at Arles.

In the afternoon about 100 four-engined British aircraft dropped bombs in the V-weapon launching zone.

Towards evening about 400 four-engined British aircraft bombed the special installation "Leopold", while about 200 twin-engined American aircraft bombed airfields at St Trond and Beaumont.

About 1,400 four-engined American aircraft with strong fighter escort (700 aircraft) made a heavy terror raid on Munich.

Strong fighter and fighter-bomber formations bombed the Cherisy viaduct (south-east of St Andre), the AA Training School at Chartres, Loire bridges at Tours, and naval coastal batteries north of Le Havre. Operations were also carried out against artillery, tank and infantry positions between the Odon and the Orne and in the American area of attack.

Altogether some 1,600 American and 800 British fighter and fighter-bomber sorties were flown.

(b) German operations:

Two concentrated operations were carried out in support of Army units in the Caen area with attacks on anti-aircraft and searchlight positions and illuminated airfields in the bridgehead. Mine-laying operations were carried out according to plan.

Partisan Situation

Vigorous sabotage activity continues in northern France. Terrorists and uniformed paratroops attacked a German headquarters at St Brieuc.

Even strongly protected convoys face increased danger in the partisan area. (In an especially heavy attack on a convoy with 100 escorts, 8 soldiers were killed and 17 wounded). According to the population, groups of Moroccans are being dropped from aircraft in the Amberieux area.

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13 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Naval artillery and mortar harassing fire continued on both sides of the Orne. The enemy attack supported by tanks towards St Lo from the St Andre area was continued after maximum artillery preparation. Enemy attacks on the line Croix Rouge - along the Vaubadon - St Lo road - La Boulaye - directly east of La Luzerne - former German main defence line

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have been halted, and fresh attacks on this line have been driven back. Enemy attacks north-west of La Luzerne, south-east of Le Meauffe and west of the Villiers-Fossard - St Lo road have been repulsed. An enemy attack supported with tanks from the wooded area west of Pont Hebert has driven forwards towards the south. Both sides have suffered heavy losses and fighting is still in progress. The German front north of Le Vignot has been pushed back. The new front line runs from Le Vignot - Eslandes - La Ponterie. An enemy penetration west of Le Hommet has been blocked. Tribhou has been captured by the enemy. The German front line in the penetration area south of St Andre - de Bohon runs as follows; directly south-west of St Hommet - St Martin-des-Champs - Port Namee - south of La Vincenterie - Le Bois - Le Canal - Auxais. Fresh attacks on this defence line have been repulsed. Laulne has been captured by the enemy. German troops have been pushed back further south on both sides of Vesly.

Situation at Sea

A heavy shipping concentration including three cruisers, on monitor, four destroyers and a large number of transports was observed north of Luc-sur-Mer. West of Cap de la Heve a large convoy was observed moving south.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

Some 650 aircraft flew over western areas during the night, about 200 of them over the V-weapon launching zone dropping bombs in the Aumale-Doullens and St Pol area.

Enemy activity during the day was limited by weather conditions.

About 800 - 1,000 American four-engined aircraft made a heavy attack on the Munich city area during the morning (third day attack with same planning as on previous days), while some 500 American four-engined aircraft escorted by about 750 American fighters attacked Saarbruecken.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations were carried out in the area Hazebrouck - Reims - Auxerre - Bourges - Nantes - Cherbourg by about 600 American and 400 British aircraft.

(b) German operations:

Anti-shipping operations were carried out north of Luc s.M. Attacks were made on bridges and AA positions at Airel, and on occupied airfields at Bayeux and Ouistreham. Mine-laying operations were carried out according to plan.

Partisan Situation

Air supply operations were continued in southern Brittany. The naval arsenal at Languidic was attacked. Partisan activity increased in the Vendome and Blois areas. Numerous instances of railway track and bridge-blowing activity occurred in the Chateauroux, Limoges and Montlucon areas.

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14 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Heavy artillery bombardments were put down east of the Orne. Intensive

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enemy movements were carried out west of the Orne on the Bayeux - Caen road. An enemy offensive on both sides of Caen is expected within the next few days. On the Vire sector heavy enemy attacks supported by tanks from the St Andre de L'Epine area were repulsed. German front line: Pont Hébert - Le Rocher - Sadoc. A fresh enemy attack is in progress at present. Fighting continues in the penetration area south of Les Champs-de-Losque. La Roserie has been recaptured by the enemy. German withdrawals on the northern front at Cotentin are being carried out according to plan under weak enemy pressure. German front line: southern edge of La Roserie - northern edge of St Germain S. Seves - Seves Bach - northern edge of La Banserie. Northern line: Lessay - southern shore of Lessay Bay.

Situation at Sea

13 July: Seven freighters of 2 - 3,000 tons, one tanker of 2,000 tons and about 40 landing craft were sighted in Cherbourg harbour in the evening. A heavy cruiser and 20 freighters were observed south of St Vaast. Two heavy cruisers, 40 freighters, and about 100 landing craft were identified in the Vire estuary. Five heavy cruisers, ten cruisers(?) and destroyers and 150 small landing craft were sighted in the sea area north of Port en Bessin.

14 July: A large shipping concentration observed north of the Orne in the afternoon included several transports, two cruisers(?), one monitor, one destroyer, and a large number of small vessels apparently engaged in mine-sweeping. A warship thought to be a battleship was observed north of Luc-sur-Mer. Fifteen medium transports and five landing craft moving on a southerly course were sighted west of Le Havre.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

About 40 - 50 aircraft flew over the Avranches - Le Mans - Tours - Angoulême - Nantes - Vannes - Lannion area, presumably on partisan supply operations. About 15 - 20 Mosquitoes bombed Scholwen north of Krefeld.

About 500 Fortresses and Liberators flew over central and southern France during the morning. No bombing has been reported, but about 100 supply containers were dropped east of Valence, and it is possible that paratroops were also dropped (see Partisan Situation). It is presumed that partisans in central France have received more supplies by air. (This cannot be confirmed owing to the breakdown of the aircraft reporting service and communications in this area).

During the afternoon about 100 four-engined British aircraft operating over the V-weapon launching zone bombed the area north of Hesdin. In the evening about 300 Liberators bombed airfields at Mons en Chaussee and Montdidier.

