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# WAR DIARY

## German Naval Staff Operations Division

PART A VOLUME 62

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OCTOBER 1944

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WAR DIARY OF THE GERMAN NAVAL STAFF

( 1st Division )

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PART A

October 1944

Chief, Naval Staff:  
Chief of Naval Staff, Operations Division

Admiral Meisel  
Rear Admiral Meyer

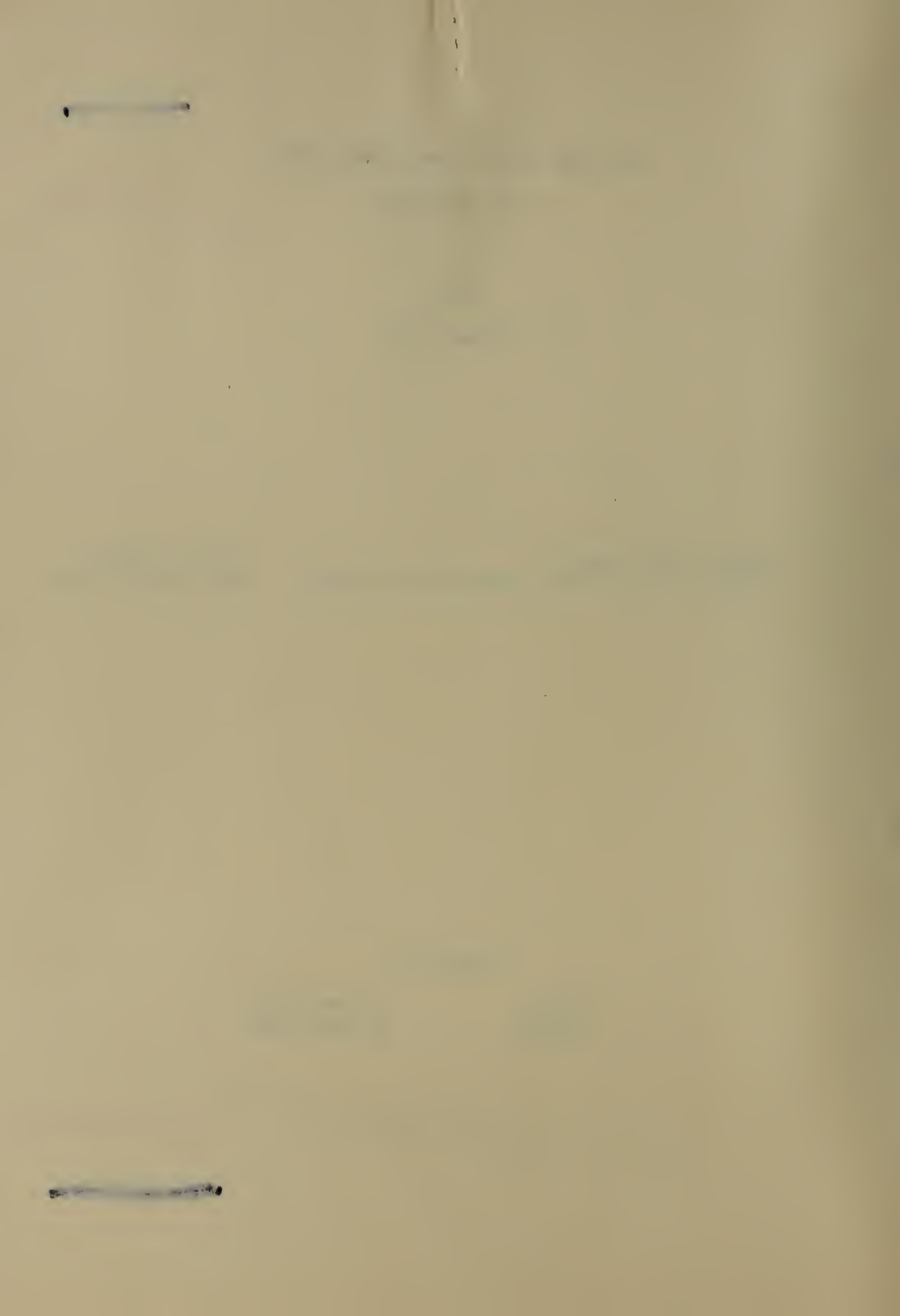
Volume 62

begun: 1 Oct. 1944  
closed: 31 Oct. 1944

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FOREWORD

1. This volume entitled War Diary of the German Naval Staff, Operations Division, Part A, is Volume 62 covering October 1944. Other volumes will follow shortly.
2. The War Diaries, Part A, are important because they contain a day by day summary of the information available to the German Naval Staff and the decisions reached on the basis thereof. Together with Fuehrer Conferences on Matters Dealing with the German Navy, 1939-1945, which have been published, the War Diaries should provide valuable material for the study of naval problems arising from total war. The War Diary, Part A, is also a useful index to the German Naval Archives of World War II; references may be found in the Classified Operational Branch of Naval History Division (Op-29).
3. Due to the cost of publication, only a limited number of copies could be made. If any recipient of this War Diary does not need to retain it, it is requested that it be returned to Naval History Division (Op-29).
4. The translation of this War Diary was made in London, England, under the guidance of Commander S. R. Sanders, USNR. When his London Office was closed and the translation project was discontinued, much unfinished material was sent to Naval History Division, (Op-29). Because the dissemination of the data contained in these documents is important, the translations and stencils have not been checked for accuracy of interpretation, phraseology, and spelling of officers' names or geographical names. Distribution under these conditions seems justified because translators are not available in Naval History Division. Research to correct possible inconsistencies and to revamp in smooth form the rough or literal translations did not warrant the expense involved.

John B. Heffernan  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)  
Director of Naval History

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
Naval History Division  
Washington 25, D.C.  
1955

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Items of Political Importance

According to Reuter, the Polish government-in-exile has relieved General Sosnkowski of his post as Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces and has appointed General Komorowski (Bor) as his successor. With this appointment, it is said that a Russian demand has been fulfilled. Concerning the occupation of Thrace, contradictory reports are in circulation. One report has it that West and East Thrace were to be occupied jointly by Russians and Bulgarians until a peace settlement was reached, whereas Greece denies a Reuter report according to which the Bulgarians had come to an agreement with the Greeks regarding the administration of Greek territory now under Bulgarian occupation.

An Associated Press report states that Stalin is as much interested in holding a new Big Three conference as are Churchill and Roosevelt.

Isvestiya publishes a series of documents on foreign affairs to prove that Russia considers the alliance with her Anglo-Saxon partners a lasting one.

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Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff at 1100

I. Speaking on the situation in the East, Commanding Admiral, East reviews the threat of landing operations against the Baltic Islands:

"1. Because of the loss of the island Moon, landing operations must be expected and reckoned with to take place across the Little Moon Sound or along Kassar Wiek under present weather conditions. Simultaneously a landing in the southern part of Kuebassar peninsula is possible.

2. On Dagoe the most jeopardized area appears to be the coastline opposite the Isle of Moon with a possible center of attack near Heltermaa. The enemy may even approach Kertel Bay and reach the east coast of the southern part of the peninsula by driving through Kassar Wiek.

3. There has been provided for protection of the coastline Kassar-Wiek by four artillery ferry barges, six motor minesweepers; these craft will patrol Little Moon Sound as far as the draft of the artillery landing craft will permit. On the south

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coast of Oesel, on a level with Kuebassar peninsula, artillery landing craft, four minesweepers operating in pairs, two mine-layers, and two motor minesweepers, several armed fishing vessels; here, PT boats equipped with 40 mm guns will be brought into action. Some of these vessels will attempt a penetration into the narrows near Werder.

4. Later on, seven torpedo-boats will operate conducting fast transportation of troops and offering protection for the transportation of one division from Riga to Ahrensburg. In case of further enemy landings, torpedo-boats T "23" and T "28" will be brought into action. The armament of these two boats promises more success than the other vessels in operation, since the latter are equipped only with calibers ranging from 10 - 105 mm."

A call from the Army General Staff requests Naval Staff, Operations Division, Chief of Operation Branch to establish if the 213th Infantry Division is the only unit to be transferred to Oesel or whether an additional unit will be required.

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II. While discussing the Norwegian situation, attention was drawn to the fact that an enemy convoy, reported 30 Sep. at 2117 was unusually close to the coast (110 naut. miles northnorthwest of Tromsøe). This has caused a certain amount of uneasiness at Naval Command, Norway in respect to a possible landing on the Lofoten Islands. It is to be regretted that no PT boats are available in the area of Bodo, although the Fuehrer, on an earlier occasion, had wanted them to be made available.

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III. Escort forces of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North while escorting convoy 1291, destroyed four attacking PT boats and set a fifth on fire.

The following message from the Commander-in-Chief of the Navy is passed on to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North for communication to the escort of convoy 1291:

(To be brought to the knowledge of Naval Command, North)

"I am very much pleased with your splendid performance in destroying five PT boats on the night of 1 Oct. You may be assured of my full acknowledgement of this, your success. Carry on!"



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IV. Success of the MK mission against the railway bridge Nymwegen has now been confirmed by the Dutch radio. No mention was made of the destruction of the highway bridge.

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V. Chief, Quartermaster Division

a. Concerning supplies for North Norway and North Finland, the Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, has communicated the following:

"The Fuehrer again has ordered that the maintenance of the army in Northern Norway and Northern Finland takes first priority where transportation facilities are concerned. Shipping space necessary cannot be made available if all current operations are to be continued. Therefore the following shipments are to be discontinued immediately:

1. Supplies for the construction of fortifications and other projects of the Army. (Excepted: Lynge line with flanks, as well as the reinforcement of ferries and bridges along Reich's road 50).

2. Supplies for all construction projects of the Air Force as well as of the Navy excepting submarine pens, which will be continued.

3. Supplying of concrete for purposes of the Armed Forces. (Exceptions according to 1. and 2.).

4. Supplying of coal for heating for troops. The exact amount required will be determined by the Commanding General, Armed Forces Norway.

Manpower, thus freed, except that connected with the above projects, (see 1. and 2.) with special attention being paid to the Lynge line, will be returned to Reich territory. The construction of railways in Northern Norway will remain unimpaired by this order."

b. The Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff has ordered that Army Command 20 (Mountain) and Army Headquarters be merged into a single unit with the center of activities and headquarters in Northern Norway. (Area Narvik-Tromsø).

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division after contacting Naval Command, Norway communicated to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff

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the approval of the Naval Staff, stressing that Naval Command, Norway must remain stationed in South Norway as there lay centered interests of the Navy. Representation of Naval Command in the North (Norway) will be effected by Admiral Arctic Coast. The assignment of increased authority for the Commanding Admiral, Armed Forces, Norway is expressly excepted from given approval.

Naval Command has been informed that Staff Admiral Arctic Coast must be reinforced. Naval Command has taken the opportunity to reiterate their recommendation of December 1943 (which had been declined by Commander in Chief, Navy) to the effect that it would be appropriate to have a naval officer appointed to the new post of Commanding General, Armed Forces.

Chief, Naval Staff: Whether or not a flag-officer be included in the new staff should at least be considered. Commanding officer of Naval Command Norway will be asked to make recommendations and state his opinion.

VI. Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division:

A report from Ankara says that the crucial issue between Greece and Bulgaria is considered as an Anglo-Russian controversy. This, it is understood, appears to be the real reason for the inactivity of the British in the Eastern Mediterranean, which, as the report states, has now become a secondary theater of war. In British Embassy's circles in Ankara strong disappointment is perceptible. Great Britain is said to feel herself cheated by steps undertaken lately by Russia but that she will, when all is said, not abandon her position in Turkey and Greece. According to the report of a reliable agent (report from the Central Security Police Headquarters) the Teheran conference did not bring about any precise demarcation of the mutual spheres of interest in the Balkans. Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Hungary seem to have been allotted globally to the Russian sphere, though the boundaries of these countries remained as yet undetermined. By no means has Russia been granted the right of possession of the Dardanelles; she has only been granted the right of free passage.

An English radio broadcast said that Calais surrendered at midnight.

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In a most Restricted Circle

VII. Army Situation:

Western Front:

On 30 Sept. the First Canadian Army repeated the assaults from the bridge-head to the northwest of Turnhout, this time attacking in northeastern direction.

The decisive disruption of the enemy's operation plan has undoubtedly been brought about by the 2nd British Army failing to effect a speedy break-through in Holland with strong and highly experienced parachute troops, as well as by unexpected shortage of strength and material; success of this operation was to be the condition sine qua non for the continuation of operations east of the Rhine. Therefore it has again become doubtful whether a new combined landing operation in the Heligoland Bight would occur. The main weight of hostile operations will be most likely aimed at the widening of the "corridor", and, collaterally a possible thrust towards the coast in co-operation with those units of the 1st Canadian Army attacking from the area of Antwerp may be attempted.

Italian Front:

A review of the situation on the Italian Front shows a further concentration along the Adriatic coast of strong forces in the area of the British 8th Army. It is probable that the British 78th Infantry Division, now in Egypt, will be brought up there too.

Balkans:

Strong enemy forces crossed the Danube near Prahovo as well as on both sides of the Timok River where this river joins the Danube and attacked Negotin. The attack was neutralized by counter attacks.

Favored by only slight enemy naval and air activity, further troop units could be transferred to the mainland from the islands Rhodes and Crete.

Eastern Front:

Whilst German and Hungarian forces, counterattacking against occasionally obstinate enemy assaults in the area southwest of Grosswardein, were able to achieve fair gains, our own forces, fighting to either side of Thorenburg and southwest of Saxon-Regen, were engaged in heavy defensive fighting.

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On the Beskiden front, in pursuance of his attacks on the whole front of the 1st Panzer Army, with strong concentration of his forces in the area South of Krosno, the enemy again attacked in great force West of the Dukla Pass and forced a break-through 8 km wide and 3 km deep. Planned transfer of our forces to the rear for this area towards South Hungary had to be postponed.

To the Northwest of Warsaw more forest sections were cleared, resulting in heavy losses for the enemy.

In the area of Army Group North all attacks launched with maximum strength against the Segewold-position were repulsed.

Overpowered by superior enemy forces, the western part of the Baltic island of Moon was lost also. Under cover of a hastily established bridgehead all heavy weapons and the remaining defense force - some 150 strong - could be withdrawn to the island of Oesel under heavy enemy pressure. The Moon dam was blown up at two separate points.

Special Items:

I. At noon, Commander Oehrns took over from Captain Freiherr von Wangenheim the duties of Chief of Operations Staff, Operations Division, Naval Staff.

II. Eastern Area:

a. Naval Command, East in pursuance of survey of the situation Admiral East Baltic regarding strength of defence forces of the Baltic Islands, reports the following:

"aa. about two combat battalions on Oesel;

bb. For the purpose of warding off any possible out-flanking landings launched from the Moon Sound:

1. Two minesweepers, three armed fishing vessels, and four artillery landing craft. This force will patrol the eastern entrance to the Kassar Wiek:

2. Two motor minesweepers patrolling the Soelo Sound;

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3. Two minesweepers and three armed fishing vessels ready for action in the area of Triigi;
4. Two minesweepers at the southern entrance to the Moon Sound;
5. One naval landing craft, 4 heavy gun-carriers, 4 artillery landing craft, 2 motor minesweepers in Ahrensborg;
6. One heavy gun-carrier, two naval landing craft, and three armed fishing vessels in Tagga Bay.

cc. Aerial fighter support is urgently requested, so is support of the Naval Staff, Operations Division because local commands are unable to communicate with their superior. Successful naval action is wholly dependent on aerial fighter protection."

The Naval Staff, Operations Division requests the High Command, Air Force Operations Staff Ia Naval Liaison Officer to ensure, by telephone and signal, that sufficient fighter support be given to naval operations. Special attention has been drawn to the significance of the Irben Straits which is of importance for holding the Riga bridgehead. The present enemy air superiority constitutes a decisive danger to our own naval forces.

b. The change of the situation in the Baltic Islands necessitates the alteration of Naval Command East's temporary plans for the disposition of naval batteries in the Baltic area.

Naval Command East, Admiral Eastern Baltic, and by signal the Naval Liaison Officer at the High Command, Army General Staff are advised by Naval Staff, Operations Division to bear in mind that the bridgehead Sworbe including Ahrensborg must be held, even if it should be necessary to give up the larger northern part of Oesel, and that the control of the Irben Straits must be guaranteed in order to maintain the supply lines to Riga.

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III. Skagerrak:

On 30 Sept. Command East requested the support of three cruisers for the purpose of laying further barrages in the Skagerrak, as

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three minelayers and four destroyers will be required to carry mines. ELSASS and LOTHRINGEN will not be ready for action until November, and Motorship KAISER is highly unreliable.

The Fleet is requested by Naval Staff, Operations Division to wire proposals.

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IV. North Area:

Naval Command Norway informs by teletype the Naval Staff, Operations Division of the following inquiry addressed to the Command of Small Battle Units:

"Action of small battle units in the Kola Bay may prove successful against battleship of R-type (Wajenga Bay), which has been repeatedly observed. Is it possible to bring the small battle units to the scene of action by submarine? A statement to this effect is requested."

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V. Area of Naval Command North:

Naval Command North has submitted in accordance with request (of .....23/9) its plans for the barrage in the North Sea area. Naval Staff Operations Division approves these plans in principle but orders renewed examination thereof under consideration of the following points-of-view:

"The enemy has to cruise some time along the shore within the effective range of his guns when attacking shore batteries. Therefore barrages have to be laid out more obliquely than has been ordered to the surmised course of the enemy, and it would be more effective if laid somewhat nearer to own batteries, especially in the Borkum area. However, swept channels for own use ought to be kept open through this minefield and alternative routes (evasive routes) to avoid it altogether if necessary."

