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AIR HISTORICAL BRANCH

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SITUATION REPORTS ISSUED BY

LUFTFLOTTE 3 (FRANCE),

JUNE, 1944

TRANSLATED BY
AIR MINISTRY, A.H.B.6
SEPTEMBER, 1953

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8 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

Position east of the Orne estuary is generally unchanged. Bridgehead between the Orne and the Vire has been extended by the enemy by bringing up forces continuously by sea and by air. It was impossible to hold Bayeux against an extensive attack. The enemy is penetrating further to the west, the south-west and further in order to carry out an encircling movement. The principal aim of this heavily armoured group appears to be to reach the Carentan-St Lo line. Attack of the armoured force (I SS Panzer Corps) on Bayeux has yet not penetrated. Very strong air cover. Same applies to the tank counter-attacks in the Secqueville area. Also west of the Vire no further advances against the airborne unit which is continuously receiving reinforcements, and was able to capture the stretch of country from St Mere Eglise to Emondeville and St Marcouf. Our own forces are hard pressed there in defence. Further landings are possible at other beachheads as well as reinforcements from the air. Probable intentions of the enemy: forces west of the bay of the Seine may try, to push through to Carentan and link up with the bridgehead there. Forces from the Carentan bridgehead, with armoured support, may launch the attack by land to the northwest round Cherbourg.

According to the BBC in the course of the afternoon, General Montgomery has arrived on the Continent to take over the command of operations in the beachhead west of the Seine bay.

Situation at sea

On the afternoon of 8 June there were 15 warships firing on the coast off Cherbourg. Off the Vire estuary there were 2 battleships and 1 cruiser to support the landing. Northeast of Cotentin a large formation of transport and merchant ships of about 100 units en route towards the south.

In the whole area of the Seine bay, there were altogether about 400 transports, merchant ships and landing craft.

Landings are concentrated between the Vire estuary and St Marie du Mont. West of Contentin no enemy units have been detected.

Air Situation

Heavy bomber formations dropped bombs during the forenoon only, on Orleans station, Tours, Le Mans and Angers (altogether about 1400). Light bombers made three operations in co-operation with heavy bomber units in the course of the afternoon in the Rennes and Dinan area (altogether about 500); there were also fighter and fighter-bomber units (about 2500 aircraft in forenoon, negligible activity in afternoon owing to deterioration in weather).

Main point of attack: Fighter cover over beachhead and air support for single targets.

9 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

Communicated by C. in C. West and Army Group B. East of the Orne the enemy succeeded in closing in in the Bois de Bavent and around Bures. West of the Orne heavy fighting was discontinued with main point of attack north of Caen, E and SE Bayeux, where the enemy was pressing to the south with tanks; further strong enemy thrust from Bayeux towards the west and Isigny occupied.

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Contact apparently thus established with beachhead to north of Carentan. Main point of attack on Cotentin, and at present on both sides of the Carentan-Montebourg road, the enemy has extended bridgehead towards north to Emondeville-Ecauseville line. Apparently a new landing from the sea near Quineville.

Situation at sea

(Communicated by Naval Group, West). On the night 8/9 June assault from base Cherbourg by 5th and 9th motor torpedo boat flotilla, 4th motor torpedo boat flotilla and 5th torpedo boat flotilla from base le Havre on mining and offensive engagement in operational area bay of the Seine. As yet no report on activities.

Intended transfer of fourth destroyer in the same night from Brest to Cherbourg and 2nd minesweeper flotilla from Brest to St Malo failed, destroyer en route to engage in combat with enemy cruisers.

On the afternoon of 9 June, considerable shipping traffic east of Barfleur in north and south direction. About 100 large and medium units sighted in the same sea area, with a southerly course. Presumably supporting force to the western landing sector.

Evening of 9 June off Orne estuary heavy combat group; presumably flank protection for supplies of eastern beachhead.

Battleship "Nelson" on evening of 9 June sighted east of Le Havre sailing in a north-easterly direction.

Air Situation

Enemy activity: Until about 16.00 hrs no enemy activity reported. In the later hours of the afternoon individual reconnaissance sorties and fighter and fighter-bomber assaults concentrating on beachhead.

10 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

Through landing of further forces, chiefly tanks, on night 9/10 June and on 10 June the enemy has reinforced the forces of the Second British as well as the First U.S. Army. The main direction of advance with armoured support is from Bayeux towards the southwest on the Elle-Vire-sector. From the St Mere Eglise area the enemy is likewise pressing with strong armoured forces towards the southwest as well as to the north

Situation at sea

In an assault 5th torpedo boat flotilla on the night 9/10 June engagement with enemy destroyers off Cap de la Hève.

In the whole landing area intensive supply and landing operations in progress under the support of heavy transports (up to 2,000 GRT). Flank protection by heavy sea forces.

Two enemy convoy routes definitely running from north to south on 0055 west and 0035 west (western and central Seine bay). Regular supply traffic on these routes is presumably protected.

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Air Situation

Improved weather conditions made possible heavier enemy activity than on 9 June. Targets in beachhead and behind the lines were attacked, also GAF station Evreux, Conches, Dreux, Chateaudun, Orleans, Nantes and Vannes and Serqueux railway station.

From 0700 hrs permanent air cover over landing area with an average of 400-500 aircraft at one time. 3500-4000 fighter aircraft took part in whole operation.

Reconnaissance activity during the whole day continuously intense. At 1700 hrs order to British fighters to land on newly opened airfield in bridgehead.

Command air support of troops in most cases against pillboxes, gun emplacements and radar installations

11 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

Enemy reinforcements continue to arrive in the bridgehead between the Orne and Vire. Early evening attack against Caen is expected. (In the evening of 11 June 200 tanks were observed moving south 15 km north of Caen.) Between Vire and Carentan the enemy has made contact with the landing party north of Carentan. An enemy attack from this area to the west and north was beaten off. German troops reinforced in area south-west of Valognes. Units also arrived to reinforce area around St Lo.

The heaviest fighting was again in the area South and South-west of Bayeux, where the enemy succeeded in pushing the German switch lines back further. 3rd Paratroop Division holds both sides of Berigny. Successful German attack by a unit of the Panzer Lehrdivision against hill south of Audrieu. At the moment enemy air superiority is seriously delaying the movement of troops and supplies and hampering communications in the area of operations.

Situation at Sea

At midday on 11 June considerable shipping activity in both directions in the eastern part of the Channel. In the Dover - Dungeness area a large convoy of 60 medium and small freighters (some loaded with tanks), presumably heading for the zone of operations. 60 - 70 barrage balloons over convoy, off Dungeness and Hastings several empty LCTs and small craft on north-easterly course, probably returning supply vessels. No enemy ships seen in the Boulogne - Dieppe area.