About 2,000 American and 480 R.A.F. fighters bombed and shot up the railway station at Beauvais, an ammunition train at Chateau-Thierry, and made attacks in the Tours and Saumur areas, west of Le Mans and north of Bernay.

(b) German activity:

No operations were carried out owing to weather conditions.

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Security patrols were flown over Biscay and the sea area Nice - Toulon - Golfe de Lion - Spanish coast - east of Minorca - north-west of Sardinia - west of Corsica.

Partisan Situation

Sabotage activity in Belgium has been further intensified, being directed mainly against railway lines (including frequent cases of bridge-blowing) and tele-communications installations. There are no outstanding developments in France. Communist agitation in Paris continues. Sizeable resistance groups are being organised in the landing area; members of these groups are being dropped behind the German lines to carry out espionage. The employment of British agents disguised as German officers has been established. On 14 July in the morning about 100 parachutes with supply containers were dropped in the area east of Valence; paratroops were probably also dropped.

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15 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Enemy artillery and mortar fire continued, including heavy bombardments on Hill 112. Tank movements from Golleville towards the south were observed. After maximum artillery preparation the enemy attacked east of St Lo; attacks at Bois de la Rillerie and in the area south-west of St Andre were repulsed, but a penetration made directly west of the Moon sur Elle - St Lo road necessitated a one-kilometre withdrawal of the German front along and west of the road.

Attacks on the bridgehead at Pont Hébert were repulsed. West of Pont Hébert the enemy penetrated as far as La Hucherie; counter-measures are in progress.

On the northern front (Cotentin) minefields in front of the new main defence line caused heavy losses to enemy forces following up German withdrawals.

Situation at Sea

During the night of 14/15 July, German S-boats and R-boats fought an action with enemy gun boats west of Cap de la Hève. Hits were scored on two enemy vessels and others withdrew when hit.

No reports on shipping were made from the Seine Bay area during the day owing to bad visibility. According to agents' reports, unloading operations in the landing area were believed to be greatly impeded by the weather.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

14/15 July: About 800 four-engined aircraft dropped bombs on the Hazebrouck - Audruicq - Neufchatel area in the V-weapon launching zone, on the Villeneuve marshalling yard in the Paris area, at Bar le Duc railway station, south of Aubusson and in the Tours area.

About 50 twin-engined aircraft dropped bombs in the area north of Angers, at Segre, south of Elbeuf and on airfields at Chievres and Villaroche.

About 40 - 50 Mosquitoes bombed Hanover.

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15 July:

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15 July: Enemy activity during the day was limited by the weather. About 70 British four-engined aircraft with fighter escort bombed the "Nordpol" installation in the afternoon. Towards evening about 350 American and 30 British twin-engined bombers carried out operations in the bridgehead area.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations: Some 1,350 American and 600 British fighters were operational.

(b) German operations:

14/15 July: Mine-laying operations were carried out north of Courseulles. Attacks were made on tank concentrations in the Caen - Tilly - Mondrainville area, on Carpiquet airfield (occupied by gliders) and on an airfield in the Caen area.

Partisan Situation

France's national day passed quietly on the whole. Roads were mined in Normandy. In Brittany more railway tracks were blown up and further attacks were made on locomotives and pylons. Sabotage activity continued in the Belgium-northern France area. According to agents' reports Eisenhower has stated that French Resistance groups form part of the Allied Expeditionary Corps.

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16 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Artillery and mortar fire is increasing east of the Orne. In the area south-west of Caen an enemy attack supported by men and tanks equipped with flame throwers and illuminated by searchlights which reached the northern edge of Esquay was thrown back by a German counter-attack. An attack made on Hill 112 at the same time was repulsed by an immediate counter-attack.

After heavy fighting an enemy attack on both sides of Gavrus supported by maximum artillery fire and tanks achieved a penetration which was contained along the line crossroads north-west of Esquay - Hill 113 - south-western edge of Bugy-Cahier.

A German counter-attack is in progress.

An enemy penetration at Le Valtruh on the Caen - Villers-Bocage road has been practically eliminated, but enemy tanks from the Bordel area have pushed southwards and taken Noyers. A German counter-attack has been commenced from the south-west. The German switch line runs from L'Andelle to La Senneviere.

Bitter fighting is continuing in the Martinville penetration area. The German front line has been withdrawn to one km south-west of La Luzerne - Les Bommains - one km east of Rouxeline, then northwards to the former main defence line.

The penetration west of Pont Hébert has been extended. After hard fighting in which both sides suffered heavy losses the village was lost. The Pont Hébert bridgehead is still holding out. An enemy attack on Le Mesnil Durand from Pont Hébert is in progress. An enemy penetration achieved south of Les Champs de Losque was extended by evening and Le Givès was reached in spite of bitter German resistance. The penetration has been blocked to the east, south and west.

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Situation at Sea

No reports on shipping were made from the Seine Bay area during the day owing to bad visibility.

During the afternoon a supply convoy, presumably from the Bristol Channel arrived in the western part of the landing area.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

15/16 July: Five hundred aircraft bombed the "Nordpol" installation, Cormeilles airfield, and the V-weapon launching zone. Several hundred aircraft bombed railway installations at Chalons s.M. and the marshalling yards at Nevers. About 60 Mosquitoes dropped bombs in the Moers, Krefeld, and Berlin areas.

During the morning about 170 American twin-engined aircraft bombed targets in areas near the front. In the afternoon about 100 four-engined British aircraft operating over the V-weapon launching zone dropped bombs in the St Pol - Etaples area. In the evening about 150 American and 50 British twin-engined aircraft bombed areas behind the front.

In the morning about 1,300 American four-engined aircraft escorted by 7 - 800 American fighters bombed Munich, Augsburg, Stuttgart and Saarbruecken. (At about the same time some 400 American four-engined aircraft approached from the Adriatic and bombed the Vienna area).

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations: Bombing attacks were made on infantry positions, observation positions and supply dumps north and north-west of St Lo, on ammunition supply dumps west of Periers and on Coulommiers airfield. Altogether some 1,400 American and 600 British fighters were operational.

(b) German operations:

Concentrated ground support operations were carried out in the Caen area. Attacks were made on troop concentrations and villages in the Airel area. Mine-laying operations were carried out according to plan.