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VI. West Area:

Group West reports:

"Atlantic fortresses: Although the battle of Brest came to a close twelve days ago, the expected arrival of enemy reinforcements for the massive assault on Lorient so far could not be ascertained. On the whole, the situation in Lorient has remained much unchanged in the first part of September. From the above it may be concluded that the enemy will give up a concentric assault on the remaining Atlantic fortresses, the more that

1. the ports on the west coast are of lesser importance for the maintenance of the fighting front,

2. the forces of the enemy on the main front apparently are lacking in strength; therefore the enemy contemplates the concentration of all forces available on principal front,

3. the enemy has realized that the fortified ports he may capture will fall into his hands only in a condition of complete devastation.

It is therefore within the range of possibility that the enemy will introduce measures designed to starve out the garrisons of these fortifications. He must be well aware of the fact that fortress provisions will last no longer than 2 - 3 months. For this reason Group West believes it necessary that ways and means be sought immediately to prevent these fortifications from capitulating on account of hunger. Group West is of the opinion that the only possible means of maintaining these forces is by supplying them by submarines, in which case only transportation submarines will be able to carry sufficient quantities of supplies. Only highly concentrated food-stuffs should be loaded. As bringing supply submarines in readiness, and the loading of specialized foodstuffs itself will take quite a long time steps to this effect should be taken as soon as possible without prejudice to the intentions of the enemy. Decision to this effect is requested.

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division and the Naval Staff, Submarine Division have been informed by the Naval Staff, Operations Division. Statement of Naval Staff, Submarine Division must be awaited.

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Situation 1 October 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Forty-four planes of the 15th Group and twenty-two of the 19th Group were observed in action. Three British units were observed by Radar in the northerly approaches. (Area of incoming and outgoing convoys. - Note of translator).

2. Own Situation:

a. Atlantic Coast:

The Commandant of La Rochelle reported in the evening of 30 Sept. that an enemy naval vessel, presumably a cruiser, entered the port of La Sables about noon and left again an hour later.

Two submarine chasers were on routine patrol off Lorient. Three armed fishing vessels left for St. Nazaire in the evening. Two armed fishing vessels and two harbor defence vessels will leave St. Nazaire for Lorient on the night of 2 Oct.

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b. Atlantic Fortresses:

Lorient: The entire area of fortress was exposed to gun-fire. Our own artillery shelled enemy concentrations in northern and eastern sectors. Our own patrol activity repeatedly led to contacts with the enemy. One wireless transmitter and several small arms were captured.

St. Nazaire: On 30 Sept. assaults by superior enemy forces near Cordemais were repulsed through counterattacks.

On 1 Oct. enemy positions were attacked with heavy infantry weapons. Several ammunition depots were hit. Under cover of harbor defence vessels and infantry patrols 50 cows were brought back from the Loire islands.

Gironde-North: An enemy patrol group was destroyed in reconnoitring ahead of the main battle line. Neither from La Rochelle nor from Gironde-South any special reports have been received.



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c. Channel Coast:

On 30 Sept. heavy enemy gun-fire was directed against the shore battery "Oldenburg". The expected tank attack apparently was broken off on account of the darkness.

Calais: According to a report of the sea commandant Pas de Calais, dated 30 Sept. at 1725 a loud battle din lasting well over two hours was heard coming from the direction of Calais.

Dunkirk: On the night of 30 Sept. seven He "111" dropped 31 supply bombs. On the night of 1 Oct. it is intended to supply Dunkirk from the air with the aid of eight He "111".

Light gun-fire of the enemy increased during the day. Towards the evening artillery barrages were carried out at intervals. Our own guns opened fire on recognized enemy targets and motor traffic.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

A. Heligoland Bight:

In the afternoon of 30 Sept. some 80 low-level attacking enemy planes penetrated into the Heligoland area, apparently in search of convoys. The naval anti-aircraft battery "Scharnhorn" opened fire. No important damage was inflicted on naval installations during a night air-raid on Hamburg, carried out by approximately 30 Mosquito bombers.

On the night of 30 Sept. the "section"-steamer BRIGITTE was unsuccessfully attacked at the mouth of the Elbe River by an enemy fighter-bomber. On the same night several enemy PT boats attempted unsuccessful raids against the convoys "Wachtel" and "Steintor", to the north respectively to the west of Terschelling, and to the west of Vlieland, respectively to the west of Texel.

B. Netherlands' Coast:

On the night of 30 Sept. convoy "1291" met with several hostile PT boats between Hook of Holland and Den Helder before

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Ymuiden. The convoy was composed of six (PT boats) of the 13th Patrol Flotilla, two new vessels and Ferry, six being towed by three tugs. Four boats of the 13th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla were employed as a defence force against enemy PT boat attacks. Three boats of the 11th Minesweeper Flotilla comprised the escort. In total four hostile PT boats were sunk and a fifth was set on fire. We suffered but slight casualties. The convoy continued its journey from Den Helder to Borkum late in the evening.

Our own shore batteries conducted an artillery barrage against a number of enemy minesweepers off Blankenberghe.

A convoy of one Artillery landing craft, six minesweepers and five barges carrying ammunition and provisions, left Dordrecht for Walcheren on 30 Sept.

In the afternoon of 1 Oct. enemy fighter-bombers conducted an unsuccessful raid against our radiolocating unit MONIKA. Minelaying was continued in the western part of the Wester Schelde.

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Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Forty-five enemy planes of the 18th Group were observed in action. A convoy or naval task force at 1516, 140 naut. miles west of Lister was located by radar. At 1245 an American unit was contacted though inaccurately by radiolocation 80 naut. miles to the south of Jan Mayen.

One of our own planes equipped with radiolocating instruments detected at 2117 a QP-convoy approximately 110 naut. miles north-northwest of Tromsøe.

2. Own Situation:

A Norwegian motor cutter having sustained heavy damage in a raid by four Russian planes near Kongsfjord, was towed into Honningsvaag harbor on 29 Sept.

Owing to the gravity of the situation, convoy traffic between

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Bodoe and Hammerfest was interrupted on 30 Sept. at 2315, convoy traffic between Loedingen and Tronthejm during the daytime on 1 Oct.

In the afternoon of 30 Sept., the Norwegian routing steamer LOFOTEN was attacked by a submarine southwest of Bodoe. The submarine fired two torpedoes that ruined the target.

Area Admiral West Coast: From noon 30 Sept. to noon 1 Oct., seven raids in which some 20 enemy planes participated, were carried out in the area between Kristiansand-South and Stavanger.

Twelve enemy planes were reported operating on the night of 1 Oct. over the area of the Sea Commandant Oslofjord between Horten and Drammen.

Five vessels were escorted northwards, fifteen southwards.

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### III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

#### 1. Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance located at 1050 a large vessel at Werder.

40 landing craft were detected at the pier.

Wireless interception contacted on 30 Sept. the usual routine naval formations in the Gulf of Finland.

One minesweeping division was located at 1600 in the area of Helsinki.

#### 2. Own Situation:

##### Admiral Skagerrak:

Patrol activities off the Jutland West Coast were curtailed due to weather conditions. 24 naval vessels were involved in mine-sweeping duties. At 2400 on 30 Sept. the refrigerator ship HARTMUT (2,713 BRT) struck a mine off Hanolt and sank.

According to a statement by the Norwegian skipper, the loss of the ship may be due to an act of sabotage.

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It is intended to have barrier XXXII B laid out in the Skagerrak by the EMDEN and four destroyers on the night of 2 Oct.

Western and Central Baltic:

Thirty six boats as well as three mine-exploding vessels conducted routine minesweeping duties. One mine each was cleared in the Pommeranian, Mecklenburg and Kiel Bays.

Single low-level attacking enemy fighter planes this afternoon proceeded into the areas of Flensburg, Schleswig, and the Danish Isles, strafing ground targets, two passenger trains, and one freight train.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

At 1710 on 30 Sept. the convoy hospital ship OBERHAUSEN was unsuccessfully attacked northwest of Riga by a Boston firing an aerial torpedo. On 1 Oct. at 0809 convoy "M 453" was assailed with bombs and an aerial torpedo northwest of Riga. One enemy plane was shot down.

At 0928 two Bostons, penetrating into the Ahrensburg Bay area, attacked the transport MALGACHE with bombs and machine gun fire. One attacking plane was shot down. In a renewed attack at 1733 the transport sustained a hit in her fo'c'stle.

Another aerial torpedo attack was carried out by two Bostons against an unescorted steamer north of Winda. No damage was caused. A strong force of ten Bostons and nine fighter planes raided with aerial torpedoes and bombs a convoy north of Domesnes, causing only slight damage but resulted in the loss for the enemy of three planes.

To counteract a possible enemy landing operation across the Moon Sound, Admiral Eastern Baltic has brought into action: two minesweepers, three armed fishing vessels, and four artillery landing craft with tasks to patrol the eastern entrance of the Kassar Wiek; two motor minesweepers to patrol the Soelo Sound; three armed fishing vessels to stand by at Triiga; two minesweepers will operate in the southern entrance of the Moon Sound, one naval landing craft, four heavy gun-boats, four artillery landing craft, two motor minesweepers at Ahrensburg, and one heavy gun-boat, two naval landing craft, and three armed fishing vessels in the Tagga Bay.

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Seven submarines are at sea in the operational area to the west of the "Nashorn" minefields. Commander Brandi has been included in the staff of the Admiral Eastern Baltic to act as director of submarine operations.

7,879 men, 2,286 horses, 1,590 vehicles, and 186 tons of supplies so far have been transported from Riga to Ahrensburg. All other transport operations have been conducted without incidents.

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IV. Submarine Warfare:

During the whole of 1 Oct. our submarines failed to recontact the enemy QP-convoy. Air reconnaissance, too, was unsuccessful. Routine patrols, operating from AB 5816 to AB 8669 sighted but two motor launches (ML boats) in AB 8666 at 1915. The patrol was discontinued at 2247. Submarine U "965" reported that the escort mission for "Edelweiss II" had been carried out.

Submarine U "313" has been given orders to attack the battleship in the Wajenka Bay. Submarine U "407", the last German submarine operating in the Mediterranean, must be considered as being lost to enemy action.

No special reports have been received from the other operational areas.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

No air operations of any importance have been reported.

Reich Territory:

During the whole of 1 Oct., some 75 hostile planes flew mostly single sorties over Northern, Western, and Southwestern Germany. Several trains were strafed, one ammunition train exploded near Kolmar.

About 60 - 80 Mosquito bombers raided Brunswick on the night of 1 Oct. 170 fast combat planes and long range night fighter planes,

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flying in three groups, penetrated into the areas of Hanover, Emden, Muenster, Hamm, Bonn, resp. Koblenz, Frankfort a.M., Lake Constance.

Mediterranean Theatre:

550 enemy planes were reported operating over our front lines in Italy. Several bridges, railway yards, and trains suffered damage. Two enemy fighter planes were shot down by anti-aircraft guns. Other enemy air activities were of little importance. On 1 Oct., our own planes carried out reconnaissance missions over the Aegean and Ligurian Seas.

East Area:

We conducted 275 sorties on 30 Sept., the enemy some 2000. Three of our planes were lost, 33 of the enemy's were destroyed.

On the night of 30 Sept., five BV 138 were brought into action against the QP-convoy. The target was contacted by radar at 2117, approximately 110 naut. miles northnorthwest of Tromsoe.

It is reported 1 Oct. that 25 enemy planes, engaged in anti-submarine operations in the area Tronthejm - Kr'sand (Kristiansand?). Several of our submarine-chasers were unsuccessfully attacked with aerial torpedoes.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and the Danube regions:

1. Area of German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

The convoy, reported passing through the Straits of Gibraltar in the afternoon of 29 Sept., was bound for the Mediterranean.

Photo reconnaissance showed that there were stationed in the port and in the Bay of St. Tropez, one light cruiser, two destroyers, one LCJ; in the port and the Bay of Carnes: eight small naval vessels and some 25 small craft; in Antibes 20 boats; in Nice one "Liberty" freighter and some boats; in Monaco 30 boats.

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Two eastbound destroyers were sighted 24 naut. miles south of Toulon.

On the night of 30 Sept., it was observed that the enemy was carrying on increased patrol activity in the sea area between Mentone and Imperia.

A westbound group of boats was seen South of Genoa just outside our minefields.

Own Situation:

Escorts were conducted as planned. Three minelaying naval landing craft completed a mine laying task to the south of Porto Fino.

In the period of 1 Sept. - 30 Sept., our naval units destroyed 21 enemy planes and damaged three PT boats. During the month of September 15,477 tons of supplies were conveyed along the Italian West Coast.

For information on the dislocation of German naval forces in the Mediterranean, as of 1 Oct., see the Daily Situation.

By destroyers' gun fire on 30 Sept., two ... (SMA) were damaged. The First Storm Boat Flotilla, operating in four groups of one ... (SMA) and two ... (MTM) each, were sent on mission 29 Sept. against enemy shipping in the Bay of Nice. The groups were repelled by the enemy. One group was engaged by enemy PT boats but suffered neither casualties nor damage.

2. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

During a fighter-bomber raid on the town and port of Parenco in the afternoon of 30 Sept., the steamer MERCURIO again sustained damage.

Minelaying naval landing craft laid 40 coastal mines A (KMA) in the sea area to the south of Ravenna. On the night of 30 Sept., nine small battle craft (four Kommando- and five Ladungslinsen) went into action against enemy forces between the main battle line and Ancona. One gun boat returned during the day; one landing craft was lost off Cesenatico.

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On the same night, convoy R "15/16" consisting of two naval landing craft and other vessels received grenade thrower, anti-tank, and machine gun fire from the coast near Pasma. No damage was caused.

The bringing out of special buoys for the delusion of enemy radio-locating and range finding instruments was carried out according to plan by three PT boats on the night of 30 Sept.

In the afternoon of 1 Oct., three enemy naval vessels bombarded with 80-100 mm guns the port of Ploca. No casualties have been reported.

A tugboat and a motor sailing vessel were unsuccessfully attacked near Cituanova.

On the night of 1 Oct., three boats of the 7th PT boat Flotilla went into action against partisans' shipping in the area of Northern Dalmatian islands.

In the month of September, 5,227 tons of goods and supplies were transferred from and to the Adriatic east coast.

b. Aegean Sea Area:

On the night of 30 Sept., one cruiser and two destroyers were located by radar to the north of Suda. This force had been fired on by our shore battery of Cape Spatha at 1740 on 30 Sept.

A new task force, including aircraft carriers, apparently has penetrated into the Aegean Sea. It was first sighted at 1220 by the observation branch of the Air Force in Southern Rhodes. The task force, bound for the Straits of Skarpantos, comprised three aircraft carriers, two cruisers, and five destroyers, and was not lost sight of until 1500 when it passed out of sight north of the extreme septentrional point of Skarpantos.

Our own shipping has received warning.

A torpedo-boat group was unable to fulfil a minesweeping task on account of the weather.



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Mine-ship ZEUS too was prevented from laying mines in the sea area of Skyros-Psara. However, the mine laying task in the Bay of Eleusis was conducted according to plan. Convoys of small vessels in the Dodecanese area were held up on account of weather conditions.

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c. Situation in the Danube Area:

No dropping of mines and subsequent sweepings have been reported. Sweeping Group Central Danube has brought into action against partisan activities in the area of Sarengrad - Ilok one naval landing craft based in Neusatz, one naval landing craft based in Belgrade.

The Southern Group of the Danube Flotilla is supporting the Army in overcoming the cataract stretch. The Chief of the Danube Flotilla reported in the evening of 30 Sept. that the base of Mil-anovac had been evacuated and was being brought over to Svinita by riverboat BECHELAREN and one naval landing craft. Ilok has been cleared of enemy forces since noon, 1 Oct.

VII. Situation in the Far East:

Special reports have not been received.

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Items of Political Importance

News of particular interest not available.

Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy at 1120

I. Naval Staff, Operations Division, Chief of Operations Branch:

a. Group South requests that the Hungarian monitors on the Danube be manned by German personnel, as the Hungarians display little inclination to conduct effectively the warfare against the partisans. The situation in respect to partisan activities on the Yugoslav side of the Danube has aggravated lately.

The Commander in Chief, Navy agrees to submit the above request to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff. For teletype 1/Skl. Ia 2997/44, geh. see records of Naval Staff, Operations Division, Foreign Affairs Section.

b. Group South has repeatedly requested aerial support against the enemy naval forces penetrating into the Aegean Sea. Air Command Southeast believes that a renewal of this request will be of no avail. However, Group South suggests that the Naval Staff attempt another approach to the High Command, Air Force that at least a few bombers be assigned to this theater.

Naval Staff, Operations Division already communicated to the Operations Staff of the Air Force on 30 Sept. an urgent request that heavy planes be sent to the Aegean Sea area. The following reply to this demand was forwarded today:

1. We have not enough fuel supplies in Greece to uphold missions by heavy planes.

2. The organization of the ground forces has been disrupted to a large extent. It is impossible to disperse the squadrons. The latest enemy raid on Athens shows plainly that further destruction of our grounded squadrons must be expected.

3. Fighter protection is absolutely indispensable for the safeguarding of the ground organizations; however, such protection is not available. On account of the present evacuation of the Greek area new bomber forces can no longer be assigned to this theater of operations. A similar demand by Armed Forces High Command was rejected on the same grounds a few days ago.

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Group South, Admiral Aegean Sea will be informed to this effect.

II. Quartermaster General gives an oral report on the ammunition reserves in the area of Naval Command North. New allotments of ammunition for medium and heavy naval anti-aircraft guns suspended until the end of the year.

The Commander in Chief, Navy orders that a vigorous protest should be entered, since a dangerous situation might develop. Most essential is the maintenance of the island garrisons, according to experience gained in this matter in the West.

III. Chief, Naval Ordnance Division reports that the supplying of prefabricated submarine parts was carried out with but slight delays. Out of seven obstructions to transportation, three were due to mines.