At midday several unidentified ships bombarded the Le Havre area.

In the evening strong enemy naval forces observed to the east of the Seine Bay; in all 5 battleships, 1 heavy cruiser, several destroyers and other vessels. Probably supplies for the eastern landing sector.

It can be regarded as certain that there is continuous supply traffic in the operational area between the Orne and Vire and north of Carentan.

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Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

Bombers: The number of four-engined aircraft operating during the morning increased to about 800. Targets were exclusively the airfields at Nivelles, Beauville-Tille, Beaumont, Cormeilles, Creil and Poix-Nord.

From 0815 hours about 280 twin-engined (Marauder) aircraft over the landing area and Seine crossings north of Paris.

Air Umbrella: About 3400 fighters and fighter-bombers operated over the landing and supply areas, patrolling, attacking ground targets when required and escorting long range bomber formations. (According to AOK 15 enemy fighters ordered for the first time to land on airfield being constructed north of Caen.)

From 1530 hours air activity diminished gradually owing to deterioration of the weather. Our troops, however, continued to be seriously harassed by fighter-bombers.

Reconnaissance: Throughout the day over the battle zones and rearward areas. Lively reconnaissance activity even after deterioration of weather.

(b) German operations:

In an attack on large ships in the Seine estuary one supply ship of 8000 - 10,000 tons and one liner of 20,000 tons were sunk. One destroyer damaged, one freighter of 10,000 tons probably damaged. Further hits on concentrations of ships and landing craft. Several ships left burning after the attack.

In bombing raid on the St Mere Eglise area a large explosion occurred outside the town.

German reconnaissance: Mediterranean, Bay of Biscay, Heligoland Bight nothing to report.

In Seine estuary 0025 hours 11 June four large concentrations of ships.

In the mouth of the Vire at 0342 hours on 11 June about 20 ships of various sizes, some putting to sea.

12 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

No appreciable change since submission of evening report for 11 June. The enemy has been further reinforced east of the Orne and captured Sallenelles and Touffrevilles.

Following the grouping of a strong force of tanks in Cambes, observed during the evening of 11 June, the enemy appears to have set out this morning in the direction of Caen.

There appear to be gaps in the front between Orbois and Le Perron.

The situation on either side of Caumont not clear.

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We are holding the Elle sector.

In the Carentan bridgehead the centre of enemy pressure is now WSW of St Mere Eglise. The enemy has pushed forward to Pont l'Abbe to the west. Our troops are still very seriously held up by enemy fighter and fighter-bomber attacks.

Sea Situation

Our fast torpedo craft scored two hits on a cruiser in the Vire estuary area of the Seine Bay on the night of 11/12 June. Hit by an air torpedo on a special ship (about 10,000 tons) north-east of Barfleur. It was not seen to sink.

Continuous supply traffic to the area of operations, especially to the estuaries of the Orne and Vire.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operations:

About 400 four-engined aircraft over Paris and Brittany. Bombs dropped on Massy-Palaisau marshalling yard and on Rennes. 50 - 60 night-fighters and single reconnaissance aircraft over the beachheads and supply lines.

Strong formations of American bombers began bombing airfields at 08.00 hours. Those at Montdidier, Amy, Merville, Beauvais-Tille, Amiens-Glissy, Lille north, Vendeville, Epinoy, Vitry-en-Artois and Cambrai south were attacked. Some of the airfields were put out of action temporarily. (Details in Evening Report 12 June 1944, 04.00 - 16.00 hours). In addition, transport targets in Luftflotte 3 area and the Seine ferry at Berville (heavily damaged) were attacked.

(b) German operations:

Reconnaissance: The area Boulogne - mid Channel - Dieppe is clear of the enemy. 60 small and medium freighters off Dover - Dungeness on south-westerly course, some of them loaded with tanks.

14.00 hours Carentan evacuated according to OKW report.

13 JUNE 1944

Ground Situation

East of the Orne the towns of Breville and Sannerville were again in our own hands after fluctuating fighting. Situation west of the Orne essentially unchanged. Caumont occupied by the enemy. In the course of the forenoon our own battle reconnaissance in Villers-Bocage wiped out enemy tanks which had made a breakthrough and some armoured troop carrying vehicles. Biville and Lamberville are in our hands. Enemy has penetrated into Couvains. Fighting concentrated in the course of the day south of Carentan where our own attack did not accomplish anything. Up to now 1 km north-west of the town of Carentan a breach in the front 1 km wide between Etienville and Appeville (occupied by the enemy). Countermeasures are in progress. North-east of Montebourg (still in our own hands) the enemy has succeeded in making a penetration of about 3 km as far as just south-east of Vaudreville. Quineville is in our hands.

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Situation at sea

Intended attack by an S-boat flotilla on night of 12/13 June on southerly escort in the Seine bay thwarted by enemy destroyers and gunboats. In the morning north-west of the Channel Islands, heavy battle groups strategically spread out, 1 battle ship, 2 cruisers, 1 destroyer and 3 S-boats tactically spread out on northerly course, presumably returning to base on south coast of England. Noon in Orne estuary 2 heavy units, among them the battleship "Nelson". At present strongly defended transports at the beachhead.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy activity:

During the forenoon about 150-200 four-engined aircraft on beachhead and Paris area with bombing operations on airfields St Andre, Dreux and according to BBO Evreux and north of Le Havre. According to reliable sources a body of 100 four-engined aircraft were spotted in the afternoon, but broke off the operation over England. In the evening 200 Fortresses in Paris carried out bombing operations on Seine bridges, Conflans and Pontoise. Twin-engined aircraft and fighter-bombers attacked mainly beachhead and areas Beauvais, Orleans, Le Mans and Rennes dropping bombs on Rennes airfield. Fighters and fighter-bombers in the course of the day (altogether 2100) picked up by secret sources; of those about 300 - 400 were TAF. Owing to weather deterioration fighter-bomber activity in the operational area was petering out in the afternoon. Request for photographic reconnaissance learned from secret sources, was declined owing to weather conditions. On 13 June in the morning there was an attack by 300 - 400 Italian based four-engined aircraft which bombed industrial targets and traffic installations in Munich and Innsbruck.

(b) Own activity:

Second Jagdkorps (JUNCK) made an attack on landings and fortified towns and villages between Orne estuary and Tracy s.M., raid with 1000 mines in Orne estuary, night fighter pursuit, supply of our own troops in Douvres area and reconnaissance over London for LXV Army Corps.