Partisan Situation

More railway tracks, bridges and roads were blown up in the Limoges area. A total of 500 terrorists were killed in German counter-measures.

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17 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Heavy fighting for Gavrus and Noyers took place in the penetration area. Enemy forces have penetrated into Bougy again, but the southern part of the village is in German hands. Enemy attacks supported by tanks between Noyers and Tessel-Bretteville resulted in a penetration at La Senneviere (north of Noyers). Small local reserves are being used to block the enemy advance.

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The concentric enemy attack at St Lo was resumed and enemy forces to the south and north of Martinville are advancing on St Croix. Strong enemy forces have broken through the German defence line on both sides of the Villiers-Fossard road and have penetrated into Les Ifs from the north-east.

After crossing the Viré south of Pont Hébert the enemy succeeded in reaching Ecaillon in spite of stubborn German resistance and is advancing towards the south. Enemy forces took Reuloux-Gadart in a fresh attack. The Pont Hébert bridgehead is in enemy hands and it is expected that the German forces surrounded will be eliminated. Enemy forces supported by tanks advancing southwards from Esgives reached the St Lo - Periers road and are pivottong south-east towards St Lo. Limited German reserves have been sent into action. The heavy attacks on St Lo are being supported with maximum fire by medium and heavy artillery and continuous waves of fighter-bombers.

Situation at Sea

Twenty transports (course not known) were sighted north of Luc s.M. About 15 - 20 large and 30 small warships were observed near the coast north-west of Caen. About 60 - 80 vessels, including three battleships, were observed in the sea area off Port en Bessin - Arromanches. No landings were made; the shipping formation is putting up a smoke screen.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

Enemy activity increased owing to better weather conditions.

Commencing at 0900 hours about 750 four-engined American aircraft with fighter escort bombed railway installations at Belfort, Laon, Jussy, Ham Tergnier, Nanteuil s.M., and airfields at St Dizier, Champfleury and Florennes. The special installation "Richard" (north of Reims) was also attacked.

About 30 four-engined British aircraft operating over the V-weapon launching zone dropped bombs in the St Omer area. In the evening about 400 American and 70 British four-engined aircraft approached the V-weapon launching zone and dropped bombs in the Hesdin and Abbeville areas.

Low level operations were concentrated over the American Army sector. A total of 220 twin-engined fighters and about 2,000 American and 700 British fighters were operational. (These figures include fighters escorting bomber formations).

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18 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

After an artillery bombardment of maximum intensity the enemy commenced the expected attack east of the Orne. A penetration in the direction of Troarn was eliminated by a German counter-attack. Strong enemy armoured forces from the Escoville - St Honorine area moved through Touffreville to attack Sannerville. The enemy has taken Banneville and about 60 tanks have broken through towards the south capturing Cagny and fanning out towards the west, north-west, and south-west. Le Mesnil-Fremontel, Grentheville, and Soliers are in enemy hands.

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Towards evening the German line ran as follows: Frencuville - Soliers - Hubert-Folie - Cormelles. The situation is confused in the area to the west of Cuverville - Colombelles - Mondeville.

An enemy attack, strongly supported by artillery, on Hill 63 and the wooded area south of Le Mesnil-Dot was repulsed. An enemy attack on Es Thiebots (1½ km north-west of Remilly) was in progress towards evening.

The enemy is reinforcing on both sides of Lessay and in the St Germain sur Ay area.

Situation at Sea

A dense concentration of transports was observed in the sea area north of Luc s.M. - Courseulles on the evening of 17 July. Two large warships were sighted moving on a northerly course north of the Orne estuary in the morning. Apart from a beached battleship and a sunken freighter off La Breches, no enemy shipping was observed during the afternoon owing to bad visibility.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

Commencing at dawn, strong formations of British and American four-engined aircraft and American twin-engined aircraft carried out continuous operations over the landing area, the main effort being made east of the Orne. From 1600 hours four-engined aircraft approached the area east of Paris and bombed the marshalling yards at Vaires. At the same time about 180 American twin-engined aircraft approached the Rouen - Paris - Chartres area. So far bombing attacks have been reported on Seine bridges at Conflans and Rouen, and on the Bolbec area.

Partisan Situation

Intense sabotage activity continued in Belgium. During the night of 16/17 July there were twenty-eight cases of sabotage on railways.

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19 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

The strength of enemy forces which attacked from the bridgehead east of the Orne has so far been estimated at two infantry divisions and two armoured brigades.

Heavy enemy artillery and infantry attacks on Troarn have been repulsed. Enemy forces in the Banneville - Cagny - Soliers - Cormelles area have been continually reinforced. Colombelles is in enemy hands. German forces south of this area and in the Giberville - Mondeville - Cuverville area have been cut off by the enemy and apparently split into several groups which are still offering stubborn resistance. An enemy armoured attack from Grentheville towards the south-east was halted by German defensive fire.

St Lo was occupied by the enemy on the evening of 18 July. Further enemy reconnaissance thrusts from St Lo towards the south and south-west have been repulsed. German front line south of St Lo: west bank of the Vire to 500 metres south-west of Rampan.

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Situation at Sea

No shipping reports were made from the Seine Bay area during the day and evening owing to bad visibility. Agents report continued intensive supply traffic to the invasion area.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

18/19 July: Strong formations of British four-engined aircraft bombed railway installations at Vitry le Francois, Sezenne, Meaux, Mauberge, and targets at Hesdin and Neufchatel in the V-weapon launching zone. Nuisance raids were made on the airfields at Juvincourt and Florennes.

About 150 aircraft were operational over the Duisberg - Gelsenkirchen area. Aircraft laid mines in the eastern areas of the Bay of Heligoland. Fifty Mosquitoes attacked Berlin.

19 July: Bombing attacks were carried out in the V-weapon launching zone in the afternoon and in the Creil area in the evening.

Strong formations of American four-engined aircraft (over 1,000 machines) bombed Koblenz, Saarbruecken, Strassburg, Schweinfurt, Munich, and the airfield at Lechfeld. At the same time about 700 American four-engined bombers from the south attacked the Munich area.