Within a Restricted Circle:

IV. Chief, Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division:

The previously reported landing of British forces in Albania was carried out by only small, individual groups, the largest totaling some 3000 men.

A change has taken place in the post of Commander in Chief of the Spanish Navy.

General Bor (Komorowski) is being vigorously rejected and denounced in Soviet Poland. Slow development of the situation in the West is causing obvious disappointment among the Allies.

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V. Chief, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch:

a. A discussion with the Chief of the Office for Sea Transportation Norway, concerning the question how Reichs road 50 may be mastered showed that the ferry operations recommended can easily be implemented into action. It is agreed that these crossings constitute sea transport tasks merely.

The organization and execution of transfer by sea of the two divisions, too, will meet with little or no difficulty at all. The

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whole problem requires, however, that the Office for Sea Transportation, Naval Command Norway be the solely responsible conductor of these operations. This office must hold due authority to issue instructions to all offices of the Armed Forces, Organization Todt, and shipping concerned, in the area in question.

Commander in Chief, Navy agrees and orders that a request to this effect be communicated to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff.

For copy of this teletype Quartermaster Admiral, Shipping and Transport Branch to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff as well as to all concerned, conform with directive 1/Skl 3146/44 Gkdos, respectively, to the head of the Office for Sea Transportation, Naval Command Norway as per 1/Skl 3155/44 Gdkos see War Diary, Part C Vol. IIa.

b. In regard to the question (see War Diary 1 Oct.) Quartermaster General states he is of the opinion that it would not be correct to incorporate into the Navy such merchantmen as owned by the Air Force. The Navy can only accept responsibility for the naval navigational steering of these vessels.

c. Supply stores in the northern area of Norway including the stores of Army Headquarters 20 Mountain are sufficient to last for a period of 5.2 - 6.1 months. Current reprovisioning with supplies is possible. However, it should prove extraordinarily difficult to scatter supplies if they were intended to last 9 months.

d. In order to overcome the emergency in the transportation situation, caused by the destruction of railway communications in the area of the Lower Rhine and North Holland, the Navy has put into operation three naval transportation task groups, which effectively spanned the gap when rail transportation for the Army was practically at a standstill or greatly impaired.

VI. The Commander in Chief, Navy orders an examination of the question whether or not and to which extent the construction of the Lofoten fortifications can or must be completed.

VII. Naval Staff, Operations Division, Chief of Operations Branch:

Concerning a new anchorage for the TIRPITZ, Naval Chief Command

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Norway reports the results of joint reconnaissance missions, initiated by Admiral Arctic Coast, Commanding Admiral, Task Force 1, and the commander of the TIRPITZ:

1. Soerlenangen (Ullsfjord) appears to be tactically the most suitable place, although the possibilities of anti-aircraft protection are limited. The disadvantages of this anchorage are increased by the fact that the ship cannot be grounded, as she cannot be constructionally altered to meet the necessary grounding conditions and that under her present construction her grounding surface would be endangered, and thus has to be safely anchored in shallow water, so as to prevent her from capsizing.

a. Nautical: Sea from north endangers the vessel, renders impossible the laying out of boom defence barriers and smoke boats.

b. Relating to protection: Because of the immediate closeness to the battle area, the time limit for releasing alerts and alarms is too short; thus a permanent alert watch is necessitated which also impairs the fighting ability of the warship.

c. Relating to maintenance: Difficulties will be considerable but could be overcome.

d. In the main firing direction, it is possible to operate only half of the heavy guns.

2. Groetsand (Schnarbibukta) and the location due east of Nipoye are unsuitable because they do not allow full liberty of artillery action: the firing angle is too small. Nautically, too, these anchorages give no shelter at all.

3. Sandesundet, due south of Haakoey, has none of the above mentioned disadvantages. However, in comparison to No. 1, this place offers less possibilities in utilizing the anchorage, tactically. (Shore battery).

4. Western Lofoten: Anchorages may be found only in fjords reaching far inland, therefore very limited firing sectors, generally in a southeasterly direction. Moreover, as this ship would have to be left entirely to herself, her maintenance would prove very difficult. Passage of the TIRPITZ through the narrows at Finsnes will be extremely difficult if not impossible at all.

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Conclusion:

The disadvantages of 1. exclude all possibilities of protecting the battleship for any reasonable length of time; furthermore, this anchorage provides no possibility of conserving the striking force the ship will require for the operations in which she is yet to be engaged. Smoke protection will be impeded by the nearness of this location to the frontal areas. The supplying of smoke materials cannot be brought up quantitatively, since smoke will be required at the approach of every hostile aircraft. Therefore, in spite of the limited possibilities of operation, preference must be dealt to anchorage No. 3. In contrast to place No. 1, where the northsouth position of the ship curtails the operation of her guns (only one half of all batteries and turrets being operatable in the main firing direction), place No. 3 offers full efficaciousness of range of the entire heavy artillery. Furthermore, position No. 3 provides additional anti-aircraft guns and smoke protection to the important port of Tromsøe, leaving still sufficient distance between both targets. Such protection will be mandatory, anyhow, as soon as the Lyngø line has been occupied. Naval Command Norway recommends anchorage No. 3.

The Commander in Chief, Navy seconds this recommendation. Admiral at the Fuehrer Headquarters is requested to obtain as quickly as possible the approval of the Fuehrer.

Naval Command, Norway and Command TIRPITZ are informed of the decision of Commander in Chief, Navy.

For copy of order 1/Skl 3122/44, Gkdos, see War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

The Bureau of Naval Armament, Naval Ordnance Division, Artillery Branch will be consulted and asked to give a statement as to the effect a grounding of the battleship may have on the ship's artillery.

VIII. Situation of the Army

Western Front:

The First Airborne Army began launching preparational attacks against the British XXXth Army Corps. Gains were but slight

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on the first day of battle. However, our forces have succeeded in capturing positions from which to continue the assaults on 2 Oct., when reinforcements will have arrived.

Attacking from out of the bridgehead Ryckevorsel and concentrating his forces to the utmost for the assault, the enemy was able to gain further ground on the front of our 5th Army. In this sector the situation is tense.

Enemy attacks south of Nymegen as well as sporadic assaults on the front between Aachen and Metz were repulsed.

Heavy fighting of fluctuating character took place in the combat area to the west of Chateau Salins.

Italian Front:

In the area of Florence, as well as on the Adriatic coast the enemy limited his activities to local assaults.

Balkans:

Near Prahovo the enemy is ferrying continuously more troops across the Danube. In the course of a strong enemy assault on Negotin, our own forces were compelled to withdraw to the heights west of the town.

It has been learned that British and American assault troops landed in the Peleponese, 65 km southsoutheast of Corinthia. (According to wireless interception and intelligence reports).

Eastern Front:

The Hungarian attack to the east of Szeged came to a standstill near Mako. Southwest of Grosswardein German and Hungarian advance units met. The attack against the trapped Russian forces is in progress. Strong attacks against flanks of our own forces must be expected by Russian forces from Rumania.

Enemy pressure against our thinly manned front in the area of Saxon-Regen is continuing unabatedly.

In the area of Army Group A the enemy continued his assaults on the Beskiden front, the center of attack being the area to the west of the Dukla Pass. The enemy succeeded in ripping open our front at several places.

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After the heavy losses incurred during the previous days the enemy carried out but incoherent attacks against former focus points in the sector Army Group North.

The first parts of the 218th Infantry Division have arrived to reinforce the garrison at Oesel.

A task was given on the directive for future warfare in the Eastern Front as issued by the High Command, Army, Army General Staff Operational Department, Gkdos, dated 30 Sept. 1944. (1/Skl, reg.No.3125/44, Gkdos).

Finland:

Due possibly to Soviet Russian pressure, Finnish troops are closing in more decidedly on our rear guards. A clash between the Finnish 5th Chasseur Battalion and a small German rear Guard unit was reported to have taken place southwest of Pudasjaervi. Finnish Headquarters and the former Finnish Liaison Staff regret this incident and seem to be determined to put a stop to similar encounters in the future. Finnish troops are taking up the battle ahead of them only halfheartedly. However, local clashes must be expected to take place from now on.

According to the statement of a Finnish officer, Finnish troops have been given orders to prevent the destruction of bridges by the Germans. The bridges at Kemi and Tornio are said to be of vital necessity for maintenance of Finland's population through supplies from Sweden during the winter.

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Special Items:

I. East Area:

a. Naval Staff pointed out to Army General Staff, High Command, Army that in view of the general problem of holding the Baltic Islands it would be of utmost importance to recapture the Isle of Moon in order to maintain control over the Moon Sound.

It is requested that this standpoint be taken into consideration. For copy of teletype to this effect 1/Skl I Nord 3133/44, Gkdos, see War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.



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b. Naval Command East, Admiral, Eastern Baltic are informed by Naval Staff that, considering the activities of numerous enemy's smaller naval craft and landing boats in the Moon Sound it is of special importance that our sea forces should keep the Werder and Rohukuela strongpoints under gun fire in order to thwart enemy's landing plans.

c. The Naval Liaison Officer with the Army General Staff reported by telephone that the enemy has landed at two points on Dagoe: in Kertel Bay and near Heltermaa. The Army General Staff intends to defend the island. This, however, will be entirely dependent on the strength and fighting suitability of the forces available. At any rate it is being contemplated to hold at least the southern peninsula.

## II. North Area:

Naval Command Norway reported on 29 Sept. that the development of the situation in Finland and in Northern Norway had burdened the Naval Command with additional defence tasks as the enemy was increasing his combat activities simultaneously. Naval Command Norway has requested a revision of the plan for the disposition and assignment of newly built minesweepers of type 40 or 43.

Naval Staff decides as follows:

1. Justification of the demand for the assignment of minesweepers as forwarded by Naval Command Norway and based on the development of the regional situation is duly recognized here. Assignment thereof at the cost of other defence areas is impossible on account of the extremely tense situation in the North and Baltic Seas, particularly in the latter area where considerable forces have been thrown into battle and still more being urgently required.

2. New minesweepers of type 43 will not be ready for action until November; of these, the second flotilla will be assigned to Naval Command Norway.

3. The 15th Patrol-Boat Flotilla 4, the 16th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla as well as the 8th Gun Carrier Flotilla have been assigned for duty with Naval Command Norway until the new craft are commissioned.

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III. Naval Command North Area:

a. The Commander in Chief of Naval Command North reports the following results of a conference with the Reichsfuehrer SS which took place on Sept. 29, the topic under discussion being: The delimitation of command authority in the Heligoland Bight area:

1. The established duties and authority will remain in full force as well as the established relationship between Naval Command North and the representatives of the Xth Army Corps and the 11th Air Command in all matters pertaining to coastal defense.

2. Staff North Coast, acting as a staff of the Reichsfuehrer SS, will communicate in questions relative to coastal defense with the Xth Army Corps and the 11th Air Command only indirectly by way of Naval Command North Sea.

3. The Reichsfuehrer agrees that for coastal defense purposes the Naval Command be authorized to draw on the armed forces of the Xth Army Corps and the 11th Air Command. If necessary, additional forces will be drawn from other army districts. It should be made a principle to station the troops as closely as possible to the front areas, respectively to the coast.

4. In order to carry out preparations for the defense of the coast it is imperative that the authority of Naval Command North be extended regionally farther inland. The Reichsfuehrer SS is of the opinion that the rear boundry of authority of Naval Command North does not necessarily have to coincide with the boundry of authority of the Xth Army Corps, since the 10th Army District will not be able to furnish all the forces required for the protection of the coast line. Troop reinforcements will have to be drawn from Army Districts 3 and 4 as well. Naval Command North is requested to recommend a rear boundry for its necessary sphere of authority.

5. The various enemy possibilities of attack, for instance, a sea landing with simultaneous attacks on land from the west, or a combined air- and sea landing from Denmark in the Heligoland Bight area, are to be examined; plans for counter-measures which may be released by catchword, are to be elaborated.

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6. Present at this conference were the Reichsfuehrer SS, General Admiral Kummetz, Admiral Foerste, Lt. Gen. Rasp.

b. The Following is an excerpt from a report by Admiral Netherlands, the report covering the period of Sept. 9 to Sept. 21:

As a result of the sudden aggravation of the general situation on Sept. 3 and 4, and largely due to the fact, that little or no news about the situation on the fighting fronts was obtainable, a crisis broke out at the beginning of September in central and southern Holland, leaving in its wake many an unpleasant manifestation. Beginning 4 Sept. members of the Army and to a much greater extent members of the Air Force started to flow back from the front lines, at first in single vehicles, then in small groups, and finally in dissolving march columns - ugly rumors spread with the speed of lightning through the entire country. At some places, above all in the southernmost sections of Holland, almost panic-stricken withdrawing masses were to be observed, among them members of civililian authorities, National Socialist Observers (NSB'er), etc. Various Air Force Commands closed their offices and gave up their positions; whether or not they acted in accordance with given orders cannot be ascertained at the moment. Quite often they even destroyed considerable quantities of supplies, such as fuel oil, gasolines, mines, bombs, ammunition and provisions. Even in the Amsterdam area Air Force Commands were evacuated, as, for instance, the anti-aircraft Group and the Air Force Hospital. In the southern sections, innumerable reports and rumors circulated, saying that troop leaders had deserted, leaving their units entirely without troop leadership and guidance.

Only small numbers of Naval personnel, mostly dispersed remnants of Naval Commands and units in the French and Belgian areas have been carried away by this wave of mass flight. Floating units of the Navy, coming from the west and traversing this area, make a very pitiful impression in regards to their outer appearance. This, however, may have been due to their lengthy and difficult operational tasks of the past weeks.

The spectacle, as related above, left a very discouraging and depressing impression on the minds of our men who were happy indeed as these occurrences subsided on September 6 and 7. To the astonishment of the smitten masses hurriedly fleeing from French and Belgian territory, this panic wave did not spread

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among the forces of the Commanding General Armed Forces Netherlands or among Army and Navy units stationed in Southern and Central Holland. Even at such places as Bergen op Zoom, Breda, Eindhoven, Hertogenbosch, Helmond, etc., through which the stricken forces passed, and where at that time air force units were carrying out extensive destructions, Naval Commands and Naval units kept to their stations, being orderly withdrawn only after all commanded tasks had been completed, such as evacuating the hospital at Eindhoven, the Naval Armament Command A at Bergen op Zoom and the maintenance branch offices in the above towns, where all supplies were salvaged and transported to rear areas. After the departure of all airforce units in the area Handswekrt - Wemeldinge, those units of the Rhine-Flotilla stationed there, were the only forces to remain in this area. The 1st and 2nd Naval Anti-aircraft battalions, stationed in Walcheren and in Sealandish Flanders, as well as the Harbor-Defense-Group and the naval craft of the 1st Escort Division stationed at Flushing, stayed at their posts, fulfilling their duties as before. The ferrying of the 15th Army started on September 4. The number of troops to be ferried as estimated by Army authorities was placed at only 30,000, the remnants of 3 heavily hit army corps.

However, this was the beginning of an impressive ferrying performance in which finally some 85,000 - 90,000 men were set over with full battle equipment and weapons. At the onset, spectacles, such as already mentioned, accompanied this ferrying operation; however, from 6 Sept. and 7 Sept on orderly and well-led troops arrived. The readiness of action as displayed by the different units of the Navy as well as the exemplary show of leadership of the naval officers were generally admired to such an extent that two soldiers of an Armored Division volunteered to join the Navy.

For further details see 1/Skl 3136/44, Gkdos, in War Diary Part C, Volume IIa.

#### IV. West Area:

a. In reply to request by Naval Shore Commander Pas de Calais concerning the supplying of ammunition to Dunkirk by means of submarines the Naval Staff, Submarine Division comments:

In principle the submarine will be compelled to travel submerged along the most endangered parts of the route and must

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proceed up to AN 8290 and deviate to find a minimum depth of 20 meters. The journey must be continued under water; at AN 8740 the submarine will be required to take the shortest possible route free of mines to arrive at its port of destination. This task cannot be performed by a submarine because 1. due to the present enemy situation it is impossible for the submarine to emerge and to ascertain its exact chart position without being detected by the enemy, 2. the underwater speed of the submarine, approximately 3 - 4 knots, is entirely inadequate for operations in the sea area in question.

For the above reasons supplying by submarines is rejected.

b. The Commander in Chief Naval Command North submits to the Commander in Chief, Navy a letter of the Naval Shore Commander Pas de Calais, K.K. Frisius, dated 25 Sept. which may be regarded as a valuable contribution to the question of command of coastal defense by the Army. The letter is registered 1/Skl 3135/44 Gkdos, and may be found in War Diary Part C, Vol. IIa.

c. The following figures are taken from a survey of the Officer Personnel Department, Naval Ordnance Division dealing with the movements and whereabouts of naval personnel for the period of June 1 to Sept. 30.

aa. French and Belgian Theaters:

Actual strength of troops in the West area, beginning of June . . . . .	165,500
Of these still in action in West Area . . . . .	56,000
Withdrawn . . . . .	52,900
Losses officially confirmed . . . . .	11,900
Whereabouts still unknown . . . . .	44,700
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Total	165,500

bb. Southeast Area:

Rallying places Vienna: troops	6,230
Rallied troops, Belgrade sent back to Reich Territory	2,820

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Troops rallied at Linz	180
Assigned to Special Naval Combat Unit, Adriatic Sea	510
	<hr/>
Total	9,740

V. The Reich Security Central Office has provided information on the sinking of the blockade-runner RIO GRANDE. The vessel was scuttled by her own crew on 4 January 1944 in 0630 S and 2630 W upon the approach of an American cruiser. The lifeboats were picked up five days later by the same cruiser. The crew was interned at Pernambuco, later transferred to a P.O.W. Camp in the United States.

For a detailed report see 1/Skl 30015, geh. War Diary Part C, Vol. I.