Operation on ship targets by X Fliegerkorps south-east St Vaast, reconnaissance with bombing operation west of Brest and west of Ireland, routine reconnaissance in Bay of Biscay.

Second Fliegerdivision bombing on ship targets in sea area off east coast of Spain to north-west coast of Corsica.

Long range reconnaissance Gruppe 123 made routine reconnaissance in western part of Channel and Heligoland Bight as far as Denmark; photographic reconnaissance over London.

Transport Geschwader 30 supplying W Carentan from the air.

Successes

Sunk: 2 destroyers, 1 ferry ship of 4000 GRT

Heavily damaged: 1 troop transport of 9000 GRT

1 freighter 9000 GRT

Damaged: 1 freighter of 7000 GRT, 2 direct hits on 2 medium merchantmen, 1 direct hit on transport of 6000 GRT and transport of 2000 - 3000 GRT, hit on landing craft 1500 - 2000 GRT as also on medium landing barge.

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In addition: Explosions and fires in towns and villages, troop concentrations, unloading operations, defended streets, anti-aircraft and searchlight positions as also motor transport concentrations. Explosions and fires in the vicinity of the town Carentan and Ouistreham. Attack on camps showing lights in the Cambridge area.

14 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

Unchanged east of the Orne.

The centre of the fighting west of the Orne is in the area Villers - Bocage - Caumont - Livry - Torteval. Villers - Bocage changed hands several times but is now in our hands. Enemy occupies Caumont. Gaps in the front between Torteval and Caumont. Counter-measures are being taken. With the exception of a 2 km wide gap between Beuzeville and Etienville, the gaps in the front between St Jores and Etienville, in the bridgehead north of Carantan, were closed. Montebourg in German hands. Between Montebourg and Carantan the enemy pressed northward to the village of Vaudeville (in German hands).

Throughout the day there was intense activity by enemy fighters and fighter-bombers in the area of operations. New disembarkation in the Vire estuary area.

Identification of troops: According to reliable secret sources, the American XIX Corps has been pushed in between the V and VII Corps in the sector of the First Army.

Sea Situation

The group of battleships already reported are still off the Seine - Orne estuaries. Heavy artillery (38 cm) probably of these ships, bombarded the area Cap de la Heve from 10.40 - 11.49 hours. Observed visually in the evening: 2 battleships (probably of the "Nelson" and "Pennsylvania" class), one heavy cruiser, three light cruisers (one of them of the "Enterprise" class) several escort vessels, landing barges and transporters. From a reliable secret source it is reported that the naval commander of the eastern invasion area is flying his flag in this force.

At 11.18 and 11.34 hours a coastal battery blew up one heavy cruiser, several landing craft and freighters in a group off the Orne estuary. Between 11.37 and 11.42 hours the same battery scored hits on heavy cruisers and destroyers west of the Orne estuary. Several strongly escorted convoys observed in the afternoon north and east of Cotentin. These are probably carrying supplies for the western beachhead.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy Operations:

Between 06.30 and 20.00 hours on 14 June, 1,200 to 1,400 four-engined bombers attacked the airfields Amiens-Glisy, Coxyde, Beauvais-Tille, Le Bourget, Mondesir, Villaroche, Coulommiers, Orleans-Bricy, Bretigny and the airfield in Luftflotte 3 area, as already reported. Other targets attacked were the town of Clastres and an ammunition train near Villemeux (Maintenon), and about 22.00 hours 100 Lancasters with strong fighter escort bombed Le Havre.

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About 250 twin-engined American aircraft attacked the railway line between Etampes and Paris.

About 4,500 fighter and fighter-bombers operated continuously over the area of the fighting.

(b) German Operations:

(Night of 13/14 June 1944) Night fighter patrols over the battle area. Shipping targets between the Orne estuary and Asnelles, groups of tanks north-north-west of Caen, and assembly points, unloading operations and occupied villages were attacked. Reconnaissance patrols in the Bay of Biscay, the Mediterranean and the Straits of Dover.

23.43 hours: Explosions observed in ships.

23.50 hours: 6 warships under thick smokescreen. A great many small ships observed at sea and in the Le Havre area. Smoke screen over the coastal stretch from south-west of the Orne estuary to about Arromanches.

Successful attacks

Direct hits on landing craft, LSTs, supply ships and one destroyer, also on AA and searchlight emplacements west of the Orne estuary and near Ouistreham, and on unloading points and troop concentrations.

15 JUNE, 1944

Both sides of the Orne situation unaltered. Enemy attacks supported by tanks from South Balleroy area in south-east direction are still in progress. (Our own attack with the 2nd Panzer Division has been halted by it).

Enemy attacks carried out both sides of the Bayeux-St Lo road achieved a local penetration, which it was possible to block. St André de L'Epine had to be given up.

Front south and west of Carentan reinforced by our putting fresh forces into action. Strong enemy thrust west of St Mère Eglise is persisting. North-east of Montebourg and west of Quineville the aforementioned enemy attacks made local penetrations with strong artillery and air support.

17.30 hrs formation of smoke screens both sides of Dover.

Situation at Sea

On 15 June at 1900 hrs west of le Havre strongly defended body of ships. Altogether 4 presumably battleships, 2 heavy cruisers, 1 light cruiser, 2 unknown heavy units, 1 destroyer, several more units and escort vessels, in addition great ship concentrations, among them several transports. Negligible air activity in the vicinity of the ships, numerous barrage balloons.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy activity:

Bombing operation: In the forenoon, raid by the 1st, 2nd and 3rd U.S. Bomber Divisions with altogether 1200 - 1400 four-engined aircraft.

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Distribution of target areas and bombing activity by the 1st Division in Western France on towns, railway stations and Loire bridges at Nantes, on GAF stations in south-western France, 2nd Division in the Paris-Orleans area on GAF station Evreux, St. Cyr, Guyancourt, Coulommiers, Mondesir, Etampes, Orleans-Bricy as well as on railway installations and Loire bridges in Tours, 3rd Division on German territory, railway installations in Hanover.

Raids by altogether 450 British and American twin-engined aircraft in several waves on objectives behind the landing area.

Fighter and fighter-bomber operations: During the whole day continuous waves of fighter and fighter-bomber units in the northern French area concentrating activities in the landing area. Raids directed according to request by ground troops or else air reconnaissance preponderantly against resistance points, tank assembly points, gun positions and troop movements.

Whole fighter and fighter-bomber operation by about 3200 aircraft.

(b) Our own activities:

Dense mining Orne and Vire estuaries, raid on ship targets in the Seine bay and also north-east of Barfleur as far as the Isle of Wight, unloadings and landing spots in the area of the Vire estuary, special supply operation to our own troops based at Douvres.