Partisan Situation

The dropping of enemy paratroops and the presence of British officers and agents in Resistance groups have been confirmed by reports from various sources and areas.

Intense sabotage activity continued in Belgium and France.

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20 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

It is estimated that the enemy Army Group operating east of the Orne consists of three infantry and two armoured divisions. The employment of 1 - 2 further armoured brigades has not yet been absolutely confirmed.

Enemy thrusts with tank support along the Caen - Lisieux road and from Bourguebus towards the south and south-west have been repulsed. The German line runs as follows: Château St Pierre - hill one km south of Frenouville - northern edge of La Hogue - southern edge of Bourguebus - Hill 61 - southern slope of Hill 67 - northern edge of Etavaux.

An enemy penetration into Le Mesnil-Eury reached the St Lo - Perriers road. Enemy attacks from the area west of Amigny towards the south have been repulsed by a German counter-thrust.

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Situation at Sea

No shipping reports were made from the invasion area owing to bad visibility. On the evening of 19 July an enemy destroyer was sunk by coastal artillery south-west of Alderney.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

Nuisance raids were made in the Belgium-northern France area (Le Culot airfield bombed).

About 30 - 40 Mosquitoes made a nuisance raid on Bremen. Owing to weather conditions only small scale enemy operations were carried out against the western occupied area.

In the afternoon and again in the evening 250 four-engined British aircraft bombed targets in the V-weapon launching zone north of Hesdin.

Low-level operations were again carried out against battle headquarters, artillery positions, and tank and vehicle concentrations.

In the morning strong formations of American four-engined aircraft (about 1,100 bombers with 750 escorting fighters) bombed aircraft factories and hydrogenation plants in central Germany and the Opel works at Ruesselheim. At the same time about 400 American four-engined bombers with fighter escort from the south made a concentrated attack on aircraft factories at Friedrichshafen.

Partisan Situation

The general situation is unchanged. Intense sabotage activity continues, and in France is concentrated in Brittany and in the Lyons area.

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21 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Several enemy attacks west of Troarn were repulsed. A German counter-attack gained more ground to the north. Hill 72, St Andre and St Martin are in German hands again. Enemy attacks south of Hottot and an enemy thrust at La Haute Villais were repulsed. Artillery harassing fire, including very heavy artillery continued on the St Lo - Cerisy road. An enemy penetration south-west of Rampan was eliminated, enemy forces suffering especially heavy losses. Weak enemy thrusts towards le Mesnil-Dot and Hill 63 were repulsed.

Situation at Sea

A destroyer and 20,000 tons of shipping were sunk by a German submarine in the invasion area.

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Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

20/21 July: About 350 four-engined British aircraft flew over the area Mouth of Scheldt - Mons - St Omer area and bombed Assenede - Ghent, Alost and Coutrai, dropping sabotage materials in the St Omer area. In addition, harassing attacks were made on the airfields at Coulommiers and Gilze-Rijen. About 350 British heavy bombers attacked targets in the Rhine - Westphalian industrial area. About 40 Mosquitoes made a nuisance raid on Hamburg.

21 July: No enemy operations were carried out over the Western occupied area owing to the weather. In the morning about 1,200 American four-engined bombers with strong fighter escort bombed Saarbruecken, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, Stuttgart, Munich, and the ball-bearing works at Schweinfurt. At the same time, about 300 - 400 American four-engined bombers with fighter escort approaching from the Adriatic penetrated to the Carlsbad - Prague area. Bombs were dropped on the hydrogenation plant at Bruex.

(b) German operations:

Concentrated ground support operations were carried out in the St Lo area and to the south-east of Caen. Armed reconnaissance was carried out in the St Lo area. An attack was made on a partisan camp north-west of Carcasonne. Six aircraft carried out night fighter pursuit operations over the Norwich - Ipswich - Cambridge area.

Partisan Situation

Planned operations are being carried out against partisans located in the area east of Valence. On 21 July a combined Army-Air Force operation aimed at concentrating these forces was commenced.

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22 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Enemy remnants in St Martin were mopped up; heavy fighting continues in St Andre. German artillery is maintaining a continuous bombardment of tank assembly areas (about 1,000 tanks identified), vehicle concentrations and tank movements in the area south of Caen. Troop concentrations were observed at St Aubin (see Situation at Sea). Apart from this there was only artillery and mortar harassing fire partly heavy on the right flank. The enemy is attacking north-east of Seves.

Situation at Sea

An unusually heavy shipping concentration was observed off the Orne estuary in the afternoon (unconfirmed by Naval Commander Seine - Somme Area owing to bad visibility).

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According to agents' reports, regular supply movements into the invasion area are continuing. There were fifteen warships off and north of Cherbourg in the evening.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

21/22 July: During the night about 50 Mosquitoes made a nuisance raid on Berlin.

22 July: Only slight enemy operations were carried out in the battle area owing to weather conditions.

Formations of British four-engined bombers made two attacks on the V-weapon launching zone, dropping bombs in the Hesdin - Abbeville area.

In the evening twin-engined aircraft formations were operational behind the front over an area extending to the Loire. A formation comprising 120 American bombers and 100 fighters dropped leaflets in the Bremen, Kiel, and Hamburg areas.

(b) German operations:

Mine-laying operations were carried out north of Courseulles. Bombing and strafing attacks were made on Colombelles (large fire) and in the Couverville - Giberville area. Security patrols were flown over Biscay, along the Spanish coast to the north-west coasts of Sardinia and Corsica and over western areas of Heligoland Bay and Denmark.

Partisan Situation

Twenty-two gliders landed according to plan in the partisan-held area south of Grenoble. The German battle group took up a hedgehog position at Vassieux. It is presumed that the objective for the day was not reached owing to heavy enemy pressure.

Six hundred miscellaneous supply containers which had not yet been unpacked were captured at Bourgneuf (north-east of Limoges).

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23 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

There was intense artillery harrassing fire by both sides east of the Orne. Small enemy forces with tank support which opened an attack from Maltot towards the south were repulsed by a German counter-attack. An enemy attack on Hill 112 was repulsed. The enemy is making reconnaissance thrusts on both sides of the Vire. The enemy penetration at Le Closet was eliminated.