VI. Naval Staff, Operations Division has elaborated a plan for the use of PT boats and has requested Quartermaster Division to obtain from the Naval Ordnance Division the results of the examination ordered by the Commander in Chief, Navy, inquiring whether or not PT boats can be utilized as PT chasers and escort vessels. Naval Staff, Operations Division is endeavouring to bring about a decision in this matter as quickly as possible.

Copy of this effect: 1/Skl IIIa 29969/44, geh. see War Diary Part B, Vol. V.

VII. For information bearing on the general situation, see 1/Skl Ib 30024/44 geh. War Diary Part B, Volume V.

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The Situation on 2 Oct. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

45 enemy planes of the 15th Group and 32 of the 19th Group were observed in action. Five British vessels were detected in the rendezvous areas of the convoys.

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Four landing ships, tanks of convoy EPE 340, carrying troops, were contacted en route to Utah; later the convoy altered its course and was last seen bound for Omaha. This shows that the enemy is still landing troops on the beaches of the Seine Bay, although many ports have been captured since the landing in Normandy.

Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

On the night of 1 Oct. three armed fishing vessels and one motor coaster (Kuemose) sailed from Lorient to St. Nazaire.

In the evening of 2 Oct, two patrol boats and two harbor defence vessels left St. Nazaire, bound for Lorient.

The Situation in the Atlantic Fortresses:

Lorient:

On 1 Oct. our own batteries opened fire on identified enemy machine gun and grenade-thrower positions. The following naval units have been newly regrouped in the area of the fortress: the submarine base, comprising the 2nd and 10th Submarine Flotillas, and Escort Service Unit Lorient, consisting of units of the 3rd Escort Division; the total strength of these 22 units is 937 men; the Commanding Officer is Captain Kals. Tactically, the newly set up units will be placed under the command of the officer in charge of the area defences of the fortress; the troops will be placed under the command of the Harbor Commandant.

No special reports have been received from the other fortresses.

English Channel/Channel Islands:

Busy in and out going traffic, mainly of freighters, was sighted in the sea area about Cherbourg.

Four small companies have been set up in the Channel Islands, by regrouping the naval units stationed there.

Dunkerque:

On the night of 1 Oct, one enemy battery was effectively taken

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under fire by one of our own batteries. In the course of Oct. 2nd, enemy gun-fire increased, several new gun positions were identified. The foe used incendiary ammunition for the first time. Four Heinkel 111 dropped 21 supply bombs on the night of Oct. 1st.

On the night of Oct. 2nd, it is intended to engage eight planes to drop supplies by parachute.

Calais:

According to enemy reports, the fortress was captured on the night of Sept. 30th.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean:

1. North Sea:

Heligoland Bight:

During the daytime, naval anti-aircraft batteries fired on low flying planes over the Heligoland Bight area. It is being suspected that mines were dropped in the Heligoland area.

Netherlands' Coast:

The steamer "Wachtel", carrying 700 tons of ammunition was sunk at 0950 hours by a direct bomb hit from an enemy fighter bomber.

In the course of a fighter bomber raid on radar units of the Air Force in Walcheren, one Wuerzburg Giant was destroyed and other instruments were damaged. During enemy bombing attack on the sea port of Dordrecht in the afternoon of Oct. 1st, one tanker was sunk. The harbor of Flushing is under incessant enemy gun-fire since 12.40 hours. The anti-aircraft battery Flushing North was unsuccessfully raided by enemy fighter bombers.

2. Norway / Arctic Ocean:

28 enemy planes of the 18th Group were observed into action over the northern regions of the North Sea.



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At 17.30 hours Hammerfest detected by RDF one Allied unit in 316 degrees.

Own Situation:

On Sept. 30th, there was heavy hostile air activity in the area of Petsamo, whereas only light activity was reported from the areas of Kirkenes, Vardoe, and Hammerfest.

On Oct. 1st, numerous enemy planes were reported to have penetrated into the areas of Hangesund, Lindesnes, Sognefiord. The sea area southwest of Feiestein, suspected of being infested with mines, was examined closely along a 1.5 naut. miles wide stretch. No mine was cut loose. Altogether, 14 floating mines were sighted.

16 ships were escorted northwards, 12 southwards.

The Commander Submarine West has entered an objection with Naval Staff Operations Division against the plans of Naval Command Norway lay an anti-submarine barrier in the area of Lister. By order of the Chief, Naval Staff, Naval Command Norway, is by signal Admiral, Norwegian West Coast and the Commander, Submarine West are instructed of the following:

"In order to take into consideration the position of our own submarines making for the coast with uncertain reckonings, the southermost part of the planned anti-submarine barrier near Lister will be laid on no account. By further planning of mine barriers, the regionally competent Submarines Operational Staff must be consulted."

The signal to this effect was sent at 12.47 hours.

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy situation:

Wireless interception contacted on Oct. 1st in the Gulf of Finland but the usual formations, commands and units. Air reconnaissance observed early Oct. 1st considerable ferry traffic between Rohukuela and Heltermaa, as well as further enemy landings in Dagoe and in the Kertel Bay. The northwest part of Keinas has been occupied by the enemy.

At 10.02 hours, one of our own submarines reported sighting four Russian PT boats sailing with alternating courses north of Baltish Port.

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Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

On the night of Oct. 1st, the EMDEN and the Fifth Destroyer Flotilla carried out minelaying task 32 b according to plan. Shortly before the conclusion of this operation the formation was subject to a surprise attack with aerial torpedoes from lee-moon. One torpedo passed underneath the destroyer GALSTER and detonated at the end of its track.

At 01.58 - 02.01 hours renewed air attacks were repelled. For a full-detailed report of battle by the Commander, Minelayers aboard the EMDEN, reg at 1/Skl 30051/44, geh. see War Diary, Part C, Volume III. For a brief report of battle by the Fifth Destroyer Flotilla, registered 1/Skl 30041/44, geh. see War Diary, Part C, Book III. It is the opinion of the flotilla command that during air alarms, minelaying at a rate of 10 knots an hour is too slow for a destroyer.

The task force entered Oslofiord as planned. Destroyer "30" with the Commander Destroyer aboard arrived at Copenhagen at 06.20 hours.

19 planes participated in minesweeping operations. Convoy traffic remained without incidents.

According to the Report of the Day by the Reich Commissioner for Maritime Shipping more than 90 ships registered over 400 gross tons were in sea in the Baltic Sea on Oct. 2nd. For particulars, see Situation of the Day.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

At 15.40 hours on Oct. 1st, trial boat "132" and one of our submarines repelled an air attack by four British planes near Alsen. At 15.45 hours, two Mosquito bombers raided the patrol ship ATLAS in the shipyard at Sonderburg. At 20.44 hours, some 30 - 40 planes coming from the east attacked Memel. Explosive bombs were dropped on the city area, the railway yards and the wireless station. No damage has been reported.

On Oct. 2nd single Mosquito bombers, operating over the Jasmunder Bodden, set 6 of 9 vessels at anchor on fire.

42 boats were engaged in minesweeping. One mine was swept in the Danzig Bay, one in the Kiel Bay.

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Admiral Eastern Baltic:

After German troops had been ferried to Oesel, the Island of Keinas was taken under effective gun-fire by the artillery ferry barge (AF) group "Cordes". One of our own assault boats has not returned. Our guns opened fire on enemy troop movements on the Isle of Moon. After completing its ferrying task, group M "17" bombarded Werder. About 15 small and one medium sized vessel as well as several PT boats took cover behind a smoke screen and withdrew under protection of the coast. The gun-fire was returned from the coast, however, ineffectively.

Four boats of the 2nd PT boat flotilla penetrated into the sea area northwest of Dagoe. The boats have returned to Kihelkonna.

On the night of Oct. 2nd it is intended to infest the waters of the Moon Sound with LMB-mines.

Four boats of the 2nd torpedo boat Flotilla transferred during bad weather on Sept. 30th 595 Army men from Riga to Ahrensburg. At 05.00 on Oct. 1st, torpedo boat "23" and torpedo boat "28" opened fire on enemy tank concentrations near Admiamuende.

On Oct. 1st at 00.10 hours, east of Domesnes, two Bostons attacked the convoy "Gauleiter Buerckel" unsuccessfully with aerial torpedoes, bombs and machine guns. One plane was shot down, another probably.

Convoys and transports were carried out according to plan.

4976 tons of supplies for Army Group North were shipped to Riga on Oct. 1st.

Army Group North, ordered the immediate completion of the defences of Ahrensburg which will become a local strongpoint, as well as the defences of the isthmus in the northern part of the Sworbe peninsula with the aid of conscriptions of the population.

In Sworbe, the most will be made of the old Russian fortifications.

IV. Submarine Warfare:

We are faced with the threat that the North Atlantic will

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be void of submarines within the next 3 weeks. To parry this threat, submarines of Group Centre, especially those equipped with the "Schnorchel" device are being intended for operations in the Atlantic. Transfer will commence within a few days.

No special reports have been received from the other operational areas.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Brisk daytime fighter-bomber and fighter activity was reported from the Netherlands. Single long range night fighters operated over this area during the night.

35 of our own planes raided the city of Nymegen as well as airfield southwest of the city. Bombing effects were observed. We had 182 planes operating in the area Nymegen - Arnhem in independent missions against enemy fighters and fighter bombers. 3 enemy planes were shot down, another probably; we lost 2 planes. In addition to these air operations, 34 planes took off to deal with enemy fighter bombers in the area Lunéville - Rambervillers. 3 enemy planes were shot down, we lost one.

41 planes of our own raided Nymegen on the night of Oct. 2nd; bombing effects were observed. 12 Heinkel 111 flew supplies to Dunkerque and Gironde-South.

Reich Territory:

Some 800 enemy bombers flew into the Frankfort a. M. area, turning off from here to conduct a heavy terror raid on Kassel. At the same time, formations of 80 - 100 planes each attacked Cologne and Leverkusen. In the afternoon, several hundred bombers raided the cities of Muenster and Hamm. No details are available of the air raid on Muenster. The attack on Hamm turned out to be a very heavy terror raid on the entire city area, the attack being focussed on the railway marshalling yards. Long distance rail communications have been disrupted. Furthermore some 450 planes, flying singly or in small groups, attacked targets in Southwest, West, Northwest and North Germany. See the "Situation of the Day for particulars.

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Operating singly or in small groups, some 165 enemy planes attacked targets chiefly in the Frankfort on M, Karlsruhe and Strassburg areas on the night of Sept. 29th. Further enemy air missions were carried out in the areas of Dortmund, Geldern and Wesel. 50 - 60 Mosquito bombers raided the city of Brunswik.

Mediterranean Area:

870 enemy fighter bombers, fighters and reconnaissance planes were reported operating over the Italian front areas on Oct. 1st. The attacks were directed chiefly against highway bridges, railway bridges and railway communications. Other enemy air operations were of little interest.

Our own planes flew reconnaissance missions.

Eastern Area:

627 enemy sorties were reported on Oct. 1st; we conducted 330 missions. The enemy lost five planes, we, one. 24 hostile armed reconnaissance planes operated on Oct. 2nd over the Norwegian West coast. Two planes reconnoitered the airfields at Lister, Oslo and Bergen.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Areas:

1. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

In the morning of Oct. 1st, 3 transports, 6 tankers, 1 freighter, 4 destroyers and 4 corvettes, all vessels eastbound, passed the Strait of Gibraltar. A convoy of 17 freighters and 2 corvettes, probably KMS 64, followed in the morning of Oct. 2nd.

A convoy of 73 ships sailing in ballast left the Mediterranean around noon bound for the Atlantic. An auxiliary aircraft carrier, presumably with escort, joined the convoy at Gibraltar.

The results of photo-reconnaissance showed that one series freighter as well as several PT boats were stationed at Nice.

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Near Nice there were located two destroyers, while no vessels were to be seen at Mentone. Destroyers at sea opened gunfire on the town of Zervo, near Imperia, as well as on the hinterland of Ventimiglia and Bordighera. Our own batteries returned the fire. Only routine enemy destroyer patrols were sighted day and night in the sea area between Nice and Imperia.

Own Situation:

Convoy and escort service on the west coast was carried out according to plan. Three torpedo boats on a mine laying task contacted at 02.00 hours what may have been an enemy cruiser or a large French destroyer. Two sure hits were scored on the enemy vessel. An attack with torpedoes was rendered impossible on account of the long range.

Torpedo boat "29" rammed torpedo boat "24" during a sheering off manouever. The carrying out of the task was therefore interrupted. In the same night three minesweepers, operating under fire from enemy destroyers, laid a minefield in an alternative position south of Bordighers.

Four mine-carrying naval landing craft, which were to carry out a mine task, too had to be transferred to Imperia because of delays in the loading of mines. South of Albenga they received ineffective gun-fire from an enemy unit.

According to wireless interception one vessel sent the following message: at 03.29 hours:

"A hit by mine or torpedo, have 600 men from "John Hopkins" aboard".

At 03.42 hours a Liberty ship struck a mine south of Cape Couronne.

At 21.30 hours on Oct. 1st, one of our own minesweepers reports having perceived the detonation of three mines, presumably in the new minefield at Porto Fino. Detonations might have been due to self-ignition.

The German Naval Command, Italy reports that shipping on the Po River was taken over on September 13th by the Transportation Fleet Speer for the purpose of carrying supplies and transporting Army supply goods to the rear. In all, some 200,000 tons of goods will have to be shipped away. At the moment troop maintenance is at a standstill, as Trieste and Genoa are not available for incoming transports.

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A copy containing particulars of the signal to this effect is registered 1/Skl 36530/44, vertraulich, and may be found in War Diary Part C Volume XI.

2. Area of Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

The Army coastal battery Primosten opened fire on two enemy PT boats one of which was set on fire and sank.

In the afternoon of Oct. 1st, the port of Plöco was taken under gunfire from probably three enemy destroyers. No casualties. The island Gross-Drvenik was reported on Sept. 30th to be free again from enemy forces. The enemy had apparently withdrawn to Klein-Drvenik.

Three PT boats operated without success on the night of Oct. 1st against partisan shipping on the west coast of Pasman.

One gun boat has returned to its base after participating in Sept. 30th in the small battle unit mission in the area of Pesaro.

Because of fuel shortage and weather deterioration the carrier boats (Ladungsboote) were partly scuttled and partly blown up at the coast.

b. Aegean Sea:

The enemy formation of aircraft carriers, which entered the Aegean Sea at noon Oct. 1st, operated in the areas of Rhodes - Coos and between Milos and Crete. At 09.00 hours three aircraft carriers, three cruisers and several destroyers were sighted 25 naut. miles northeast of Cape Drapanon in Crete. The task force was eastbound. The Airfield at Gaduras in Rhodes was subject in the evening to gunfire from enemy cruisers.

A small landing force of 15 units is operating since 15.00 hours Oct. 1st, in the sea area Hydra - Paros, some 35 naut. miles south of Piraeus. Our own planes sighted 3 destroyers, 1 tanker and small vessels at 07.10 hours on Oct. 2nd.

Thus has been determined the whereabouts of the landing force at Kythera. The intentions of the enemy are not recognizable at the moment. The tanker sheered off in a southerly direction after receiving well placed gunfire in the afternoon.

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At 17.00 hours, the 15 cm battery, Aegina, opened fire on the small craft of the enemy task force operating in the Paros Sea area. On the night of Sept. 30th, operations by small PT boats had to be cancelled on account of prevailing weather conditions. For the same reason the torpedo boat (foreign) group, did not carry out its designated mine task. Mine ship ZEUS interrupted its operation sowing mines in the sea area Skyros - Psara. The ZEUS, being attacked at 10.33 hours on Oct. 2nd 6 naut. miles SSE of Cassandra-Huk, managed to evade two torpedo assaults of three torpedos each shot in fans.

The steamer ZAR FERDINAND (1994 gross tons) was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine at 21.20 hours, 10 naut. miles north-west of Skyathos. A coastal defence boat carried out the laying of a minefield in the western parts of the Eleusis Bay according to plan. In Samos, the port installations of Carlovasi and Tigani were blown up. On Samos, the gate of the harbor mole at Vathi was blocked with the wreck of the mine ship DRACHE.

The evacuation of Stampalia is being conducted according to plan.

At about 05.00 hours British troops and body guards of the King of Greece (Evzonen) embarked into the suburbs of Patras. The enemy was reinforced by air. Our own landings in the area South of Patras, ammunition supplies are running low. The Sea Commandant West Greece reports that all secret matter has been destroyed.

The Situation in the Danube Area:

No dropping of mines and sweepings were reported on Oct. 1st. The strongpoint Milanovac will be evacuated of our forces. The garrison is being transferred to Svinita by the "Bechelaren" and one naval landing craft.

VIII. The Situation in the Far East:

No special reports have been received.

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Items of Political Importance:

News of particular interest has not been received.

Conference on the Situation with Commander In Chief, Navy at 11.15

I. In connection with the discussion of the situation on the Eastern Front, the 9th Escort Division issued at 23.00 hours on Oct. 2nd the following report on the situation in the Baltic Islands:

"1. Situation in the area of Oesel, Oct. 2nd, 11.00 hours:

The enemy has landed three strong combat battallions, The centers of attack are Kertel, Tiefenhafen and Heltermaa in Dagoe. Our forces in Dagoe, some 1000 strong, have received orders to withdraw towards Kaine. It is intended at Kaine to evacuate our forces with the aid of combined operations boats and armed fishing vessels which will take troops on board. The bridgehead Toffri will be defended in order to cover the evacuation and the departure of the naval vessels. Dispersed forces will gather at Prehna and will be evacuated by combined operations boats. Dagoe will be evacuated as hastily as possible. Approximately 2½ enemy divisions have been landed in the Isle of Moon. The enemy is taking cover in bomb and shell craters up to the bend in the Moon dam. General impression: Army authorities view the defence of Oesel with considerable scepticism, moreso since no heavy guns, heavy weapons or motor vehicles are available.