Successes: Total number sunk or damaged 14 ships of 102 GRT, 1 cruiser (Dido Class), 2 destroyers.

Reconnaissance: Western Vire estuary, North of Bayeux and North of Caen several fires on the sea. Very considerable number of landing boats in Vire estuary, north-east 15 transport ships, north of Deux-Jumeaux large landing field in eastwesterly direction (airfield). 1 km south-west of Crepon, airfield in construction. Airfield apparently in construction $\frac{1}{2}$ km south-east Asnelles.

Close reconnaissance: No sign of enemy activity Bay of Biscay; no ship movements observed Heligoland Bight. Reconnaissance in eastern part of the Channel broken off.

Partisan activity

Combat activity in wood of Bourlon completed, captured bandits had the Somme as their objective.

16 JUNE, 1944.

Ground Situation

East of the Orne since the early hours of the morning an attack by our own forces is making good progress in annihilating the enemy. Herouvillette is in our hands. Escoville again occupied by enemy after fluctuating fighting. Heavy artillery fire between the Orne and south-east of Bayeux. Main defence line from Brouay to le Mesnil - Patry retaken. Heavy enemy gunfire both sides of Tilly. Attack is expected. Main enemy thrust on Bayeux - St Lo road. Fighting still going on.

South of Montmartin our combat outposts withdrew to the main defence line in face of strong enemy thrust.

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To the west of St Mere Eglise the enemy made an advance and made a breakthrough 5 km wide. St Sauveur le Vicomte was occupied by the enemy.

Situation at sea

Heavy force group has been situated off Orne-Seine estuary since the morning and afternoon. Nothing further to report.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy Activity:

Hampered owing to weather conditions.

From 1130 hrs wave of about 300 four-engined aircraft and altogether 1800 fighter-bombers and fighters carrying out bombing operations on objectives in area St Pol and Auxy le Chateau, on airfields Beauvais-Tille, Athies, Juvincourt, Vitry en Artois, Monchy-Breton and Marcilly as well as railway targets in the St. Omer area.

The fighter-bomber operation after improvement in weather conditions during the afternoon concentrated on operational area.

(b) Our own operations:

Mining carried through according to plan.

Direct hits on unloadings and vehicle concentrations on beach, explosion with great conflagration and spreading of fire.

Reconnaissance

Great explosion off Orne estuary with lasting fire on sea.

Close reconnaissance Bay of Biscay without sighting the enemy; no sign of enemy activity Heligoland Bight and Denmark. In the London target area several red and yellow glowing area conflagrations situated close to one another.

Partisan situation

Precise picture hard to obtain owing to disturbance of communications. Police reports submitted to Sicherheitsdienst gave a fairly favourable picture. The countermovement has been launched. Could not be concentrated on actions of a larger scale owing to assaults which have been in progress up to the present moment.

Present main points of effort in the wider vicinity of Lyons as far as the Swiss frontier, and further on near Tarbes and Limoges. In Garonne 300 men in liaison with British officers. 1300 men have deserted from the French police (total strength about 110,000 men); a part of them have left the terrorists again in the meantime, especially in Dijon.

17 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

No change to the east of the Orne. An enemy task force which filtered through in the Amaye s. Seulles district is being annihilated.

/North-east

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North-east of St Lo, André de L'Epine retaken between La Meauffe and Cavigny (in our own hands) a break in the front about 1 km wide.

At Cotentin our own troops are resolutely holding their ground west of St Sauveur le Vicomte. To the north-east the enemy has advanced as far as the Hauteville-Urville and is preparing to open up our own line and simultaneously cut off Cherbourg from the rest of the battlefront.

Situation at sea

Strong ship concentrations midday and afternoon in eastern Seine bay. More strongly increasing supply traffic to the eastern landing sector can be expected. For several days about 35 km east of Barfleur about 8 heavy warships and movements of about 100 landing boats, also transports, presumably supplies for the western beachhead.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy activity:

Bombing operation at noon on airfields in Western France (300 four-engined aircraft) and on launching areas (T.V.Z.) in the St Pol and St Omer area (about 120 four-engined aircraft).

In the evening incursion of 300 four-engined aircraft and 200 Marauders. Bombs dropped on Laval and Tours GAF stations and also on road bridge at Gennevilliers (north of Paris).

Waves of altogether about 3000 fighters and fighter-bombers in the area Fecamp-Caen-Vernon-Chartres-Le Mans concentrating on operational area.

(b) Own activity:

Mining east coast of Cotentin off St Vaast as far as north of Vire estuary, also street fighting north of Carentan and attacks on flak positions.

Reconnaissance over London

Routine reconnaissance over the Bay of Biscay, Spanish coast, Corsica and southern French coast as far as San Remo.

Night photographic reconnaissance over Seine bay.

Partisan situation

Fairly quiet on the whole, no notable changes. Carrier pigeon messages report that the partisans are becoming restive because the British have not fulfilled their promises and are failing to supply weapons.

In engagements in the départements of Loiret, Cantal, Ain, Savoie, as well as in the areas around Grenoble, north of Clermont-Ferrand near Pau and Tarbes the partisans have sustained very heavy bloodshed.

In the Belgium-Northern France zone the Armée Belge Secret is being led almost without exception by Belgian ex-officers. The organisation is expecting the key word "Cheval" every day from London as a signal for them to rally their forces. Since 9 June 1944 more and more reports have been coming in according to which the resistance groups in the Belgium-northern France zone are making preparations for the operation in support of the enemy's military operations.

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New objective point for saboteurs (chiefly sabotage on cables) in the area Laon-Chauny-Soissons.

On 17 June altogether 40 fresh sabotage cases reported, among them explosions of rails, bridges, pump stations and water towers.

British agents spotted in the wood near Bailleul les Pernes west of Bethune (probably dropped by parachute) have been wiped out.

Action by Panzer Abteilung of a mopping-up regiment against partisan camps east of Revin (north of Charleville) has been completed. (100 terrorists lost their lives, 60 were taken prisoner, arms and explosives of all kinds seized).

18 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

East of the Orne after some minor local German successes enemy counter-thrusts since 1300 hrs. West of the Orne Quesnay-Guesnon lost, Briquessard taken from the north-east. Battles with enemy sections enclosed south of Briquessard still in progress. Enemy has achieved a local penetration 1 km west of Villiers-Fossard. Counter-measures taken.

The enemy attacked from the breakthrough area St Sauveur Le Vicomte towards the west and according to hitherto unverified reports has gained the west coast of Cotentin near Barneville s. Marne. No news of the front on both sides of this breakthrough.