Situation at Sea

West of Fecamp enemy vessels were hit in an action between German R-boats and Allied destroyers and S-boats. Following an improvement in visibility a shipping concentration could just be made out north of the Orne estuary in the evening. There was no enemy activity in the Channel Islands area.

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Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

Operations were still limited during the morning by weather conditions. About 100 British four-engined aircraft operating over the V-weapon launching zone bombed the Neufchatel - Dieppe area. In the evening strong formations of American four-engined bombers attacked airfields at Couvron, Athies, Juvincourt, Beaumont s.O. and Creil.

Some 400 American and 50 British twin-engined aircraft bombed railway installations in the Evreux - Conches area.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations: (Including bombing attacks on airfields at Laval and Nantes) Altogether 1,200 American and 180 British fighters were operational.

Apart from reconnaissance, there was no enemy activity over the Reich.

(b) German operations:

Attacks were made on vehicle and tank concentrations in the area south and south-east of Caen. Operations against partisan groups were carried out east of Valence. (Road 8 km north of Die blocked by three bomb hits).

Partisan Situation

German troops landed by glider established a hedgehog position in La Mure-Vassieux in face of strong enemy forces. Ammunition and supplies were brought in successfully. Mopping up operations are in progress in the Bouganeuf, Ussel, Limoges, and Chateauroux areas.

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24 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Enemy attacks launched between Hill 112 and Bougy after an intense artillery bombardment were repulsed. After heavy preparatory air attacks the enemy launched an attack supported by tanks and intense artillery fire, the main effort being made south and south-west of Amigny. The main defence line has been held with the exception of a hitherto unconfirmed penetration south of Amigny.

Situation at Sea

23 July: In the evening there were twenty-five transports, five destroyers, one monitor and several other vessels off the Orne estuary. Between St Aubin and Courseulles troops were being disembarked and equipment unloaded from twelve heavily guarded transport vessels. Eight enemy destroyers were observed moving on a south-easterly course west of Ouessant.

One battleship, three cruisers, 15 destroyers and gunboats and 40 medium and small transport vessels were observed off the Orne estuary during the night. Unloading operations were covered by a thick smoke screen. The enemy is attempting to raise a 10,000 ton freighter.

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Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

Increased air activity followed the improvement in the weather. During the morning of 24 July about 100 four-engined British aircraft bombed the Hesdin - Abbeville area. In the early afternoon very strong formations of American four-engined aircraft with fighter escort (1,400 aircraft according to agents' reports) flew over towards western France. About 500 aircraft bombed the Hebecrevon - Marigny - Montreuil area west of St Lo. Numerous bomb-carpetts were dropped on the main defence line and artillery positions. In the evening about 280 British and American twin-engined aircraft bombed targets behind the front. An attack was made on the bridge over the Loire at Tours. From 1230 hours about 250 American four-engined aircraft with fighter escort from Italy bombed the airfields at Valence and St Martin de Crau. About midday a strong formation of fighters (150 - 200 aircraft) bombed airfields in the Immenstadt - Munich - Nuremberg area.

(b) German operations:

Mine-laying operations were carried out north of Port en Bessin. Attacks were made on villages and tent-camps. Security reconnaissance patrols were flown over the following area:- Golf du Lion - west of Corsica - north-west of Sardinia - north of the Balearic islands - Spanish coast (Barcelona). Photographic reconnaissance operations were carried out over Algiers and Oran.

Partisan Situation

Attacks on transport installations continue and have increased particularly in Belgium. During the night of 22/23 July there were twenty-nine cases of sabotage on railways, including three instances of bridge-blowing. In France numerous cases of railway track-blowing occurred, including one series of thirty-two explosions. The German operation in the Vercors area (south-south-east of Lyons) is proceeding according to plan. Supported by the Luftwaffe, German troops landed by air have reached Vassieux La Mure (about 100 km south-south-east of Lyon) in heavy fighting against numerically superior enemy forces. The attack is continuing against enemy resistance.

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25 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Heavy concentrations of vehicles and artillery and 100 tanks were observed in the Colombelles - Cuverville - Escoville - Hérouvillette area. An enemy attack along the Caen - Falaise road lead to a penetration between Tilly and St Martin. Tilly changed hands four times and is at present held by German forces. A German counter-attack to regain the main defence line north of Hill 76 is still in progress.

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There was slight enemy harassing fire east of St Lo. A heavy bombing attack on the main defence line and battery positions and intense artillery preparation preceded an attack by strong enemy forces supported by fighter-bombers on a broad front from the Rampan - Champs de Lesque area. The enemy penetrated to the Hébécrevon road and to Montreuil. German counter-attacks are in progress.

German front line at present: North-western edge of Hébécrevon - directly south of Montreuil - east of Radt La Butte - north-east edge of Lozon - 500 metres east of Le Mesnil - Vigot, and from there to the former main defence line south of Remilly. Further tank concentrations have been identified south of Remilly.

Situation at Sea

Agents report continued supply traffic into the invasion area.

In the evening there were about 300 landing craft, including transports and 15 warships, three of them large units, in the sea area Vire estuary - Marcouf. No shipping was reported east of the Seine Bay.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

In the morning about 1,500 American four-engined aircraft and 200 twin-engined aircraft were operational over the landing area. Bombing was concentrated on the main defence line and artillery positions in the area west of St Lo; part of the formation (twin-engined aircraft) concentrated on the area south-east of Caen. At the same time about 400 four-engined and twin-engined British aircraft operating over the V-weapon launching zone bombed the Abbeville area.

In the afternoon about 350 British and American twin-engined aircraft were operational over an area extending from the Seine estuary to south-west of Paris. Bombs were dropped at Chartres and Maintenon.

During the evening about 100 four-engined British aircraft bombed St Cyr and Pantin railway station (Paris). A formation of American twin-engined aircraft bombed the railway station at Mantes.

Altogether some 2,500 American and 1,400 British fighters flew fighter and fighter-bomber sorties. Attacks were concentrated on the Caen and St Lo areas. Attacks were made on tanks, artillery and mortar positions, AA positions, battle headquarters and troop movements. Bridges and ammunition and fuel supply dumps east of Argentan and at Etampes and Chartres were also attacked.

About 400 - 500 four-engined aircraft made a terror raid on Stuttgart (mainly phosphorus bombs on the city area).