2. Collaboration between the Army and the Navy is satisfactory. The task, as outlined by the Army, is as follows: Secure Oesel against major enemy landing operations in the north and in the south, and interrupt the enemy's ferry traffic to Oesel. No advantage is seen in interrupting the enemy's ferry traffic to Dagoe, since the risks will eventually outweigh the success of any such action and Dagoe cannot be defended, anyhow.

3. Measures to be taken: There will be stationed from Kassar Wiek to Keinaste:

Four artillery landing craft, two motor minesweepers

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to relay wireless messages, three armed fishing vessels and three additional armed fishing vessels in Keinaste. In Triigi there will be stationed: one motor minesweeper to relay telephone messages. The eastern and western waters of Soelo-Sound will be patrolled by three armed fishing vessels. (Navigationally, this is a very difficult sea lane, thus easy to block) Three motor minesweepers together with three armed fishing vessels will be stationed at Tagga Bay, respectively at Kuedema Bay, in order to disburden our forces patrolling the Kassar Wiek and also to cover the evacuation of Toffri and Prehna. The southern entrance of the Moon Sound will be patrolled by one motor minesweeper and one minesweeper, together with about seven artillery landing craft to repel a possible landing in the south. In full cooperation with the Army these patrols will all endeavour to hamper the enemy's ferry traffic and troop movements.

4. In case it should become necessary to evacuate Oesel, the following ports may be used for this purpose: Ahrensburg, Montu, Kihelkonna where but rather primitive piers are available. In Tagga Bay, a suitable landing place may be found near Ranne. Troop engineers are contemplating building landing bridges and piers in this area."

This report has been conveyed to Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters, Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Naval Liaison; Army High Command, Army General Staff Naval Liaison Officer and High Command, Air Force, Operations Staff Ia(Navy).

II. Naval Staff, Operations Division, International Law and Prizes Section gives a lecture on the juridicial aspect of the question of an evacuation of the population of the Channel Islands according to international law. The Commander in Chief of the Navy considers it necessary that supporting facts as to the actual extent of the maintenance problems must be obtained first before a decision in this matter can be made.

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III. Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division: It is being contemplated to transfer the 214th small battle flotilla (Midget Flotilla) with 60 small battle units (Linsen) from Groningen to Flushing, in order to relieve the supply operation "Kameraden" by engaging enemy surfacecraft, or, in close cooperation with the Commander, Minelayers, by attacking enemy naval forces at the mouth of the Schelde.

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Concerning action by small battle units against the battleship in the Kola Bay, it has been established that "Marders" can be brought to the scene of action by submarine. A submarine can fasten four "Marders" to its deck. All instruments are pressure proof to a depth of 50 meters. Tests to this effect have been conducted. However, the Etos (electrical torpedoes) must be regulated and charged immediately before action. Since the "Marders" must not remain unregulated on board a submarine for more than three days, ways must be sought to do so before this time limit expires. Because of the low speed of these torpedoes devices to cut boom defenses will remain rather ineffective.

The Commander in Chief, Navy gives orders to conduct a thorough investigation of the conditions under which the operations are to be carried out; Special attention shall be dealt to the problem how the nets barrages are to be forced.

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IV. Naval Staff, Operations Division, Chief of Operations Branch:

a. The results of the conference between the Commander in Chief of Naval Command North and the Reichsfuehrer SS (see War Diary Oct. 2nd) represent exactly the opinion at the Naval Staff. Recommendations as to the demarcation of the southern border must be awaited.

b. It was established by wireless interception that the hospital ship ROSTOCK was taken as a prize by the British. In order to alleviate the situation of the wounded and the situation of the fortress as a whole, it must be ascertained whether or not the sending of vessels of lesser value and importance to fetch the wounded will serve this purpose. It may be by this means that the desired results can be attained.

The Commander in Chief, Navy agrees to this. Accordingly recommendations have been sent to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff.

V. Chief, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

a. Naval Command Norway reported that infantry protection forces for Naval and Army coastal batteries have been reduced continuously during the last one and a half years and that number of batteries are even without this protection altogether.

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In most cases this decrease was due to the Army having to re-lease troops for the home front. The recommendation recently forwarded to the Commanding General, Armed Forces Norway to assign new Army forces for the protection of the coastal batteries out of the forces which will be made available as soon as the front of the 20th Army (Mountain) has been shortened, was rejected in a statement saying that the question of infantry protection for the coastal defense batteries cannot be taken up until the final disposition of troops thus disengaged is being decided upon. Naval Command Norway believes that this will be too late.

Commander in Chief, Navy supports the opinion at Naval Command Norway, and in face of the importance of this matter orders that Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters should be instructed to submit this matter to the Fuehrer.

For details to this effect as per l/Skl I op 30037/44 geh. see file at Naval Staff Operations Division, Fleet Operations Section VI,2.

b. The fortress commandant of La Rochelle sent the following signal to the Commanding General Armed Forces West:

"In order to avoid the total destructin of the cities and ports of La Rochelle - La Vallice which would inevitably result from American armed intervention, The French Commander, Meyer acting by order of General Bertin, proposed on 30 Sept. that until the arrival of French regulars, both parties agree to a fixed front line from which no larger operations shall be admissable than those connected with the securing of this line, such as patrols, etc. The beginning of hostilities with French Regulars will be announced a week in advance. Surprises thus being eliminated, the fortress will remain firmly under my command. In this way time will be gained for the training of troops. Considering the present training standard and the lack of mobile infantry and artillery forces, it will be impossible anyhow to conduct major military operations. I ask whether there are any reasons for my hesitating to accept this arrangement."

The Commanding General Armed Forces West has replied as follows:

"Concerning the inquiry of the fortification Commandant La Rochelle as to the proposal of the enemy, dated Sept. 30th: The circumstance that the fortress must be held as long as possible must always be decisive for the action to be taken by the fortifica-

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tion commandant. The utilization of every means serving this purpose is right, as long as the defence of the fortress remains unimpaired."

The Commander in Chief, Navy desires to draw to the attention of the Commanding General Armed Forces West the dangerousness of this procedure. A personal wireless message to this effect is being prepared.

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VI. The Chief, Bureau of Naval Administration, Naval Personnel Division reports that of the 14,000 men to be transferred to the Army, 11,000 have been transferred up to Sept. 2nd. Difficulties are arising in meeting the remaining requirements.

The Commander in Chief Navy agrees that the number transferred to date is all that can be spared. The matter is to be left as it is.

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In a Restricted Circle:

VII. Chief, Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division, reports:

The landing of British forces in Albania appears to be only a test to establish Russian reaction.

The English have succeeded in obtaining full details of the extent of the damage sustained by the TIRPITZ.

VIII. The Situation of the Army:

Western Front:

Strong enemy pressure on the southern front of the 15th Army continued all through yesterday. The lack of reserves is compelling us to withdraw our forces and shorten the front in the area southeast of Tilburg.

The continuation of the assaults by our First Airborne Army against well prepared enemy forces proved futile. At such places where gains could be made at the onset, the enemy responded immediately with counter-attacks, supported effectively by his own

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superior air force. Tank and armored car action on both sides is limited owing to ground conditions. The failure of our own night attacks proves that the training standard of the newly set up units cannot meet the demands required for such difficult operations.

Supported by heavy guns, planes and armored vehicles, the enemy undertook several local assaults north of Aachen, the majority of which were repelled. Enemy radio broadcasts to the effect that the Americans in this sector had opened a major military campaign, do not correspond with the facts.

Appreciation of the Enemy:

Certain enemy measures on the fighting front seem to reveal that, at the moment, he is short of operational reserves. Taking into consideration the number of forces available in Great Britain, this shortage can only be explained as being due to transportation difficulties, especially to such difficulties arising from bottlenecks in the unloading of these reserves. This supposition is supported by an announcement in a British radio broadcast in which it was stated that Cherbourg was the only port available suited for the unloading of supplies. The endeavor of the enemy to direct to the fronts as quickly as possible his personnel and material reserves also appears evident in the recent establishment of priority routes for fast transportation.

Italian Front:

In spite of poor weather conditions the enemy continued his assaults in the area northwest of Florence. Again he was able to throw back our troops from several mountain positions and caused them to withdraw in the direction of Imola. Slowly and surely, but with heavy losses on both sides, the enemy is biting his way through the Appenines, advancing in direction of the northernmost valley entrances.

On account of very poor weather conditions in the Adriatic Sea area only local reconnaissance thrusts were reported.

Balkans:

The island of Samos has been entirely evacuated of German troops.

The evacuation of Korfu was continued in spite of difficult weather conditions.

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To the south of Nisch and to the south of Negotin, along the Servian - Yugoslav border, enemy forces advanced in western direction.

In Bulgaria, two Russian armies, marching north and south of the Balkan Mountains, are advancing towards Servia.

More Russian forces are crossing the Danube at the double bend near Turnu - Severin. Three Russian and four Rumanian divisions must be expected to be operating in this area.

The enemy has finally opened his drive northeast of Belgrade and reached a point 30 km north of the Theiss and Danube junction. These forces probably will attempt to unite with Tito-forces in Yugoslavia. Another clue to this supposition may be sought in the recent official request of the Russian Government, addressed to Marshal Tito, to grant permission to the Russian forces to enter Servian territory during the imminent battle operations.

Eastern Front:

While the enemy carried out but incoherent attacks in the sector of the 3rd Hungarian Army and in the area south of Grosswardein, he tried to force a breakthrough through our extremely weak positions on both sides of Thorenburg and near Saxon-Regen. By throwing into the battle our last reserves, it was possible to halt the enemy or to repulse his forces by counter-attacks. In the area of the Beskides, the defensive battle is continuing. On both sides of the Czirokatal Pass, where the enemy had recently broken into our positions, our own counterassaults scored but minor gains against obstinate enemy resistance. West of the Dukla Pass, strong enemy forces assailed our blocking positions, repelling our troops partly in a westerly, southwesterly direction, and partly beyond our border lines into the woods south of Krepna. It shall be endeavored to close the gaps in our manifold interrupted and strongpoint-like second defence lines.

In Warsaw, a conference that took place between the German Commander in Chief and representatives of General Bor, brought about the capitulation of the remaining insurgents still fighting in the central parts of the city.

In the area of Army Group North, the enemy carried out but sporadic thrusts, attacking with forces in strength up to one batallion.

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In the early hours of Oct. 2nd superior enemy forces, supported by low-level air attacks landed in broad front in Dagoe.

The enemy was able to gain ground in spite of headstrong resistance on the part of the weak garrison. At present our forces are holding a bridgehead north of the approaches to Kassar Island. The garrison on the southern part of the island was reinforced by an infantry company from Oesel.

The Moon dam again was effectively blown up at several points.

Special Items:

I. Concerning the East Area:

a. Admiral Eastern Baltic submits a report by the Naval Liaison Officer at Army Group North in Libau, according to which the operations to reduce the bridgehead of Riga will begin in the evening of October 5th and will last until October 12th. By this time the enemy's average distance from the city to the north as well as to the south will be 20 km. The disengaging operation carries the code name of "Donner" (Thunder). The evacuation will be carried out as long as possible, and if the port is exposed to gun-fire, the operations will be carried on by means of vessels under 2,000 gross tons."

Furthermore, Admiral, Eastern Baltic submits an order by Army Group, North which reads as follows:

"The destruction of all important installations and facilities in Riga will be prepared immediately and carried out should the city be evacuated by our forces. Orders to this effect will be given by the Army Group, respectively by the combat commandant."

b. According to a communication of the Naval Liaison Officer at the Army General Staff, the Army General Staff recommends that the land operations in the Baltic Islands be supported, for instance, with heavy units shelling enemy positions in Moon from the southeast and the main battle line northeast of Riga. It is expected that heavy naval guns will prove very effective in safe-guarding the open flanks of our Army front.

In this connection the Naval Staff, Operations Division wires the following signal to Naval Command East, The Naval Liaison Officer at the Army General Staff, Admiral Eastern Baltic, Naval Liaison Officer at Army Group North, 2nd Task Force, Supreme Air Command Air Operational Staff Ia(Navy Liaison), Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters, Armed Forces Supreme Command, Ops. Staff op (Navy) and to the Fleet:

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"1. The recommendation by the Army General Staff that heavy naval artillery be brought into action in support of the Army is being welcomed by the Naval Staff and corresponds to similar deliberations here.

2. In the course of routine collaboration with the Army in such situations as may arise suddenly, it is the task of light naval units to combat the enemy from the sea (torpedo boats, minesweepers and Artillery landing craft). These forces are at the disposal of Admiral Eastern Baltic and have already been brought into action.

3. In view of the significance of the cruiser in respect to naval strategy in the Baltic regions - hint to Sweden - action by heavy units is justified, even should this action be connected with such possible dangers to the vessels as enemy air operations mines and PT boats in the narrow waters in the area of the Baltic Islands or the Bay of Riga; however such action must serve the attainment of important operational aims, such as supporting a major military campaign or assisting the Army in a difficult disengaging movement or withdrawal from the enemy.

4. Action according to 3. will require extensive preparations, specification of the operational aims, the setting up of a detailed time table, as well as arrangements to the extent of collaboration between the three branches of the Armed Forces. Sufficient aerial fighter support will be prerequisite for any such operations.

5. Taking into account 3. and 4. the recommendations by the Army General Staff are agreed to in principle. Naval Commander East (Admiral, Eastern Baltic) will communicate immediately with Army Group North. The possibilities of operations are to be examined, recommendations wired, and with the participation of the 2nd Task Force, preparations are to be initiated.

Naval Command, East issues orders the 2nd Task Force to begin immediately with the preparations for operations accordingly. The LUTZOW, PRINZ EUGEN, the Sixth Destroyer Flotilla, and such boats fit for action of the 2nd and 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla in Gdynia are to be kept ready for operations at three hours notice.

c. The following inquiry by the Naval Staff, Operations Division is directed to the Naval Liaison Officer at the Army General Staff:

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1. The Naval Staff, Operations Division reinforcement of the defences in the Baltic Islands by setting up coastal batteries is given up in face of the already initiated withdrawal of forces in the islands.

2. The Naval Staff requests to be informed as soon as possible of the defence plans for the Baltic Islands as arrived at under consideration of the present situation, so that planning and setting up accordingly of coastal defence batteries may be elaborated without delay."

Concerning the situation on the eastern front, Admiral Fuehrer Headquarter gives the following information:

"Strong enemy troop concentrations in the area Schaulen - Mitau - Raseinen point to an imminent offensive operations on the part of the enemy, which may be set in motion before our own attacks get underway. Dagoe has been lost except for the bridgehead opposite the Island of Oesel. The Chief of the General Staff informed me that he intends to hold Oesel at all costs. For the additional reinforcement of Oesel, the 218th Infantry Division has been withdrawn (from the front lines on the mainland.) The transfer of our large supplies from Riga is to be accelerated; however, the Riga area will be held to the last. The Chief of the Armed forces High Command (Chef OKW) again has emphasized the importance of close collaboration between the local Army and Navy commands and has requested me to convey this to the Naval War Staff. In this connection the Chief of Army General Staff mentioned that collaboration to date had been excellent."

d. Acting on higher orders, the Fleet places at disposal for the mine laying task in the Skagerrak the warships EMDEN, KOELN, LEIPZIG. For combat action, Naval Staff, Operations Division will place the vessels under the command of Naval Command East. Tactical details will be settled directly between Naval Command East and the Fleet. Operational intentions are to be reported.

e. Naval Staff, Operations Division has conveyed the following signal to the Supreme Command of the Luftwaffe Air Operational Staff, to be brought to the attention of the General of the Reconnaissance Planes and Naval Recce Group 196; concerning the Naval Recce Wing 2/196:

"1. Owing to the change in the situation in the Jutland area, caused by increased activity of superior enemy

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aircraft types, training and coastal reconnaissance missions by the Training Wing 2/196, operating with aircraft of type Arado 196, is rendered almost impossible. The aviation fuel situation prohibits further action in this area, Commanding General of the German Air Force in Denmark has no longer the intent to do so.

2. In agreement with the Fleet Command, Naval Recce Group has requested to be transferred to the Baltic Sea area (Combat airfields Uest or Bug in Ruegen).

3. The planes will thus be out of the danger zone, will be able to continue their training, and will be available for missions, such as coastal air reconnaissance convoy escort service and anti-submarine patrols, in the Baltic area.

4. Arrangements for combat missions will be conducted in accordance with the prevailing procedure for semi-groups: The Naval Recce Group will receive from Air Fleet Reich the general combat directions, according to which combat missions will be carried out in direct agreement with the competent Naval Commands; certain routine reports must be taken into account.

5. Thus the possibility is given to comply with request of Naval Staff, asking that planes for anti-submarine patrols be assigned to the Eastern Baltic theater.

6. Naval Staff requests the Supreme Command of the Air Force Air Operational Staff to issue directions to this effect to the General of the Reconnaissance Planes."

## II. Concerning the Reich Territory:

Supplementing the order of the Fuehrer, dated Sept. 16th, concerning defences in the West Area, Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, in agreement with the Director of the Party Chancery (Leiter der Parteikanzlei) orders as follows:

"1. All able-bodied men, no matter of what age, living in such places on German soil as have become battle areas, will be placed under the command of the local military commanding officer, for reinforcement of our defence forces. Such able-bodied men as may be conscripted by the local military commanding officer for the reinforcement of his combat units, before going into battle, are to be provided with yellow armbands "Deutsche Wehrmacht" and the required combattant certificates, should the issuance of Army uniforms prove impossible.

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The Chief of Army Armaments and the Chief of the Army Reserve will see to it that the front Army districts, in direct agreement with the competent Gauleiters, have on supply in those places in question sufficient numbers of yellow armbands "Deutsche Wehrmacht" and combattant certificates.