Situation at sea

As yet nothing further of importance to report on ship movements in the invasion area.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy activity:

Operation by about 430 twin-engined aircraft, directed in the morning and afternoon against launching areas and also twice against railway installations Rennes and operations in the area behind the lines. Minor American fighter and fighter-bomber activity over beachhead, altogether 2000 US fighters observed, 300 R.A.F. fighters for defence against the German special operation.

(b) Own activity:

(Night June 17-18). Defensive patrol in area Avranches to Coutances against incursions on our supply routes. Raid on targets off Vire estuary, mining in Seine bay, effective reconnaissance mining Seine bay, reconnaissance over London (considerable fires).

Successes: Direct hits on heavy cruiser (9000 GRT) observed burning. 2 probable direct hits on heavy cruiser. Cruiser immediately burst into flames. Mining according to plan. 1 landing boat of 200 GRT sunk. In Seine bay considerably large number of explosions on the sea off coast near Luc-sur-Mer and 3 burning ships north-east of St Pierre.

/19 JUNE

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19 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

East of the Orne tough fighting is going on for the purpose of narrowing the enemy's bridgehead.

West of the Orne our own patrol activity.

Both sides of Tilly, especially woodland east of town, increased shock troop activity on the part of the enemy. After temporary breakthrough south-west of Longraye, which was cleared up in a counter thrust, 1 battalion defeated (battalion staff with commander and 10 officers taken prisoner).

Patrol activity in the area both sides of Caumont. Area south-west of Bricquessard cleared of the enemy. In St Lo area gunfire and patrol activity on both sides.

East of Portbail the southern defence front is arming against penetration to the west coast of Cotentin.

On north front situation in the west unsettled, Bricquebec, according to unconfirmed report, in the hands of the enemy.

19.45 hrs gunfire on Cherbourg from the land side.

Situation at sea

Allied unloadings during the morning in the operational area temporarily stopped on account of weather.

In the afternoon 4 troopships lying off Arromanches, which for some unknown reason cannot be unloaded.

Nothing of importance regarding further ship movements and heavy units.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy operation:

Before and after noon intermittent incursions of strong American four-engined aircraft units with bombing on launching area in the St Pol-Doullens-Arras area.

Raid by about 250 four-engined aircraft in the hours of the morning on 4 airfields in the Bordeaux area.

Whole operation included about 1140 American four-engined aircraft.

During the evening bombing by about 40 Lancasters on launching area.

2 - 300 British and American fighters observed to combat German special operation.

Also about 1400 fighters and fighter-bombers, combining simultaneously with incursion units of four-engined aircraft (fighter defence).

(b) Own activity:

Night photography reconnaissance over London.

/Mining

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Mining in Orne estuary

Raids on ship concentrations and ship movements NE of Barfleur as far as Isle of Wight.

Sunk: 1 destroyer, 2 troop transport together amounting to 19000 GRT
1 freighter of 8000 GRT, 1 tanker of 9000 GRT.

Other destroyers and freighters heavily damaged.

Partisan situation:

Unaltered in Central France. Increasing partisan activity in the whole of Brittany; partisans are being led by British officers dropped by parachute.

20 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

Penetration at Hottot has been sealed off.

Persevering enemy thrust in the Villers-Fossart sector, up to now all attacks repulsed.

Clearing up of the penetration south-west of Vindefontaine has not yet been completed.

To the north of Cotentin enemy feeling its way towards Cherbourg on the Briquebec-Breuville road. Area as far as Brix-Breuville-St. Christophe line was still free of enemy in the forenoon. Enemy attacks supported by tanks in the Valogne area were repulsed by rearguards after hard fighting. The von Schlieben group mostly retaken in Cherbourg fortifications area.

Situation at sea

Nothing to report.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy activity:

Fighter defence and fighter-bomber activity in battle area, fighter activity on roads (3000 - 3500) aircraft. Twin-engined formations dropping bombs on launching area and on Merville airfield. Nuisance raid on Cormeilles airfield and troop transport near Guignicourt.

(b) Own activity:

Routine reconnaissance over Biscay, Channel, Heligoland Bight and Denmark.

Off Orne estuary concentration of ships of various sizes, otherwise no sign of enemy activity.

Mining according to plan (2 explosions near freighter of 3-4000 GRT.)

Partisan Situation

Sabotage plots in our own forward operational area by terrorists with covered explosives charges. Heavy damage on motor vehicles sustained.

/Systematic

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Systematic call-up of young men in this area was again confirmed. Also the supply of arms and leaders by aircraft. The appearance of uniformed men in the resistance groups indicates here stricter discipline and also fusion into stronger groups. On 19 and 20 June fresh increase in railway sabotage cases in our own zone.

21 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

On the whole of the front the enemy is keeping extraordinarily quiet. Weak artillery fire. Enemy has withdrawn 1 - 1½ km at some points.

In the Bois de Limors 16 km south-east of St Sauveur le Vicomte, our own defences on southern edge of the wood have been forced back.

In the fortifications zone of Cherbourg enemy attacks near Le Theil were repulsed. Towards south-western sector of land front enemy reconnaissance thrust with tanks.

Situation at sea

Strong ship concentrations in the evening off Orne estuary.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy activity:

Severely hampered by weather conditions (high altitude fog) in the combat area.

Fighter-bomber raids on Loire bridge near Blois and on Versailles-Matelot railway station.

Continuation of the raids on launching area by twin and four-engined formations until late evening.

Large scale incursion in the forenoon on Berlin and hydrogenation plant near Dresden with over 1000 four-engined aircraft with strong fighter cover. Altogether over 3500 fighters and fighter-bombers observed in the operation.

(b) Own activity:

Mining in north Orne estuary, bombing on ship targets off Vire estuary, night fighting. Supply from Cherbourg by Transportgruppe 30.

Reconnaissance: Strong ship concentrations off Cotentin peninsula. Extensive dark red blaze from the centre of London towards the east.

22 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

No notable actions after heavy battles between Orne and Vire involving considerable enemy losses. Apparent enemy regrouping for the preparation of further attacks both sides of Tilly and extension of the breakthrough north of Hottot.

/Cherbourg

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Cherbourg fighting zone (von Schlieben Gruppe):

Increasing enemy fire on town area Cherbourg (power and water supply failed). Enemy advance pushed back in a counter thrust near Theville airfield, some resistance posts still occupied by the enemy.