(b) German operations:

Concentrated attacks were made on troop concentrations south-east of Caen, at Grenthoville, Mondeville, Demouville and Ranville. Shipping in the Orne estuary and ground targets in the Caen area were attacked. Night fighter pursuit operations were flown over the Norwich - Ipswich - Cambridge area.

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Night photographic reconnaissance operations were flown over Bayeux, Cherbourg and the Thames estuary.

An explosion and a mushroom of flame followed an attack by a pickaback aircraft on a medium-sized vessel (presumably a transport). During night fighter operations an attack was made on an artillery position in the Ranville area which resulted in a violent dark-red explosion.

Partisan Situation

A striking increase in sabotage of communications occurred in the district of Military Commander North-eastern France and Belgium-Northern France. During the night of 23/24 July there were twenty-nine cases of sabotage on railways, five on railway telephone communications, three on canals, and four at armaments installations.

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26 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

The main defence line south of Caen was further consolidated in spite of repeated enemy counter-attacks. However, strong enemy forces succeeded in penetrating into Verrieres. In the area north of Tilly - Ferme, Troteval - Ferme Beauvoir - St Andre heavy enemy concentrations, 60 tanks moving from Escoville through Demouville towards the south, and extensive transport movements on the Bavrus - Tourville road were observed and bombarded continuously by German artillery. Eighty tanks withdrew from Manneville towards the west after a heavy artillery bombardment. A large number of freight gliders landed south of Fleury s. Orne in the afternoon.

After heavy artillery fire and fighter-bomber operations, enemy infantry and tanks succeeded in making several penetrations between Caumont and Berigny, reaching La Lande - cross-roads 1 km north of Bieville - 1 km west of Vidouville. Enemy penetrations about one kilometre in depth were made at St Germain d'Elle and south-east of St Georges d'Elle (Bois de la Rillerie). German forces are counter-attacking and making good progress. Thirty enemy tanks were knocked out. West of St Lo superior enemy forces succeeded in breaking through the German front being established on the line Hébécrévon - La Picadière - La Chappelle east of Hébécrévon and east of La Chappelle. St Gilles, Le Mesnil-Amey, and Marigny were lost. A German counter-attack is in progress. On the western sector of the front enemy forces penetrated into St Germain and La Banserie.

Situation at Sea

At midday five enemy destroyers on a southerly course were observed north-west of Guernsey. A large number of vessels, including four destroyers, seven large landing vessels, two tankers, and seven freighters were observed moving on a south-easterly course north of Cherbourg. There were 18 large and 18 small vessels in the same sea area in the evening possibly bringing supplies into Cherbourg or loading up on the roadstead.

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Air Situation

(a) Enemy Operations:

Four-engined bombers were not operational owing to bad take-off conditions in England. During the day several operations in some strength were flown by twin-engined aircraft. Altogether about 500 American and 100 British aircraft were operational on both sides of the Seine as far as the area south-west of Paris - Chateaudun - Caen, bombing railway installations and supply transport behind the front.

Strong enemy air cover in the south prevented concentrated German formations from penetrating into the bridgehead.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations: Apart from operations over the landing area (by about 1,800 American and 800 British fighters and fighter-bombers), 200 American and 200 British fighters were operational. Railway installations at Amiens, Varades (south-west of Angers) and Rennes were bombed.

Enemy attacks on Valence airfield during the last few days are presumably aimed at the Bongart Geschwader based there for operations against partisan groups.

About 500 four-engined aircraft with fighter escort from Italy attacked armaments plants and airfields in the Vienna area.

(b) German operations:

"Zahme Sau" ground controlled and free-lance night fighter operations were carried out.

The village of Ifs was bombed and shot up.

Security reconnaissance patrols were flown over the Golfe du Lion, western areas of Heligoland Bay and Denmark. Mine-laying operations were carried out according to plan.

Partisan Situation

Enemy resistance on the Vercors plateau (east of Valence) suddenly collapsed after heavy fighting on 25 July. Mopping up operations are in progress. The enemy is attempting to infiltrate through the encircling forces in groups.

Belgium: All incidents reported were aimed at capturing petrol, food, money, and weapons.

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27 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

A German counter-attack on Verrieres was unsuccessful. Vehicle movements in the Caen - Eterville area without any recognisable main direction seem to

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indicate regrouping and relief of units and possibly the transfer of reinforcements to the front.

Following extensive disembarkations off the Orne and Vire estuaries the employment of fresh forces must be expected in the event of a resumption of full-scale offensive operations on the Second British and First American Army fronts.

The German front line east of St Lo runs approximately as follows:

Vidouville - northern edge of the Notre Dame d'Elle wood - St Pierre.

After heavy fighting and several enemy penetrations, German forces south-south-west of St Lo are at present occupying the switch-line on both sides of Gourfaleur with their left wing directly east of St Ebremond and front facing north-west.

Enemy forces from the Canisy area which broke through towards the south and south-west have reached Le Mesnil, Herman, Souilles and Dangy. German troops are holding the line Quibou - La Folie - Le Hamel.

A second enemy group from the Marigny area has taken Cametours, Savigny, and La Chappelle.

The German front line west and north-west of St Lo runs as follows:

Le Lorey - east of Hauteville - directly west of Le Mesnil - Viget - along the St Lo - Perriers road.

Orders have been issued to withdraw the northern front to a line north of Savigny - Coutances - along the course of the Sienne.

German losses have been considerable.

Situation at Sea

There were six enemy gun-boats and an unidentified warship off the Orne estuary in the afternoon. In the evening there was a shipping concentration, including a large number of big transports and an unidentified warship in the sea area north of Courseulles - Luc s.M. Seven transports of medium tonnage and six smaller vessels were observed approaching on a southerly course north of Luc s.M.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

In the morning about 250 American four-engined aircraft with fighter escort were operational in the area Scheldt estuary - Liege - St Omer. Bombs were dropped on the Brussels - Mecheln railway line and the Air Force signals depot at Vilvoorde. Bombs are believed to have been dropped on V-weapon launching sites in the Hazebrouck - St Omer area and on an infantry base in the Gravelines area.

In the evening about 80 Lancasters operating over the V-weapon launching zone dropped bombs in the Amiens - Aumale area.