2. In cases where the front areas are being evacuated of our forces, 16 - 60 year old able-bodied men will also be withdrawn. In collaboration with the local administration, the N.S. Party will effect their withdrawal and subsequent report at the local police authorities as well as at the local competent Offices of Army Reserve, without prejudice to the responsibility of the individual able-bodied man to report at these authorities personally.

This order will not effect all those men who have been classified as "doubly - indispensable" for reasons of carrying out special tasks for higher authorities. The Office of Army Reserve will issue regulations as to the interpretation and definition of the term "doubly - indispensable" (claimed on account of grade I indispensability).

The authority of the Commissars for the Defence of the Reich, to retain some of these able-bodied men for the purpose of excavating entrenchments in accordance with the Emergency Labor Conscription Law, will also remain unimpaired.

In the new staging areas, the local Offices of Army Reserve will immediately process the men withdrawn from the combat lines, even if personal records and indices of these men are not available.

5. In addition, the following directives and orders remain in force:

a. Directives for the withdrawal of armed forces in the West Area, dated Sept. 13th, 1944;

b. The principle order pertaining to measures of dispersal, withdrawal, paralyzing, and demolition, dated Sept. 6th, 1944, the 2nd supplement dated Sept. 12th, 1944.

c. Directives for the dispersal and removal of traffic installations, dated Sept. 15th, 1944

d. Directives for the removal of armaments factories and such workshops engaged in war production:

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The order of the Reich Minister for Armaments and War Production - Armaments Staff -, dated Sept. 15th and Sept. 19th, 1944.

e. Orders pertaining to the transfers of prisoners of war, dated Sept. 17th, 1944.

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch will inform the front commands as far as necessary.

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Situation of the Day - October 3rd.

I. Situation in the West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

39 enemy planes of the 15th, and 30 planes of the 19th group were observed in action. Four British units were located by radar in the convoy rendezvous area.

Information has been obtained concerning the effect of our long range coastal batteries, whose efficaciousness has aroused a certain amount of excitement and agitation among the English public. British authorities have calculated that, in all, the heaviest and heavy batteries Lindemann, Todt, Grosser Kurfuerst and Friedrich August have fired some 3 000 tons of high explosive shells, that have caused considerable destruction in British port positions. It was stated in an English news bulletin that the inhabitants of Dover haven't seen a real bed in years and have lived only in caves. The number of persons on land said to have been killed by long range gun fire is given as totalling a little more than 1 700. For copy of detailed report see War Diary Part C, Vol. X among the enterings for Oct. 3rd.

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2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Fortresses:

Lorient:

On Oct. 2nd, intensified enemy gun-fire was directed against the Guidel area as well as Naval anti-aircraft batteries. The latter opened fire on enemy batteries near Hennebont.

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While combatting two American companies which were trying to cut off one of our patrols, our forces took 47 prisoners and captured several small arms and weapons. A Naval infantry company of the Naval Anti-Aircraft Battalion 817 distinguished itself in this action.

On Oct. 3rd, enemy guns shelled the northern sector of the fortress as well as the city area. Naval anti-aircraft guns fought attacking infantry forces.

St. Nazaire:

On Oct. 2nd, several strong enemy patrols were repelled. Hostile guns were silenced by our own gun-fire; enemy positions were shelled. It is reported Oct. 3rd that both sides limited their activities to sporadic gun-fire.

Gironde-North:

Captain Michahelles, the Sea Commandant Gascogne, has also been assigned to command of Fortress Commandant of Gironde North.

Naval Battalion 2nd mine-exploding vessels Runner Flotilla, comprising 492 officers and men, has been created, drawing its personnel from mine-exploding "15" and "6"; three minesweepers, three patrol boats as well as from the staff of the 2nd mine-exploding Flotilla. Commander Drevin has been assigned as Commanding Officer.

Gironde-South:

Battalion "Narvik" has been set up, drawing its personnel from the crews of destroyer Z "24", torpedo boat T "24", and other units. The strength of the newly set up battalion totals 458 officers and men, the Commanding Officer is Commander von Berger.

The following is a survey of fortress provisions as of Oct. 1st:

Lorient	has provisions for	27 000 men	to last	60 days;
St. Nazaire	" "	for 28 000 "	" "	45 days,
La Rochelle	" "	for 14 000 "	" "	70 days.
Gironde North	" "	for 5 700 "	" "	45 days, and
Gironde South	" "	for 4 300 "	" "	50 days.

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Channel Coast:

Channel Islands:

Apart from light and medium convoy traffic between Cherbourg and England, one auxiliary aircraft-carrier was observed in action. One destroyer stood by.

A convoy was escorted from Guernsey to Sarq and back.

Between 14.24 - 14.54 hours, the shore battery "Bluecher" in Alderney opened fire on an enemy patrol boat, compelling it to sheer off.

The Situation in the Channel Fortresses:

Dunkerque:

Sporadic enemy gun-fire with occasional artillery barrages was directed against the entire area of the fortress. Our own guns, firing test salvos, have succeeded in shooting out new areas for effective artillery barrages. No enemy air attacks nor ground operations were carried out against the fortress.

Beginning at 18.00 hours, a 36-hour truce will be effective which has been concluded to enable the evacuation of the civil population. In addition, a complementary truce of 12 hours before and after the actual truce has been agreed to in order to clear away the mines in the evacuation streets and to replace them as soon as the main truce is over.

The truce will be over at 06.00 hours, Oct 6th and implies operations in the air as well. Simultaneously with the evacuation of the civilian population, some 80 heavily wounded men will be removed.

With the fall of Calais the Command Pas de Calais has been dissolved, since the last members of the Naval Artillery Battalion 204 mostly are fighting with the Army on the Northern Front.

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II. North Sea, Norway, and the Arctic Ocean:

North Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

According to a report by the Reich Security Central Office (report via Josefine), dated Oct. 1st, a renewal of the airborne operations in the area Arnherm, Nymegen and east of the Maas River in the area of Venlo must be anticipated in the course of an Anglo-American autumn offensive which must be expected to be launched during the second half of the first week in October.

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2. Own Situation:

Heligoland Bight:

On the night of Oct. 2nd, a group of the 38th Minesweeping Flotilla enroute from Terschelling to Borkum, was unsuccessfully attacked with aerial torpedoes.

Convoy 1291, en route from Helder to Borkum, was attacked 18 times with bombs and rockets. The newly built Hansa 922 (1 923 gr. tons) sank. Two enemy planes were shot down.

Dutch Coast:

Escort forces, patrolling the sea lane between Helder and Ymuiden, were attacked at 22.44 hours Oct. 2nd off Petten by enemy fighter-bombers. Slight damage was caused. Unidentified targets were radiolocated in the evening of Oct. 2nd off Zandfoord. Minesweeping and convoy activities had to be canceled in the night of Oct. 3rd on account of stormy weather.

Southern Holland:

In Walcheren, the dike between the radiolocating unit "Monika" and the Battery Westkapelle has been totally destroyed along a stretch of 80 meters as a result of uninterrupted enemy air attacks. Inundation set in at 15.00 hours.

In the noon hours, the battery Hamilton near Blankenberghe was under enemy gun-fire.



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Ten missing deep sea fighters (frogs) (MK) have not returned from their mission to destroy the bridges near Nymegen. The highway bridge has not been destroyed. Lively motor traffic is being observed. The base of the mission, Halderen, was attacked on Sept. 30th by 16 enemy planes firing aerial torpedoes and dropping bombs; this place has also been bombarded by heavy guns. The river and the bridges are being rigidly patrolled. Action by small battle units (Linsen) has thus been rendered impossible. Another small battle unit mission against the Highway bridge is being prepared, this time "Marders" and "Torpedo-Linsen" will be used.

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Special Items:

Craft belonging to Commanding Admiral, Defense North swept 18 ground mines in the month of September. Convoys were attacked 59 times by planes, 3 of these raids were heavy. 97 enemy air attacks were directed against warships, one of these was heavy. PT boats attacked convoys 7 times. Five attacking PT boats were destroyed, 28 attacking planes were shot down.

Three advance patrol boats, seven minesweepers, one torpedo boat and one artillery landing craft were lost by enemy air operations, one patrol boat was lost after it struck a floating mine, and two motor minesweepers sank after striking submerged wrecks or colliding with other boats. Three merchantmen were lost due to enemy air operations, one steamer due to enemy mines, one trawler after striking a submerged wreck, and one motor sailing ship after a collision. Reported Navy losses in personnel total 49 dead, 58 missing, 106 heavily and 191 light wounded.

Escorted were 703 freighters aggregating 776 972 BRT; of these, 27 vessels totalling 79 606 BRT were escorted along the Dutch coast. In addition, 56 short distance convoys of supply ships and 12 short distance convoys of naval vessels were escorted. For details see teletype 2010.

Norway and the Arctic Ocean:

1. Enemy Situation:

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27 enemy planes of the 18th Group were observed in action. Wireless interception contacted at 20.07 hours one English unit off Hammerfest in 240 degrees.

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2. Own Situation:

At 23.10 hours on Oct. 2nd, six boats of the 21st motor minesweeping Flotilla on an anti-PT patrol, contacted three Russian PT boats northeast of Ekkerøey. One enemy vessel has probably been destroyed, two other craft sheered off in an easterly direction after sustaining damage.

In the area of Admiral North Coast, convoy traffic between Maloe and Drontheim was suspended on account of the enemy situation.

In the area of Admiral West Coast, 17 enemy two-engined planes operated in the area south of Lister, without attacking. One of our Midget submarines was unsuccessfully pursued in the port of Bergen on Oct. 2nd.

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III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

The Russians have landed superior forces in Dagoe and have been able to gain ground against our own weak island garrison in spite of counter operations by our light naval forces. One of our tactical reconnaissance planes sighted in the afternoon of Oct. 2nd 20 small vessels in AO 6228 and 12 small vessels in AO 6229, westbound.

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2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

20 boats were engaged in patrol and minesweeping activities along the West coast of Jutland, carrying out all operations according to plan.

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The GALSTER, IHN, and BEITZEN, coming from Oslo, have arrived in Frederikshavn. "Riedel" has been docked in Oslo. Destroyer Z "30" with the Commander, Destroyers on board left Copenhagen at 18.30 hours, bound for Frederikshavn.

Western and Central Baltic:

40 boats and three mine-exploding vessels were engaged in minesweeping operations. One mine was swept in the Pommeranian Bay, one off Stubbenkammer.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

In Dagoe, our forces managed to hold bridgeheads near Soelo and north of the passages to Kassar Island. Our motor minesweepers and gun-carriers (artl. Praehme) opened fire on enemy ferry traffic between Heltermaa and Hapsal, and on the town of Heltermaa itself, scoring good results. PT boats advanced to Worms and opened fire on landing bridges. Artillery-landing craft, motor minesweepers, and armed fishing vessels (KFK) have been put into operation to carry out transport tasks between Oriaku and Triigi.

Because of loading difficulties minelaying in the Moon Sound had to be delayed for 24 hours.

Six PT boats left Windau at 16.30 hours, four PT boats at 18.00 hours to penetrate via AO 0250 into the area AO 3540 (Northwest of Reval). They will return in the early hours of Oct. 4th.

Gun-fire by torpedo boat T "23" and T "28" against the Russian main battle lines along the coast, carried out on Oct. 2nd, proved to be very effective. Concentrations of enemy armored vehicles received but few hits. A repetition of this operation is being contemplated as soon as the enemy launches his major attack.

Ten armed fishing vessels will give anti-aircraft support on the Ahrendsburg roadstead, four armed fishing vessels are carrying out anti-submarine patrols at the western exit of the Strait of Irben.

One of our own submarines reported at 05.14 hrs. sighting two PT boats sailing alternating courses southwest of Hangoe.

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One of our own convoys was attacked with aerial torpedoes, bombs and machine-gun fire by two enemy planes southeast of Domesnes. It has been reported that one plane was shot down, another probably.

Convoys and troop transports have been carried out according to plan. Between Sept. 17th and Sept. 23rd there were withdrawn by sea from Esthonia: 46 168 soldiers, 13 049 wounded, 26 131 evacuated, 23 474 prisoners of war, in all 108 825 persons.

Admiral Eastern Baltic has communicated a report on the situation in the area of Sea Commandant Baltic Islands, dated Oct. 3rd. Because of the lack of equipment, and obviously because of the small number of Army forces suitable for combat, this report gives the impression that the situation in the Baltic Islands will necessitate drastic changes of operational plans.

Naval Command East has issued orders to Admiral Eastern Baltic to send immediately two submarines to operate against Finnish maintenance traffic between Tornio and Oulu. In this operational area, Naval Command East has given orders to wage unrestricted warfare against all Finnish naval and merchant vessels. For copy of dispatch to this effect, as per 1/Skl 30163/44, geh, see War Diary Part C, Vol. III.

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#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

Since six submarines equipped with "Schnorchel" devices, have been withdrawn from Group Center, this group will have available only seven boats without these devices. For this reason the patrol of the Skagerrak barriers can be carried out only by two boats.

No special reports are available from the other operational areas.

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#### V. Aerial Warfare:

##### West Area:

Several hundred enemy four-engined planes attacked fortifications at the mouth of the Schelde River. Considerable

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activity by long range night fighters was reported on the night of Oct. 3rd over the entire Netherlands' area.

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Reich Territory:

Some 700 enemy planes operated during the daytime over Northwest, West, and Southwest Germany. As yet, bombing attacks and machine gun raids have only been reported from Koblenz and the Ruhr area.

Some 1 000 - 1 100 enemy four-engined bombers with fighter protection, flying via Brussels, approached West and Southwest Germany conducting heavy attacks on Nuremberg, Cologne and in the Mannheim, Karlsruhe areas. For the extent of damage sustained, see the Situation of the Day. A report covering our own anti-aircraft activities is not available.

Approximately 60 Mosquito bombers raided the Kassel area on the night of Oct. 3rd. In addition, some 100 single planes, long range night fighters and reconnaissance planes were reported operating over the areas of Northwest, West and South Germany. A few towns in Bavaria were attacked with bombs and machine gun fire.

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Mediterranean Area:

Reports of particular enemy air activities have not been received.

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East Area:

86 sorties of our own and 290 of the enemy were reported Oct. 2nd without losses on either side. Near Tornio, northwest of Kemi, our air reconnaissance sighted what may have been a troop transport flying the Finnish flag. In addition, one steamer of 3 000 BRT with Finnish flag, was sighted off Oulu. Several coastal freighters entered Oulu.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and in the Danube regions:

1. Area of German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance sighted in the evening of Oct. 2nd north of Cape Corso three medium-sized merchantmen, south of St. Remo apparently a torpedo boat. On the night of Oct. 3rd, instruments contacted what may have been a destroyer between Mentone and Imperia. In this same area, only usual routine patrols, conducted by 3 destroyers, were observed by day.

The Liberty ship JOHN HOPKINS, which, according to wireless interception had been damaged in the early hours of Oct. 2nd by a torpedo or mine, off the landing beaches of Southern France, apparently has been towed into port.

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Own Situation:

Early Oct. 2nd, nine one-man-stormboats were sent to operate against the enemy destroyer reported off St. Remo. No success was achieved since the target turned off at high speed to the west. The enemy's defence measures were slight. One boat drifted off and was picked up by an English destroyer.

On the night of Oct. 2nd, two torpedo boats conducted a mine laying task south of Savona, and four naval landing craft a similar task east of Imperia; both operations were carried out according to plan.

Escort and convoy service was carried out on the night of Oct. 2nd according to plan.

While casting off from the quay in the evening of Oct. 2nd, minesweeper 7602 sank as a result of three explosions in her small bunker.

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2. Area Naval Group South:

Adriatic Sea:

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Six enemy two-engined planes dropped bombs at noon Oct. 2nd in the Zara area. One harbor defence vessel suffered casualties.

The mine laying task northeast of Cherso has been postponed until the night of Oct. 3rd.

Three PT boats left Sibenice in the evening of Oct. 3rd. to penetrate into the island area of Northern Dalmatia.

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Aegean Sea:

The carrier formation was recontacted 15 naut. miles southeast of the island of Anaphi. In the afternoon, carrier planes attacked shipping in the Leros area as well as Naval Signal Station Levitha. 2 - 3 destroyers were sighted in the Poros area.

The mine laying task of the group of the Coastal Defence Flotilla Attica had to be broken off at the approach of enemy destroyers in the sea area of Agios - Giorgios. Mineship "Zeus" and a group of torpedoboats entered port at Piraeus without encountering the enemy. Our transportation planes operating over the sea area of Agios - Giorgios received anti-aircraft fire from enemy surface craft.

As regards to the sinking of the steamer ZAR FERDINAND, torpedo-boat TA "18" reports that the attacking submarine was probably destroyed. The boat reported that after the explosion of the second salvo of depth charges a rolling detonation lasting many seconds was perceived accompanied by a fountain of water 100 meters wide and 30 meters high as well as dark parts in the swell. A large oil patch appeared, radar contact was lost.

At 01.18 hours the tanker BERTHA (1 800 gross tons) was torpedoed and sunk by a submarine 4 naut. miles south of Cassandra.

For a brief report by torpedo boat TA "18" see signal 02.19.

ZAR FERDINAND and BERTHA had about 1 300 men on board. 1190 of this total, that is 92%, were rescued in an excellent performance by torpedo boats, submarine chasers and units of the Coastal Escort Flotilla.

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Admiral Aegean Sea reports that the present situation forces us to concentrate all patrol and escort forces along the sea route Piraeus - Sunion - Cavaliani - Trikiri - Saloniki. Therefore, one group of torpedo boats as well as LS- and motor minesweepers will be assembled in Piraeus, a second group of torpedo boats together with vessels equipped with search gear in Salonica.

The canal of Corinthis was blocked in the afternoon of Oct. 3rd by Army forces.

The situation in Patras is grave. Evacuation orders have as yet not been issued. Street fighting is gaining in intensity.

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The Situation on the Danube:

New Minelaying and sweeps have not been reported.