Situation at sea

Strong ship activity and landing movements in Seine bay directly NW of Orne estuary (supported by 2 battleships, 4 cruisers, 54 large and small landing boats, 2 landing ship tanks, 35 freighters, altogether about 270,000 GRT. Landing fleet at present severely hampered owing to unfavourable weather conditions.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy activity:

On night of 21/22 June there was an incursion of several hundred aircraft in Rhineland-Westphalian industrial area; bombs dropped particularly on hydrogenation works. Day attacks also supported by the RAF with 500 Lancaster and Halifax bombers concentrated on construction sites and special installations in the launching areas as well as on Cherbourg fortifications area. In addition bombs dropped on railway installations near Ghent (seaport), Lille, St. Quentin, Melun and Tours, as well as fighter-bomber attacks on airfields between the Somme and the Seine.

(b) Own activity:

Mining Orne estuary. Air supply Cherbourg carried out.

Partisan situation

Increasing unrest in western Brittany (since 6 June altogether 300 uniformed British officers and personnel include a considerable proportion of French. Arrival dropped there or else landed on north coast.

Partisan group forming near Carignan, west of Laon, north-east Bourges, north of Vierzon, west of Blois and north of Flers.

No further increase in sabotage in our own zone.

23 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

On improvement of the weather, renewed artillery and air activity on the whole of the front.

To the east of the Orne an enemy forward thrust with tanks as far as the western edge of St Honorine. Concentrated enemy thrust west of the Orne in the Hottot breakthrough area. Enemy assembly positions observed near St Lo before our own main defence line destroyed by concentrated gunfire.

Near bridges St Nicolas, Varenquebec and St Lod Ourville enemy breakthroughs cleared up in a counter thrust.

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The land front enlarged according to military requirements (Le Theil - Flottemanville line) in the Cherbourg battle area was penetrated up to the evening at 4 points as far as the line south of Theville airfield - Digosville - Rouges Terres (2 km South Cherbourg) - Flottemanville. Troops in positions as yet not attacked or else not taken are keeping the enemy occupied in combats in the rear. Heavy artillery, hand grenade and tank activity as well as dropping of enemy propaganda pamphlets.

Situation at sea

Continuation of the unloadings, renewed supply activity off Orne estuary under the cover of heavy and medium bodies of ships. 3 of our own supply boats arrived in Cherbourg from St Malo.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy activity

Heavy activity by four-engined formations in raids on Reims and Laon town and railway station, at noon in the launching area (area St Omer, St Pol, Aire, Doullens - Abbeville), in the evening on airfields Coulommiers, Juvin-court and Athies.

Heavy fighter and fighter-bomber assaults in Brittany as far as south of the Loire, with bombing and gunning attacks on railway installations in the courses of the Seine and Loire as well as in the Rennes area (about 1000 aircraft).

(b) Own activity

Air cover of concentration area of the army in area Periers - La Haye du Puits.

Mining, and bombing of ship targets off Orne estuary.

Pursuit night fighting and reconnaissance over London.

Sunk: 2 destroyers, 1 tanker 10,000 GRT, 2 freighters, altogether 19,000 GRT.

Heavily damaged: 1 light cruiser, 1 destroyer, 2 freighters, altogether 17,000 GRT.

Belgium-Northern France field Luftgau H.Q. announces its 1500th aircraft shot down by 23 June, 1944 having shot down 1000 by 28 February 1944.

24 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

East of the Orne our own troops in consequence of superior enemy thrust on the line northern and western edge of the Bois de Bavent - 1 km north-west of Touffreville - northern edge Cuverville - north of Cuverville-Colombelles road retaken. St Honorine occupied by the enemy. Our own counter-attacks are halted here in the face of enemy naval artillery.

West of the Orne enemy breakthrough at Hottot cleared up and enemy repulsed on the line southern edge of Tilly - Longraye. Between St Lo and Portbail (west coast of Cotentin) renewed enemy artillery activity.

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On Cherbourg front enemy attack in area south-west of Reuges - Terres - Cailloux beaten off by gunfire. Push against La Glacerie and west of Digosville is still in progress.

In the enemy operation against Cherbourg about 5 infantry divisions, and one armoured division. Enemy entered Cherbourg harbour. Harbour installations fully destroyed. Road explosions in progress.

Air Situation

In 4 operations about 1000 American and 500 British four-engined aircraft concentrating on launching area, also air bases Orleans-Bricy, Chateaudun, Conches and Buc, Versailles-Chantiers railway station, railway bridge near Tours and town of Rouen.

Reich territory: Bremen harbour.

4 operations of twin-engined aircraft (altogether about 450) chiefly against launching sites. Fighter and fighter-bomber attack by about 2500 aircraft to oppose marching movements of our own troops, concentrating on areas around Cherbourg and St Lo.

Enemy reconnaissance over beachhead and to the south as far as the Paris area.

Situation at sea

Active and strongly defended ship movements at present off Orne estuary now concentrating east of Orne estuary.

1 destroyer, 1 transport sunk or in flames as a result of aircraft mine.

Partisan situation

In the Belgium-Northern France military command zone persistent sabotage of railways (23 cases on 22 and 23 June, including up to 51 explosions on one stretch.)

In northern and southern France minor saboteur activity, apparently holding back purposely.

25 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

To the east of the Orne enemy advance in the area Touffreville-Bois de Bavent. Breakthrough point sealed off.

To the west of the Orne the enemy, with very strong artillery and air support in an attack from Tilly area, has crossed the Fontenay - Juvigny road and reached the north-west corner of the wood 1.2 km east of Juvigny. Fighting in full progress in penetration area about 5 km wide and 1 - 2 km deep, situation unsettled. Counter measures have been introduced. Our own artillery was to a large extent put out of action by superior enemy artillery and air power.

Von Schlieben combat group: Harbours and all other essential Cherbourg installations effectively destroyed. Majority of our own batteries exhausted in resources or else beaten. Since about noon, several heavy units landed from the sea are coming up into the fighting.

/Some

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Some of our battleworthy groups are probably still established on Theville airfield and on "Nachrichtenhalbinsel" (Jobourg peninsula).

Situation at sea

On 24 June, 1944 from 1425 ~ 1603 hrs direct hit by our own long distance artillery on steamer 7000 GRT between Dover and Folkestone. Ship lay on the beach after numerous explosions and burnt out.

On night of 24/24 June, 1944 operation by 2nd S-boat Flotilla not carried out owing to bad visibility. 3 vessels from both the 9th and 8th S-boat flotillas were transferred to Alderney or else Le Havre.

Fogbound battleship west of Le Havre, another battleship north-west Orne estuary, southerly course.