Some 950 American and 800 British aircraft carried out fighter and fighter-bomber operations. Aircraft bombed and shot up the airfields at Cormeilles, Dreux, Alencon and Romilly, railway stations at Wambax and Marcilly, a bridge over the Seine

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at Conflance and targets on roads in the Quillebeuf area. During the whole of the day aircraft carried out low-level armed reconnaissance; fighter-bomber, and rocket-firing operations. These attacks were concentrated in the St Lo battle area and south of Caen and were directed against tanks, artillery, mortars, observation posts and battle headquarters.

(b) German operations:

Twenty-four aircraft carried out "Zahme Sau" ground-controlled night fighter operations; twenty-two aircraft carried out free-lance "Zahme Sau" night fighter operations.

A concentrated attack was made on the Giberville, Demouville and Mondeville areas, on artillery positions south of Mondeville, and on a feint attack in the area north of the Orne estuary. Nuisance raids were made on occupied villages north of St Lo. The following successes were scored in attacks on shipping:-

- 1 tanker of 4,000 tons sunk,
- 1 freighter of 7,000 tons probably sunk,
- 2 freighters totalling 10,000 tons,
- 1 transport vessel of 8,000 tons, and
- 1 destroyer badly damaged.

Reconnaissance operations were flown over the Ghent area. One red lamp and three green lamps in a row were observed, probably a marker for the dropping of sabotage supplies.

Partisan Situation

Intense sabotage activity and attacks continued throughout the entire Western area. German convoys in close formation and other important objectives in the Commanetre area were repeatedly attacked by two companies of partisans. The attack was driven off. Saboteurs continued to concentrate on the destruction of railways, bridges and telephone trunk lines. Attacks on fuel dumps, trains and transport are increasing. The German operation in southern France has been brought to a successful conclusion. A large number of partisans were killed and considerable amounts of weapons and ammunition captured.

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28 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

There was intense raiding party activity by both sides in the area south of Caen. No operations of particular importance occurred east of St Lo (German front line runs as follows: Montrabot - southern edge of St Jean-des-Baisants - southern edge of La Barre - southern edge of St Lo). By evening enemy spearheads approaching the west German switch lines being established in the break through area west of St Lo reached the area north of Villebaudon - Le Guislain - Hambye and Cerences. Moyon is in enemy hands.

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Some German units are still withdrawing towards the line north-east and north of Coutances - Tourville, while others are setting up a covering line against enemy forces attacking from the Notre Dame area towards the west. In addition, troops are being brought up from the south into the Tessy - Noyon area for a counter-attack on the left flank of enemy units which have broken through.

Situation at Sea

Eight supply convoys bound for and departing from the invasion area with a total of 125 medium and large freighters, tankers and troopships (some of them up to 15,000 tons) and 24 LST and LCT landing craft were observed in the sea area between the Seine Bay and the Isle of Wight.

About 80 - 100 vessels of various sizes were observed in the sea area north of Cherbourg (in harbour, at piers and in the dock). It is therefore presumed that Cherbourg is in partial operation as a supply harbour for the front. (An exact assessment is not possible owing to the lack of photographic reconnaissance).

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

About 100 - 120 aircraft flew over the Seine estuary - Dijon - Gironde estuary - Brittany area, presumably carrying out partisan supply operations in the Bourges - Nevers - Digoin area. About 20 - 25 Mosquitoes bombed Stuttgart. About 60 - 70 aircraft from the east bombed Insterburg.

In the morning about 200 American four-engined aircraft attacked the V-weapon launching area, dropping bombs in the St Omer - Hazebrouck district. A further four-engined bomber attack by 50 British aircraft was made on the V-weapon launching zone in the evening.

Small formations of American and British twin-engined aircraft (about 380) made continuous incursions into the Dieppe - Chartres - Tours - Angers - Caen area. Bombs were dropped in areas behind the front.

Some 1,000 American four-engined aircraft escorted by 500 fighters attacked industrial plants in central Germany, concentrating on Leuna. About 500 American four-engined bombers from Italian bases attacked Ploesti.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations: Excluding bomber escort sorties (see above), operations over the landing area and in three sweeps over the Seine Bay - Nevers - Saumur - Dinan area were carried out by 250 American and 180 British fighters during the morning and by 600 American and 350 British fighters in the afternoon.

Attacks in the landing area were concentrated in the Coutances - St Lo area and directed against tanks, mortars and troop movements. In addition, operations were carried out against road transport in an area extending to the line Vernon - Dreux - Alencon.

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(b) German operations:

A concentrated attack was carried out north-west of St Lo. Attacks were also made on Giberville and Demouville. Shipping was attacked north and north-east of Barfleur. Security reconnaissance patrols were flown along the Spanish coast, the north-west coast of Sardinia to Corsica, and over western areas of Heligoland Bay and Denmark.

Night photographic reconnaissance operations were carried out over Cherbourg.

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29 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Nothing of particular importance occurred in the Caen area. The enemy is continuing to bring up fresh forces into front line areas on both sides of the Orne.

East of the Vire the German front line runs as follows: La Lande - Bieville - La Chapelle - Conde - Vire valley - river loop at Vaupatin; west of the Vire Le Mesnil Opac - east of Moyon - Bois de Moyon. (Le Mesnil and Moyon are in enemy hands).

Further west German covering forces at St Denis are holding lines from La Baleine to Gavray and Cerences - Le Mesnil-Aubert - Trelly (front facing east). An enemy attack from the east on Le Mesnil-Aubert and Trelly is in progress.

All movements are impeded by large-scale enemy air activity, particularly fighter-bomber operations.

Situation at Sea

Six escort vessels were observed west of La Havre and eight transport vessels were sighted arriving north of Arromanches. One monitor, five transport vessels and a concentration of landing boats and small craft were observed off the Orne. A shipping concentration was located further north. Twenty-three transport vessels, two cruisers and four destroyers were observed in the sea area off Courseulles - Luc s.M. North of Cherbourg thirteen vessels in convoy were sighted moving on a southerly course. Observation of the invasion fleet is still impeded by bad visibility.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

About 80 - 100 four-engined British aircraft operating over the V-weapon launching zone dropped bombs in the Ypres - Hazebrouck area. Numerous sorties by single aircraft over the area of Belgium - northern France and in Brittany extending south as far as the Loire were probably partisan supply or reconnaissance operations. Single aircraft shot up flak positions along the course of the Seine.