With the approval of Army Group F, the southern group of the Danube Flotilla will be transferred to Belgrade. Before withdrawing, passage on the Danube will be blocked by two sunken barges.

The Commanding General, Armed Forces South East has requested the Danube - Flotilla to patrol the stream above the Theiss junction and to prevent the crossing of even the smallest enemy combat group.

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VII. The Situation in the Far East:

Japanese Homeland:

No air attacks during the month of September.

Mariannas:

The Islands of Tinian and Guam have finally been lost to the enemy. The Japanese civilian population and the entire defence force died to the last man. Single air attacks were directed against the Island of Pagan; no further reports have been received concerning the situation in Rota.



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Bonin Islands:

A single air attack took place on Sept. 21st. Reports of damage sustained have not been received.

Southwest Pacific:

Allied landing operations in the Palau Islands, which began Sept. 25th, have led to the establishment of a strong American bridgehead in the southernmost Island of Peleliu and to the capture of the island of Angaur. Casualties are very high on both sides. American reports estimate the number of Japanese killed at 10 000, while the Japanese say that the Americans suffered some 12 400 dead. For the time being the Japanese are holding hill positions in the northern part of Peleliu, the only useful airfield can be taken under effective gun fire from here. The landing operations against Palau were supported by gun-fire from a strong American task force. During these operations a Japanese convoy of lighters carrying supplies was totally destroyed.

The Americans are making further progress in Morotai. The airfield on this island is being enlarged as it is too small for U.S. bombers. The Japanese deny that the Americans have landed on the northern tip of Halmahera, saying that a landing had taken place on Morotai only.

Between 09.00 and 16.00 of Sept. 21st, some 400 planes attacked in four waves the port and airfield of Manila. Most of these planes took off from an Allied task force; it is reported that 30 planes were shot down. The Americans claim to have destroyed 205 Japanese planes and 11 freighters, and to have damaged another 26 ships. The fact that the Allies have ventured to approach Manila with a task force has surprised the Japanese.

The air attacks on the island bases were continued, especially on Jap, Bougainville, Kawing, Truk, Jaluit, Halmahera, Ceram, Amboina.

Indian Ocean:

Enemy air attacks were directed against Sumatra (railway repair centre), Celebes, Batavia, Timor, Borneo (oil fields at Balikpapan).

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Shipping Losses:

Japanese merchant shipping losses are still very high in the supply traffic between the Japanese homeland and the possessions in the south. An exact picture cannot be gained from press reports. An American report says that 36 ships were destroyed since Sept. 21st. According to an American press announcement the US Air Force sank on Sept. 24th near Davao one Japanese aircraft carrier and two destroyers. No announcement concerning this report has been made by the Japanese.

U.S. planes are said to have sunk on Sept 25th a Japanese cruiser near the Philippines; no Japanese confirmation.

The Japanese sank seven Allied submarines and two cargo-ships with together 15 000 gross tons. The total number of enemy merchantmen sunk by the Japanese since the beginning of the war amounts to 525 ships, aggregating 3 176 000 gross tons.

Burma:

Allied operations in the direction of Tiddim are making slow progress. The Japanese positions at Tiddim are being attacked at present from the North and from the East. In spite of bad weather the Allies continued to conduct air attacks on Japanese troop movements in Central Burma. The Allies have as yet not reached the beginning of the Burma Road.

China:

The Japanese advance in a westerly direction to eliminate Allied air bases led to the capture of Kweilin. 78 bomber planes were destroyed on the ground or in the air as a result of various air attacks on airfields at Lincow and Chichian (Kwangsi province) as well as on Tehoengtou. Allied air forces raided Japanese communications lines near Hankau, Lojang, Kaifing, as well as industrial targets in the southern parts of Manchuria (Anshow, Dairen).

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Items of Political Importance:

According to the Helsinki radio, the Finnish Prime Minister gave the following survey on the fulfilment of the armistice terms:

"1) Finnish troops have been withdrawn to the frontiers of 1940. 2) Porkkala has been yielded to Moscow. 3) Airfields in Southern Finland together with their technical equipment have been handed over to the Soviet Union. 4) Negotiations are said to be in progress to place at disposal to the Russians the merchant shipping fleet and the ports in question. 5) Diplomatic relations to different states have been broken off. 6) The terms, according to which the German troops are to be interned after Sept. 15th, will be met with the measures now introduced. 7) The mode of action of the German troops in Northern Finland constitutes a breach of international law. 8) Measures are being prepared for the exchange of Russian and Allied prisoners of war. 9) Political prisoners will be set at liberty. 10) In the course of the demanded dissolution of certain specified organisations, some 400 associations have been dissolved. 11) All measures have been taken in respect to the demanded war indemnities. Castren is said to have added that the Government considers it important that the Finnish people should be given the opportunity to voice their opinion by way of election, as to what form of government they would like to have."

Reuter reports the official announcement of the Polish Prime Minister, that Warsaw surrendered at 2000 of 2 Dec. He is said to have added that the attempts of the troops to fight their way through failed, because the efforts of the Soviet forces and the Polish formations fighting at their side to cross the Vistula in Warsaw failed. The Moscow radio is launching a sharp attack on the insurgents for having capitulated.

United States pressure on Sweden is continuing in order to bring about the blocking of the west coast too then only would trade relations with Germany be actually interrupted. From 8 Oct. on an exact control of imports from Germany will be effected.

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Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy, at 1150.

(Commanding Admiral, Naval Command and Commanding Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea are present)

I. a. In the discussion on the situation in the west the following radiogram by the fortification commander of Dunkerque to the Commanding Admiral, Naval Group Command West is read:

"With the surrender of Calais I have dissolved the office of Naval Shore Commander Pas de Calais, as the last available Naval Artillery Battalion 204 is mostly fighting together with the Army in the northern sector and only two batteries for sea targets remain. Am grateful to be allowed to defend the last "bastion" of this area personally. Considering earlier tasks I believed and hoped that the course of combat would be a slightly different one, - to prevent the enemy from landing at this point. I can say proudly that there is no other region better prepared than this for that purpose. It is a tragedy that my men, under almost impossible conditions, in position often tactically hopeless, have to fight on an inland front with guns preponderantly built to face the sea. However, I am able to report that according to all reports I have received, they have been doing their duty. In his last radiogram the Fortification Commander of Calais reported to me that all Navy soldiers under his command are fighting and holding out. Signed: Vice Admiral Frisius."

b. On 1 Oct. Group West had entered an application for an increased supply of the Atlantic fortresses by submarine. Naval Staff answered as follows:

"a. Suitable transport submarines for the supplying of the western fortresses are not available at the moment.

b. Combat submarines are unsuitable for the transportation of food as they load only 20 - 25 tons. Singly operating submarines have but slight effect. Transport operations by several submarines not possible because of heavy effect on naval warfare in the Atlantic.

c. For the above reasons the proposal is unworkable with the exception of the two submarines already carrying supplies to St. Nazaire."

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The Naval Liaison Staff with the Armed Forces High Command, Operations staff, Navy which had been informed of the proposal of Group West by the Commanding General, Armed Forces West and had received a statement accordingly, will receive the same signal through Naval Staff.

II. In the course of the discussion on the situation in the Aegean Sea region, the Commander in Chief, Navy orders a justification for the conspicuous high rate of shipping losses through enemy submarines at certain points. The following questions will be put to Admiral Aegean Sea, by copy Group Command,:

"1. In the carrying out of convoy operations in the Aegean Sea it is striking that despite the fact that submarines have been sighted repeatedly and attacks have taken these same dangerous points have been touched time and again. Last examples: mineship ZEUS and tanker BERTA near Kassandra.

2. The most effective protection from submarines is flexible convoy direction, with time-tables and sea routes changing all the time.

3. The presence of ground mines does not have to be expected near Kassandra on account of the depth of water and the appearance of enemy submarines; therefore compulsory courses are no longer necessary.

4. At such junctions in convoy traffic which are necessitated navigationally, like Skiathos, enemy submarines have been warded off successfully in other theatres of war by means of deep sea angle-minefields with UMB mines. The possibility that the mines can be contacted by radar by enemy submarines increases their warning effect.

5. Wire statement."

III. Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

In the evening of Oct. 3rd Admiral, Eastern Baltic communicated the following assessment of the situation:

"1. In the evening of Oct. 5th the Army will conduct according to plan its withdrawal to reduce the bridgehead of Riga. Behind this movement there is the intention of giving up entirely the positions to the level of Tuckum, which uses up too many forces.

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2. The 1st Air Force is completely fatigued and has but the slightest amount of fuel. Not sufficient for simultaneous cover of withdrawal and protection for Arensburg.

3. Operations by task force to cover withdrawal cannot be brought in accord with increased danger from the air. Task force must be kept ready for operations against the Russian task force.

4. No forces available for mine convoys in Irben Strait and for clearing of practice areas, especially as the situation in Oesel is aggravating with the hour and coincide with the Riga operations. Operations of the task force may prove necessary when the last remaining troops must be collected in Sworbe."

The Naval Liaison Officer at the Army General Staff affirmed the first point of No. 1), but declared in respect to point 2. of No.1) that the withdrawal to Tuckum position must be regarded only as ultimo ratio.

IV. Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division:

60 (Linsen) are ready for action in Fedderwardsiel. 30 beavers have been shipped for Norddeich. There are 30 salamanders (Molche) in Heligoland. 30 beavers for Christiansand-South have left Travemuende on board the steamer "Moltkefels", \* Battle flotilla "214" is on the way to Flushing with 60 Linsen. Special Naval Combat Unit 60 (MEK 60) has completed its preparations for action against the highway bridge at Nymegen.

In the smallest internate:

V. Head of Naval Staff: Excerpts from the Air Situation West, Oct 4th:

"1. The following points deserve attention when appreciating Allied ground organisations in the West:

a. Increased utilization of former German airfields.

b. Speedy advance of ground organisations until in immediate closeness to the Front (For example airfields in the Dutch area).

c. Accelerated reconstruction and utilization of airfields that had been purposely greatly destroyed (Eindhoven).

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2. An agent's report on airborne operations in the Dutch-German frontier areas (for which there are available in Great Britain: 3 - 4 Allied Parachute Divisions, possibly two airborne infantry divisions, in the period from 4 Oct. to 8 Oct. is confirmed to a certain extent by the statement of a prisoner, according to which such operations follow the first airborne operation. However, it cannot be ascertained at the time whether or not both sources are not possibly referring to the initial planning of the enemy that have already been overtaken by recent German successes.

3. The carrying out of daylight attacks inspite of unfavorable weather conditions at the target areas (dropping of bombs very often possible only by use of Meddo-instruments) reveals the intentions of the enemy to take advantage of every possibility to combat his operational targets.

4. The choice of the targets and target areas stands in close connection with his operational intentions on the ground. After the fast penetration into the North German lowlands failed, the endeavour of the enemy's command has already become evident to prepare further operations by systematic attacks on traffic junctions and transportation facilities (rolling material, river shipping) in the large area Hannover - Kassel - Frankfurt - exits of the Ruhr basin. One may reckon that in the framework of the planned attacks already started on the traffic in west Germany (the aim being, as the Allied press puts it, to create a "traffic desert"), these operations will be extended over the whole area, viz. on the links of vital importance.

5. In connection with this long term strategy attention must also be drawn to the present bombing of Germany's war industry, (for the moment aimed principally at tank factories). Furthermore, owing to deteriorating weather conditions, we must reckon with increased terror raids although according to intelligence reports the allies are said to have dropped this sort of operations for the time being.

6. During daylight and night raids:

a. again increased American escort protection as German fighter defense book considerable successes which is also corroborated by statements of prisoners.

b. Increase in the number of boomerang-like single air attacks on targets in western Germany.

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c. Lively incursions by fighters and night-fighters in North Germany the latter under utilization of full moon conditions."

The highest Operations Staffs on the fronts have been informed to this effect.

VI. Situation of the Army:

Western Front:

On the southern flank of the 15th Army the enemy continued his heavy attacks and achieved a deep tank breakthrough north of Turnhout. Merzem, north of Antwerps, was captured by the enemy. The threat of a breakthrough over Tilburg or Breda is already looming. It has become imperative to withdraw our front.

In the area of Arnhem-Nymwegen the British 2nd Army conducted numerous counter-attacks supported by particularly heavy artillery fire, which could mostly be repulsed with high losses to the enemy.

Notwithstanding the enemy radio broadcasts, the enemy attacks on the front of the German 7th Army fighting north of Aachen were only a local character.

The deeper penetration near Palenberg which the enemy was able to score has been box-barraged. It must be expected that heavy attacks will continue.

In heavy thrust west and northwest of Metz the enemy succeeded in scoring irrelevant penetrations into our positions. Farther to the south our own counterattack to regain lost territory remained unsuccessful.

Between Nancy and the Swiss frontier the enemy continued his heavy attacks in the same focus points despite bitter defence on the part of our own troops, he was able to gain ground in several places.

Italian Front:

As on Oct. 2nd, attack was concentrated in the Firenzola area. Because of an improvement in weather conditions the



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enemy again was in a position to put his air fleet into operation to support his ground forces. He was prevented from attaining a breakthrough. However, the enemy succeeded later again in breaking through and broadened these gaps during the day.

In the area of the Adriatic coast the enemy restricted his activities to solitary reconnaissance thrusts.

Balkans:

The island of Stampalia was evacuated.

Parachute troops are continuously being dropped in the Patras area, it was observed. In the town area there are battles with an English battalion and Greek units. The town had to be given up.

No particular events have been reported from the Macedonian front.

South of Nisch the Bulgarians were compelled to retreat over the Morava.

Five Russian infantry divisions have crossed the Timok river south of the Danube. Our forces are engaged in heavy defensive battle and had to give up territory.

North of the Danube strong Russian forces are advancing in the direction of Belgrade and the Theiss River. The strength of our own troops in this sector is still completely insufficient for a full-scale battle.

Eastern Front:

West of Grosswardein the enemy launched his expected assault with one armored and an infantry corps. He was thrown back behind his initial positions after 23 tanks had been destroyed.

The hard battle in the Klausenberg - Neumark - Saechs-Regen sector put the front at the focus points again yesterday up to a grave break test. Due to the lack of local reserves we were at several places not able to mend the enemy breaks into our lines.

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The alternating and stiff battle on the Beskides front is still raging.

West of the Dukla Pass assaults which were particularly heavy, were brought to a standstill by giving up ground.

All was quiet on the front of Army Group Centre and Army Group North.

Fighting against superior enemy forces the last parts of the 23rd Infantry Division still holding out in the Island of Dagoë were pushed back into a small bridgehead around Soru. Here the battle was fought bitterly until the fall of dusk. After the heavy weapons and vehicles had been transported away the bridgehead was evacuated as ordered. The troops withdrew under heavy pressure on the part of the enemy.

VII. Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division: reports again on the possibilities of action against the battleship in the Kola Bay. Naval Command Norway has applied for the speedy allocation of small battle units. "Marder" are out of question as navigational requirements are not fulfilled. It is being examined whether the operations can be carried out with the "Hai" (shark), whose 100 nautical mile radius of action offers return possibilities. The Commander in Chief, Navy has a combined operation in mind which will also take into consideration the blasting of the torpedo nets. The whole question will be examined further.

VIII. The signal to the Commander in Chief, West, Fieldmarshal General v. Rundstedt, by copy to Commanding Admiral, Group West concerning the negotiations between the Fort Commandant La Rochelle and the French Commander Meyer, has been worded as follows:

"1. In view of the present situation there is no absolute necessity for the enemy to gain control quickly over more ports on the French west coast. The enemy will now be keen on taking into his possession above all those ports close to his front lines.

2. The momentary attitude of the enemy towards the German ports in the west allows for the presumption that he is intending to win them by means of starving them out. Besides sparing bloody losses in this way, he has the advantage too of keeping more forces available for other tasks.

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3. In my opinion his repeated attempts to bring about negotiations serve the purpose of delaying or even preventing battle action in the area of these ports, to gain time and to spare troops for other tasks. Thus such negotiations are of no advantage to us. In addition, I consider all such negotiations with the enemy dangerous, above all because they are apt to undermine the battle morale of our troops. In my opinion, any kind of combat activity within the possibilities of the garrison of these forts would tie down more forces of the enemy, probably even then if such activity should be but on a minor scale. May I be permitted to suggest that these considerations be taken into account when instructions on this subject are issued by you to the forts in question."

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Special Items:

I. Concerning the East Area:

a. Admiral Eastern Baltic conveys a report by the Naval Liaison Officer at Army Group North according to which the Army rejects action by the task force in the Riga Bay because the Air Force cannot be bound up there for support. The Army Group believes that operations by torpedoboats "23" and "28" will suffice. Admiral Eastern Baltic suggests that the southern tip of Dagoe be taken under gun-fire if the Russians land in Oesel.

However, it is to be expected that fighter plane protection cannot be given in this case either.

b. Simultaneously the Naval Liaison Officer at the Army General Staff wires that the Army General Staff still considers as desirable the support by heavy naval artillery and because it can not assure sufficient fighter protection, it is refraining from entering an official demand. It cannot be foreseen at the moment to which extent weather conditions would render operations possible without fighter protection. In the opinion of the Army General Staff operations by the task force can be decided upon on short notice should a deterioration in the development of the situation set in.

c. Admiral Eastern Baltic gives the following assessment of the situation:

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1. Operations by the 2nd Task Force, or at any rate only by destroyers, against the southern tip of Dagoe appear to be worth while and are possible without extensive preparations.

2. The whole of Dagoe has been occupied by the enemy. A landing on Oesel from Dagoe and simultaneous landings on the Isle of Moon must be expected at any time now. Isolation of Dagoe presumably from port and road's end point Soeru in the Soelo Sound.