Up to the evening nothing further to report.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy activity:

Bombing operation: Exceptionally heavy bombing operation in very good weather conditions. Raid by about 320 American and about 450 British four-engined aircraft aimed in the forenoon on construction sites of the launching area, Boulogne fortifications area, Calais station, St Omer town, Abbeville, Mons-en-Chaussee station and electricity works near Mazingarbe near Bethune. Simultaneous strong incursions of American four-engined formations from British base (600 aircraft) and Italian base about 500 aircraft). Bombing on GAF stations Bourges, Avord, Toulouse - Blagnac and Franczal, GAF fuel deposits at Montbartier (in Toulouse), Sète town and station, Rhone bridge in Tarascon, Rhone bridge and station of Arles, Rhone bridge and station of Avignon.

Bombing by Marauder formations on viaduct near Chartres, launching area and beachhead.

Bombing in the evening by about 600 American four-engined aircraft on GAF stations south and north Villacoublay, Bretigny, Orly, Romilly and Mondesir, the railway installations Paris-Villeneuve - St Georges and the Seine bridges near Choisy-le Roi.

Whole operation included about 2500 aircraft (four-engined).

Fighter and fighter-bomber operation about 3000 aircraft.

About 500 twin-engined aircraft.

Continuous air cover in the area south of the beachhead in the form of armed reconnaissance in connection with twin and four-engined incursions as well as strong fighter cover and fighter-bomber assaults in the fighting area and in our own zone (3 raids on Ijmuiden steelworks).

(b) Own activity

Bombing ship targets in Orne estuary, mining north Orne estuary.

Bombing of heavy warships in the Seine bay (hits observed).

Air supply Cherbourg.

/26 JUNE, 1944

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26 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

Continuation of the engagements in the Tilly s.S breakthrough area as far as the Bretteville-Vendes road. Situation not yet clarified in detail. Enemy attack launched with all arms north of Hottot was repulsed.

On the rest of the front no other notable fighting.

Von Schlieben combat group: Street fighting in the town of Cherbourg is still going on. Our own bases are still holding out in heroic fighting. Naval arsenal and some bases in the harbour in our own hands. West Theville airfield base has beaten all attacks up to now by concentrated flak. On the Jobourg peninsula our own forces are still holding out roughly in the line of the Vauville-Greville from towards the east.

Situation at sea

According to recent observation from an enemy naval unit off Cherbourg on 25 June, 1 heavy cruiser sunk with list, 1 "Cumberland" class cruiser shot into flames, blown up and sunk. Also less serious hits on light cruisers.

Morning of 26 June in middle of Seine bay one battleship with southerly course. 20 small ships lying at rest off Luc s. Marne. A presumed fog-bound battleship off Orne estuary at noon.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy activity:

Nuisance raids in the Belgium-France-Holland area with bombing on airfields Soesterberg, Melsbroek and Le Culot.

Further activity very seriously hampered by weather conditions. Only coast target approaches by fighter-bombers and fighters bombing in the Rouen area. Incursions concentrated on fighting area, primarily for the support of the battles near Tilly and Cherbourg.

(b) Own activity

Mining north of Orne estuary.

Air supply Jobourg area ("Communications peninsula") and Theville.

Reconnaissance: Number of ships off Orne estuary, among them 2 destroyers, 1 large merchantman and 30 - 40 minor landing ships observed.

North of Arromanches strong ship concentration of medium and heavy warships.

Partisan situation

At present an apparently planned lull in activities, in the main only cable and railway sabotage cases.

Partisan strength at the most only about 150 - 200 men; stronger partisan groups have been encountered only in the Central Massif.

/27 JUNE, 1944

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27 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

Enemy tank concentrations in the area Bois de Bavent - Escoville - St Honorine.

Enemy patrol near Cuverville annihilated.

After the enemy's penetration into the Tilly area had been successfully cut off by ruthlessly denuding other sectors of the front, the enemy renewed the attack in the course of the day concentrating on both sides of Rauray, and was able to push forward with tank spearheads as far as Mouen and Mondrainville and reach the Caen - Villers Bocage road.

Counter measures have been introduced, and our own attack on Cheux with 60 tanks is in progress. At present heavy artillery fire is reinforced by heavy naval gunfire.

v.Schlieben battle group: Our own forces are still fighting on the outer mole. Jobourg peninsula is holding out in a line Vauville - Gruchy. No more signal communication to fortification and port commander.

Nothing further of note to report on remaining sectors of the front.

Situation at sea

North-west of Luc-sur-Mer in the afternoon 4 large warships and about 20 medium freighters, 2 of them in flames, north of Port en Bessin 7-10 presumedly cruisers and destroyers as well as about 30 medium freighters. West of Le Havre in the evening about 20 warships, north of the Orne estuary 1 battleship "Nelson" Class, 1 Monitor and 24 transport ships.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy activity:

From noon thorough weather improvement and incursions of stronger four-engined formations in the areas of the VI sites as well as railway and special installations (Leopold, Feldkuche 4). Twin-engined and fighter-bomber formations in the battle area and in our own zone. Concentrated effort in the breakthrough area at Tilly s.S.

Partisan situation

No essential changes. Increase in partisan activity mainly in Brittany, in the Belgian province of Hennegau, and also in the Limoges area.

Partisan activity at present concentrated on railway (explosions on bridges) and cable sabotage. Surprise attacks on dismissed guards, wireless transmission stations and on isolated military vehicles.

28 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

In the west Tilly breakthrough area the enemy succeeded in advancing by strong tank attacks north of Baron, as far as Esquay. Our own troops are holding both sides of Esquay. Course of the forward line: Cheux (occupied

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by enemy) Tourville (occupied) - Baron (occupied) - Gavrus - Vendes - Hottot - southern edge of Longraye. On the rest of the front as far as the west coast of Cotentin only enemy nuisance fire and sometimes minor fighter-bomber activity.

After the freeing of further forces from the Cherbourg area a major attack between the Vire and west coast of Cotentin has to be expected. (Jobourg peninsula still in our own hands, otherwise nothing fresh to report).

Situation at sea

Strong ship concentrations throughout the day north of the Orne estuary and west of the Le Havre. Among other were recognised 2 battleships, 2 cruisers, 1 Monitor, several destroyers, landing craft, transports and freighters.

During the forenoon in the sea area north-west and north-east of Bayeux 5 medium warships, about 25 merchantmen and about 50 landing craft.

In the evening 20 ships accumulating NNW Le Havre, 30 NW Le Havre, presumably augmented support to the eastern and central beachhead.

An enemy destroyer fired on to the south of Jersey by one of our patrol vessels with 8.8 cm gun, was lying in flames for a time, explosion later.