About 350 - 400 four-engined aircraft bombed Stuttgart, Pforzheim and Karlsruhe. Some 150 aircraft bombed Hamburg.

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In the morning 150 - 200 American four-engined aircraft bombed airfields at Juvincourt and Couvron.

In the evening about 100 four-engined British aircraft operating over the V-weapon launching zone dropped bombs in the St Omer - Hazebrouck area.

In the morning about 800 American four-engined aircraft made another attack on Leuna, whilst a further 500 aircraft bombed Bremen.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations: Following a slight improvement in the weather during the afternoon 600 American and 500 British fighters and fighter-bombers attacked observation posts, artillery and mortars, and movements on roads.

(b) German Operations:

A concentrated attack was carried out south-west of St Lo. Attacks were made on villages along the Banneville - Sannerville - Touffreville road. (Several explosions and fires were observed in the villages and surrounding areas).

In general, mine-laying operations were carried out according to plan, but some mines were not laid accurately.

Reconnaissance operations were carried out without sighting the enemy or were broken off on account of the weather. Night photographic reconnaissance operations were flown over Cherbourg,, but films could not be interpreted owing to 6-9/10 cloud.

Partisan Situation

Sabotage activity is increasing again, particularly in Belgium and Brittany.

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30 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Enemy attacks on Hill 112 and at Bougy and Missy were repulsed. An enemy penetration at Les Houilles was eliminated by a German counter-attack.

The enemy has opened an attack on a broad front between St Vaast and La Vacquerie and has penetrated the German main defence line at Orbois-lutaine and Sept-Vents. Tanks have reached Cahagnes and La Ferriere (via Sept-Vents - St Jean). Heavy enemy attacks on Le Mesnil-Opac, Moyon and La Denisiere are in progress. At present German forces are holding a line running from the western edge of Bois de Moyon - area directly east of Villebaudon - eastern side of the Villebaudon - Percy road - Hill 210 - northern edge of Percy to Sourdeval. The area from Sourdeval to the coast is defended by strong points. Enemy forces have penetrated into Gavray. Tank-borne infantry has broken through the weak German covering line at Cerences and has pushed forward through Folligny as far as La Haye-Pesnel. German armoured units have been sent into action against this force.

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Situation at Sea

North-west of Cherbourg nine ships, including four large transports, were observed proceeding on course for Cherbourg. One battleship of about 30,000 tons located north-west of Houlgate is bombarding high ground around the town. A shipping concentration comprising a large number of transports and one large warship was observed off Courseulles.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

Night of 29/30 July: About 150 aircraft carried out partisan supply operations in the St Malo - Tours - Cognac - St Nazaire area. Bombs were dropped on airfields at Coulommiers and St Trond.

About 25 Mosquitoes made nuisance raids in the area Frankfurt/Main, Darmstadt, Mainz and Wiesbaden.

30 July: In the morning about 650 four-engined aircraft followed by 300 twin-engined aircraft dropped bombs in the landing area, concentrating on artillery positions in the main battle area.

In the afternoon and evening about 250 twin-engined were operational in areas behind the front.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations: Fighter provided cover for twin-engined formations. At the same time fighter-bomber operations were carried out against road and railway targets behind the front and in the Pas de Calais and in support of ground units, mainly in the American Army sector.

In the afternoon aircraft attacked vehicle and tank concentrations in the Vire - Avranches - Granville area, concentrating on the area between Villers-Bocage and Caumont. The airfield at Orleans-Bricy, Loire bridges at Tours and the railway station at Villers-Cotterets were bombed and shot up.

Altogether some 1,100 American and 1,000 British fighters were operational.

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31 JULY, 1944

Ground Situation

Panzergruppe West: A new main defence line is being built up on the left flank along the line southern edge of Orbois - Hill 147 - Hill 154 - Havetot - cross-roads north-west of Orval - Graham - Canteloup - Hill 168 - northern edge of wooded area east of La Ferriere and from this point north of the St Pierre - St Martin road to Granville. Hill 269 and Hill 300 have been lost to superior enemy forces. Fighting is in progress in the Mahieux area and at St Martin.

AOK 7: Single enemy tanks have pushed forward to the southern edge of the Foret L'Eveque. Enemy attacks in some strength were repulsed in the Le Mesnil-Opac area. Heavy attacks on 116th Panzer division's front led to a penetration north-east of Percy.

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Situation at Sea

According to agents' reports invasion supply traffic is continuing according to plan.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

Bomber Operations: Commencing at midday about 100 American four-engined bombers with fighter escort operating over the area north-east of Paris attacked airfields at Athies and Creil. At the same time 300 twin-engined American aircraft with fighter escort operating over the area Somme estuary - west of Paris - Orleans - Tours - Le Havre attacked railway bridges at Chartres and Tours.

In the evening about 350 British four-engined aircraft operating over the area Somme estuary - Troyes - Chateaudun - Le Havre bombed a Luftwaffe special installation at Reims, railway targets at La Roche (BBC), and shipping at Le Havre.

At the same time American and British twin-engined aircraft (about 230) operating over the area Somme estuary - west of Paris - Loire - St Malo attacked the Seine bridge at Le Manoir, railway installations at Mantes, and Loire bridges at Tours.

About 1,350 American four-engined aircraft with fighter escort bombed Munich and Mannheim - Ludwigshafen.

About 300 American and 300 British fighters and fighter-bombers were operational during the morning, concentrating on the landing area. In the afternoon some 200 American and 500 British fighters were operational over an area extending from west of Paris to the Loire. Attacks were made on troop movements, transport columns, tanks and bridges throughout the entire area of operations.

(b) German operations:

Concentrated attacks were made on troop concentrations, traffic junctions at Le Mesnil-Herman, and on the towns of Caumont and Sallen-Cormolain.

Shipping was attacked off the Orne estuary and the Seine Bay. A freighter of 8,000 tons was badly damaged.

Reconnaissance: Twelve large shipping concentrations were observed; landing craft were carrying out unloading operations between ships and the coast.

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A.H.B.6. Distribution:

Same as for Translation VII/126

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