Air Situation

(a) Enemy activity:

Incursion of about 600 Fortresses and Liberators with fighter cover from 0615 hrs into the area Seine estuary - Paris - Saarbruecken - Brussels and the Scheldt estuary, dropping bombs on stations of Saarbrücken and Saarlautern as well as on the airfields Le Bourget, Champfleury, Juvincourt, Athies, Couvron, Florennes and Denain. Incursion of about 150 Halifaxes from 0705 hrs on construction sites with bombing in the area Abbeville, Doullens, and Hesdin.

About 1050 American and 650 RAF fighters making bombing and gunning attacks on the railway station of Fussy (Bourges - Vierzon line); line broken, as well as in the Belgium-northern France area. Fighter-bomber attacks also concentrated in the west Tilly breakthrough area as well as on isolated objectives on the Coutances - La Haye du Puits line and west of Cherbourg.

Vary intensive close reconnaissance concentrating on area St Lo - Villers Bocage - Falaise - Caen.

(b) Own activity

Bombing on ship targets off and mining north of Orne estuary, pursuit night fighting in area Norwich, Cambridge, Ipswich.

Routine reconnaissance over Biscay, Mediterranean, west of Heligoland Bight and Denmark, air photography reconnaissance over Seine bay.

Air supply Jobourg.

/Partisan

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Partisan situation

Surprise attacks on members of the armed forces in Brittany are on the increase. A passenger train stopped on 26 June by terrorists near Annecy (Hte Savoie), 10 soldiers and 4 signal communication women auxiliaries detained, but freed again after a fight with firearms. Appearance of terrorists with armbands in areas free of troops.

29 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

Renewed enemy advances against Bois de Bavent repulsed.

West of Tilly the enemy extended his breakthrough area with strong artillery and air activity into the district both sides of Verson.

To the east of Baron enemy group attacking with 50 tanks was wiped out by gun and mortar fire.

Despite enemy tank attacks Gavrus was recaptured.

Villiers-Fossard was won back in a counter attack.

Nothing special to report from the rest of the front.

Keil Gruppe: Enemy attacks with tanks on the whole front, concentrating both sides of Branville, repulsed. Arrival of small bodies of enemy ships in Cherbourg observed. Nothing fresh to report from the town.

Situation at sea

Off the Orne estuary and to the north strong ship concentrations observed. (3 heavy bodies, 1 cruiser, 1 Monitor, 2 destroyers, a great number of large troop transports).

About 200 different ships lying at rest off Courseulles.

North of Port en Bessin - Arromanches 1 cruiser, 6 destroyers, 8 transports and about 200 small ships and boats.

Presumably augmented support to the eastern and central beachhead.

Air Situation

Enemy activity: Incursion of about 400 - 450 Lancasters in the launching areas with bombing in the zones St Omer and Abbeville.

Incursion into German territory by about 1000 - 1200 Fortresses and Liberators with strong fighter cover towards Central Germany, bombing on Boelen hydrogenation works near Leipzig, and aircraft factories in Oschersleben, Magdeburg, Leipzig, Wittenberg, Bernburg and Aschersleben. Further secondary attack on Fallersleben People's Car factory, Strassfurt Leopoldshall, Dessau and Chemnitz.

Fighter and fighter bomber operation by about 1500 US and 1200 RAF fighters (heaviest RAF fighter operation up to now since the start of the invasion).

//Partisan

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Partisan situation

In Belgium the present apparent lull is being exploited for the distribution of arms and equipment in a given centre of action and for the preparation of a sudden and violent action.

In Brittany nothing new to report.

Scuthern France: Partisans still holding back; increase of the supply flights.

Increasing impression that a new general coup is being planned for later on.

30 JUNE, 1944

Ground Situation

To the east of the Orne nothing special to report. Our own attack against the breakthrough on both sides of Tourville was brought to a standstill by enemy naval fire of a strength not hitherto experienced. Our own troops have made a temporary defence stand in the line reached which stretches from the hill north of Esquay-Gavrus to western edge of Grainville). Continuation of the attack on the night 30 June - 1st July intended.

On both sides of the Moon s. Elle - St Lo road strong enemy attacks repulsed throughout the course of the day.

Keil battle group: Enemy breakthroughs sealed off with our last reserves, hard fighting at present going on against much superior adversary. New defence front in construction from Herqueville to Digulleville. From the arrival of over 50 small enemy ships in Cherbourg harbour it is presumed that the coastal batteries hitherto still in action have been taken.

It has been established with certainty that parts of enemy divisions which have been active in the Cherbourg area are now in the area west and south-west of Carentan.

On the ground of continuous supply lines (see Situation at Sea) the strength of Montgomery's Army Group can be assumed to consist of about 30 divisions.

Situation at sea

North of Port en Bessin 1 cruiser, several destroyers and 10 - 15 medium ships.

Off Orne estuary 2 cruisers, off Luc s.M. 1 cruiser, 16 large transports and strong ship concentrations, withdrawn to the north 1 battleship and further ship concentration.

About 10 medium merchantmen and about 30 landing boats in the sea area north of Courseulles - Luc s.M.

About 300 large and small landing boats lying stationary west of Arromanches. 3 large transports and about 80 landing boats off Vire estuary, unloadings in shuttle traffic.

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Air Situation

(a) Enemy activity:

Incursion in the morning by about 150 British four-engined aircraft in the launching areas, bombing in the area Aumale-Doullens-Abbeville-St Omer. Incursion in the afternoon by about 180 Fortresses and Liberators bombing in the area Douai and Cambrai, on the airfields Le Culot and Coxyde as well as on railway installations Ostende and Biache.

Throughout the day altogether about 350 Marauders in the operation, presumably Seine estuary area and fighting zone.

Altogether about 2000 US and 800 RAF fighters (including fighter escort) bombing the airfields Grevillers, Mondésir, Chartres, Conches, Evreux as well as the railway stations Caulnes, Les au Rais, Orleans.

In the fighting zone breakthroughs concentrating both sides of Tourville, as well as on road objectives in the St Lo area as far as Periers. Long range reconnaissance especially on railway and road traffic as far as the line Paris-Chartres-Fougères.

Strong close reconnaissance in the area both sides of Caen, and as far as the line Falaise-Argentan-Vire.

(b) Own activity:

Mining in Seine bay.

Close reconnaissance coast of Spain to north of Balearic Isles and west of Sardinia as far as Corsica, further in Heligoland Bight as far as Denmark.

Air supply to Jobourg carried through.

Partisan Situation

The order for the resistance movement to avoid open combat with German troops in the first instance has been reconfirmed from various sides by agents.

A.H.B.6 Distribution

Same as for Translation VII/125

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