3. No fighter protection on our part is to be expected owing to the general situation and the distance from our own airfields, when at dawn concentrated enemy operations in the air start. Upon receiving fire, disengaging far to the southwest contemplated. -

4. No mine danger.

5. For the duration of the bombardment our own naval forces, PT Boats, motor minesweepers, artillery landing craft and armed fishing vessels will be withdrawn to Tagga Bay and Kihelkonna Bay. -

6. The enemy will probably land at night. A strike at dawn will then hit his ferry traffic too if he succeeded in establishing a bridgehead."

d. Naval Command East has informed the Naval Staff by copy of the directions to Admiral Eastern Baltic concerning action by two submarines against Finnish supply shipping between Tornio and Oulu. Naval Staff Operations Division informs the Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff and the Admiral at the Fuehrer Headquarters as follows:

"After battle encounters with Finns in Tornio Naval Command East, acting upon request by Army Headquarters 20, has given orders that two submarines are to be put to action immediately against Finnish supply shipping between Tornio and Oulu with instructions to break through the Aaland Sea as far as possible **unnoticed** by the enemy. On their cruise to the operational area the submarines are to make use of their weapons only if being attacked. They have orders to keep out of sight of Swedish war ships in order to prevent incidents and to ensure surprise. The submarines have received orders to attack all Finnish naval and merchant ships travelling in the operational area in question."

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e. There has been provided for the transfer to Oesel at the terminal destination: Sea Commandant Baltic Islands with Naval Artillery Battalion 532, 531 Naval anti-aircraft Battalion 239, Special Naval Combat Battalion "Ostland" one fortress engineer group and one engineer company each in Oesel and Dagoe, Artillery Ordnance Command, Naval Harbormaster Arensburg, Naval Harbormaster Kaerdla with 3700 troops altogether.

Naval Command East is authorized to regulate this organization within the framework of normal standards by orders.

II. Concerning the North Area:

a. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff has communicated the following temporary information: "The Fuehrer approved in principle the intention of withdrawing the 20th Mountain Army to the Lyngen line. Orders to this effect will be issued within the next days. All commands concerned have been authorized to make preparations. The Reich Commissioner for Maritime Shipping has been informed."

(The Naval Staff is requested, in accord with the Reich Commissioner for Maritime Shipping, to submit all those authorizations in the form of a draft of directions which are considered necessary for the carrying out of this task in respect to sea transportation.)

Naval Staff, Operations Division informs Naval Command Norway as far as necessary. For copy as per 1/Skl I op 3161/44 gkdos see War Dairy Part C, Volume IIa.

b. In reference to the Fuehrer order concerning the creation of Sea Transportation Officers for the armed services, dated 12 July 1944 the Quartermaster with the Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff requests the Naval Staff, in agreement with the Reich Commissioner for Maritime Shipping, to submit as a draft of directions all those authorizations considered necessary for the carrying out of operation "Nordlicht" (North Light) as regards to sea transportation.

Preparations are under way at the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch; Chief of Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch intends to have a conference with the Reich Commissioner for Maritime Shipping on 9 Oct.

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c. Commander in Chief, Navy has ordered that as many naval batteries as possible in the northern Norwegian area be moved back and put into action. Transportation will have to be carried out mostly by sea. Preparations are under way at Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch.

III. Southeast Area:

a. Group South wires:

"1. In view of the enemy's appearance in the Poros Bay, which allows for the surmise that enemy bases are being set up to cut off our entire Piraeus traffic, it is again most urgently requested that bombing aircraft be allocated for combing and mine missions.

2. Question: What are the possibilities for the immediate transfer (by air) and an action of and by small battle units in the Athens area without the necessity of tedious reconnaissance work or the setting up of ground organizations? The opinion represented here is that action by one-man torpedoes, even in small numbers, appear promising."

b. Commander, PT boats seconds the application by the Chief of the PT boat force to merge the 3rd and 7th PT boat Flotilla with a total of 13 boats into one flotilla. Admiral Adriatic Sea agrees in principle.

In the opinion of the Naval Staff, Operations Division the disadvantages arising from the merger, such as different boat's types and performance can be borne. Preparations are under way at Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Fleet Branch.

IV. In a conference at the Scientific Operations Staff on 26 Sept. the inferiority of our own star shell as compared to those of the British was under discussion. For further treatment of this matter as per 1/Skl Ib 36796/44, geh, see War Diary Part B, Vol. V.

V. The SS-order of the Reichsfuehrer-SS dealing with the conduct in combats with partisans is registered 1/Skl 30245/44, geh. and may be found in War Diary Part B, Vol V.

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VI. On Sept. 18th Naval Staff Quartermaster Division came to agreement with the Italian Military Mission General Morena in Berlin on the establishing of an "Italian parent detachment", to be located at Gross Born and which is to serve as nucleus and reserve detachment for those Italian units operating on German Reichs territory as a part of the German Navy.

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Situation of the Day, October 4th, 1944:

I. Situation in the West Area:

Enemy Situation:

14 planes of the 19th Group and 56 planes of the 15th Group were observed in action. Two British units were located by radar in the convoy rendezvous area.

Own Situation:

1. Atlantic Coast:

A convoy of three patrol boats was carried out on the night of Oct. 3rd from St. Nazaire to Lorient.

2. Situation in the Fortress on the Atlantic Coast:

Lorient:

Enemy field work west of Leita received gun-fire on Oct. 3rd. The enemy attack against the eastern sector, which was carried out in force of one platoon, was warded off. Ammunition and a wireless transmitter were captured. Own patrol activity was considerable.

On October 4th the northern sector as well as the city area was under sporadic gun-fire with short artillery barrages at intervals; enemy positions and troop concentrations were combatted by our own guns with observed effect.

St. Nazaire:

On Oct. 3rd enemy positions northeast of Cordemais were combatted by three 10.5 cm anti-aircraft guns made mobile; on Oct. 4th enemy positions received fire from harbor defence vessels, one barge was sunk.

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La Rochelle:

The following Navy units have been newly set up:

a. Naval Regiment "John" (1 600 men) with three battalions composed of the crews of minesweepers, patrol boats and mine-exploding vessel, three battalions composed of personnel from the submarine flotilla.

b. Defence Detachment "Re" comprising the crews of destroyer Z "23", 44th Minesweeping Flotilla, 3rd Submarine Flotilla, and the 2nd Mine Exploding Flotilla. Strength 490 men.

c. Light Naval Battery 684 comprising the former 5th Light Naval Battery 684, of the 5th battery, of Naval A.A. 820, radar personnel from the Isle of Yeu, as well as "splinter" groups. Strength 571 men.

Gironde-North:

On Oct 4th the enemy's positions and entrenchments were fired at by our guns with good results. 30 heads of cattle as well as grain were brought in by the supply expedition.

The following Navy units have been newly set up:

a. Naval Battalion 2nd Mine-Exploding Flotilla, strength 492 men from the crews of Sperrbrecher and patrol boats.

b. Battery "Biscarosse" with four 8.8 cm and two 7.5 cm A.A. guns has been put to action as Anti-tank Group South.

c. Army Coastal Battery 1/1282 with five 10.5 guns has been taken over by the Naval Artillery Battalion 284 as its 7th battery.

All members of the Navy have been drawn together in close naval units, and have been placed under the command of the Sea Commandant in respect to troop duties.



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II. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean:

1. North Sea:

Heligoland Bight:

In the afternoon and evening of Oct. 3rd several solitary low-level planes were reported operating over the Heligoland Bight area, apparently in search of convoys in the shipping routes. One plane was shot down.

Dutch Coast:

Convoying and minesweeping were not carried out on the night of Oct. 3rd on account of stormy weather.

At 09.50 there were four enemy PT boats northwest of Zeebrugge. At 10.20 a unit, which was probably a destroyer, was located by radar west of West-Capelle. A convoy, composed of 2 large and 5 small vessels, entered port at Ostende in the afternoon.

According to a report by the Sea Commandant Southern Holland the break in the dike near Windmuehlen on Walcheren Island has widened to 120 meters due to continuous explosion of delayed action bombs.

On the Night of Oct 4th it is intended to escort convoy 1293, with 2 newly built craft of the Hansa-program being towed, from Hoek to Helder.

2. Norway, Arctic Ocean:

Enemy Situation:

44 planes were observed in action in the area of the 18th Group. Hammerfest contacted by RDF at 02.10 an American unit in 312 degrees in radio communication with Reykjavik.

Own Situation:

There was considerable enemy air activity over the area of the Polar Coast on the 3rd. 47 enemy planes were observed in action over the Petsamo-Kirkenes areas.

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In the area of Admiral North Coast the Norwegian steamer "Ulv" (938 gross tons) with a cargo of coal sank at 02.30 hours Oct. 4th after colliding with the tanker "Altengramme" on the roadstead of Aalesund.

In the area of Admiral West Coast some 150 - 200 enemy four engined bombers flying without fighter cover attacked Bergen at 09.30 hours. Several buildings of the Laksevaag shipyard were destroyed. Electric power broke down. Three submarines lifting pontoons received hits, two were totally lost.

Submarines U "228" and U "993" sunk with these pontoons. Furthermore, one large crane was destroyed, steamer E. BERNHOFEN (2 300 gross tons) with a cargo of pyrites and the Norwegian steamer STEN (1 500 gross tons), no cargo were sunk. The German steamer SCHWABEN (7 800 gross tons) was heavily hit and was bottomed. In addition a number of harbor boats and transport boats were destroyed.

Submarine box B received seven direct hits which did not pierce it. Construction work is being continued. Naval anti-aircraft artillery reports two planes shot down.

This first enemy large-scale attack was obviously directed against the submarine base.

For advance report by the Sea Commandant Bergen, see signal 2356.

At 09.42 hours one of our own south-going convoys was unsuccessfully attacked with bombs by enemy aircraft in the Hjelte Fiord.

18 ships were convoyed to the north, 11 to the south.

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III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

With the exception of a small bridgehead in the southern part of the island, the enemy has occupied the whole of Dagoe. This bridgehead is exposed to strong enemy pressure. An attempt to land in Oesel is expected to be launched from Moon and Dagoe.

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Radio interception contacted on October 3rd in addition to the three usual operations staffs two minesweeping divisions, three PT boats, six patrol ships and 49 other staffs and vessels at sea.

Three other places were observed in the Ladoga area.

Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Patrol-boat VS "906" struck a mine at 0800 on 3 Oct. northwest of Anholt and sank.

At 1500 a Danish trawler also sank after striking a mine east of Lawsoe.

At 0150 on 4 Oct. steamer JOHANNES C. RUSS was attacked south of the Oslos Fjord by a single low-level plane. Further reports have not been received.

The GALSTER with the Commander, Destroyers on board, is at port in Frederikshavn, destroyer Z "30" entered port at Fr'havn at noon.

The BEITZEN and the IHN are at port in Horten.

Central and Western Baltic:

38 boats and two mine exploding vessels were in operation clearing the sea of mines.

The tug FISCHOTTER sustained damage after striking a mine at 1018 north of Rixhoeft. The vessel has been towed into port. A Danish motor sailing ship sank at 1020 west of Fehmarn after hitting a mine outside of the compulsory sea channel.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

Naval Artillery Battalions 531 and 532 are in action in Oesel, partly as division's reserve. Two minelaying naval landing craft will be transferred from Arensburg to Riga to lay mines in the harbor.

A mine was cleared in the Irben Strait.

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On the night of 4 Oct. it is intended to lay mines in the southern approach to the Moon Sound with the aid of six PT boats, minelayers LINZ and BRUMMER as well as three minesweepers. This operation already is under way.

Convoys and transportation tasks were carried out according to plan. 1095 tons of ammunition and 8 motor vehicles were shipped to Riga on 3 Oct. for use with Army Group North.

#### IV Merchant Shipping:

1. Naval Command East informs the Naval Staff of the order, effective immediately according to which all shipping in the Eastern Baltic north of the latitude of Memel will travel in convoy with the exception of those vessels making for port on the Swedish east coast. Shipping is instructed to all at Memel as assembly port. Traffic with port on the east coast of Sweden will be conducted along sea routes west of Gotland and not in convoys.

In connection with this the Naval Staff, Operations Division issues orders to Naval Command East, with copy to the Reich Commissioner for Maritime Shipping that all ships returning from ports on the Swedish east coast should be instructed to keep within Swedish territorial waters. According to information from the Reich Commissioner for Maritime Shipping traffic to port on the east coast of Sweden has been suspended.

2. Naval Staff, Operations Division has drawn up a survey on the present running ships' traffic of the neutral and Red Cross as of 4 Oct. For copy as per 1/Skl I ca 36703/44 geh. see War Diary Part C, Volume II.

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#### V. Submarine Warfare:

In the Atlantic submarine U "1227" sighted at 1340 a convoy in BE 1585 and received orders to attack, other submarines are not in the vicinity.

All but one of the submarines operating against the QP-convoy in Arctic waters have returned to their bases. It is to be expected that this boat was lost due to enemy action.

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In the gulf of Finland submarine U "370" sighted in the morning a small tug with two lighters and one escort craft 15 nautical miles southeast of Hangoe, and three small vessels in the evening. At 1310 on 5 Oct. submarine U "958" sighted 10 small northbound Siebel craft in AO 0264.

No special reports have been received from submarines in the other operational areas.

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VI. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Special missions have not been reported.

Reich Territory:

450 enemy planes were reported operating between 07.35 and 16.00 over the entire territory left of the Rhine, carrying out attacks with aircraft weapons. Ten planes penetrated into the Osnabrueck and Muenster areas, 30 into the Koblenz and Frankfurt a/M. areas.

Coming from the south a formation of some 300 to 400 bombers flying with fighter protection flew between 11.50 and 12.25 an attack on Munich. The focus point of the attack was situated at the main railway station and its environments. In addition, 10 industrial works were hit. For particulars see Situation of the Day. 11 of the attacking planes were shot down by anti-aircraft.

On the night of Oct. 4th it is reported that 170 single flying planes operated over Northwest, West and North Germany with the centre of attack again in the area left of the Rhine.

In the same night there were 40 planes over central and northern Jutland in the Aalborg and Aarhus Bay areas, presumably to lay mines.

30 to 40 planes laid mines in the Danube in Hungary.

Mediterranean Area:

650 enemy planes were observed in action over the Italian front areas. Nothing of importance has been reported on other missions.

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East Area:

71 own and 250 enemy sorties were reported from the Eastern Front on Oct. 3rd.

Two of our planes have been lost. On Oct. 4th our planes flew reconnaissance in the northern regions of the Botten Sea, establishing the belaying in the ports situated there.

A large fire was observed raging in the port of Tornio.

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VII. The Situation in the Mediterranean:

1. German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

The belaying of the port of Gibraltar in the afternoon of Oct. 2nd brought about no particular observations. Heavy naval units were not seen there.

According to air reconnaissance on the night of Oct 3rd, there were several single travelling ships at sea between the Riviera coast and Corsica.

Two destroyers were seen day and night carrying out patrol activities on the level with Mentone - Imperia. A group of boats reinforced this patrol activity during the night, operating in the areas southeast of Mentone and south of St. Remo.

In the morning of Oct. 4th six destroyers were sighted off Imperia heading for the sea in a southwesterly direction.

Own Situation:

It appears that cruisers participated in the bombardment of Savona from the sea on the night of Oct. 1st, because several 21 cm shells were observed bursting about one nautical mile before the coast. This was probably in an effort to establish the range of our coastal defence batteries.

Three boats missed a destroyer in the storm-boat mission on Oct. 2nd, an other boat was abandoned by its pilot after receiving gun-fire from the destroyer, and, as a report by the German Naval

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Command Italy says, was picked up by the destroyer. Apparently the pilot was picked up, it is understood.

Six men returned without success. No reports have been received from three of the boats. According to radio report two of the boats were scuttled by their pilots.

In the morning of Oct. 3rd the hinterlands of Ventimiglia and St. Remo were shelled by destroyers at sea. One two-man storm boat was damaged in the course of this bombardment.

Convoy and escort service was conducted during the night according to plan.

2. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

According to Photo-reconnaissance there were located in the early hours of Oct. 4th in Ancona two destroyers, one escort vessel, three small naval craft, 26 LCT, three apparent LCM, one transport, probably one tanker and 8 cargo ships among others. In comparison with the standing as of Sept. 22nd, the number of small landing craft has increased a little.

One destroyer, two escort boats as well as two large transports were sighted on their way to Ancona.

A harbor defence vessel received machine gun fire from the shore on Oct. 2nd while near Daksa Island, south of Pasman.

On Oct. 3rd and 4th the enemy conducted patrol activity over the Gulf of Panzano (Northeastern parts of the Gulf of Trieste) with 2 - 6 fighter bombers. At 19.00 Oct. 4th a tank-lighter was destroyed at the entrance to Grado in a fighter-bomber attack.

The minelaying formation, composed of naval landing craft, two Siebel ferries, one motor-minesweeper carried out their mine-laying task in the sea area of Fiume according to plan.

On the night of Oct. 3rd three boats of the 7th PT Boat Flotilla penetrated into the island area of Northern Dalmatia near Sibenik, entering port at Sibenik without having contacted the enemy.

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Torpedo boat TA "44" has been taken over by the 1st Escort Flotilla.

b. Aegean Sea:

The aircraft carrier formation was contacted Oct. 3rd in the southeastern Aegean Sea regions.

Considerable destroyer activity was observed in the sea area Milos - Crete on Oct. 3rd and 4th. At noon Oct. 4th Milos was taken under fire by a cruiser and a destroyer. Fire was returned by our own 15cm battery which gave off 8 salvos. It was observed beyond doubt that the cruiser, one of the London class, received several hits; the attacking warships took cover behind a smoke screen and made off.

At noon Oct. 3rd 16 enemy planes encountered a convoy of motor sailing ships near Mikronisi; two motor sailers sustained leakages and suffered casualties. Two planes were shot down.

12 carrier planes raided ships' targets in the afternoon and attacked Porto Lago with aircraft weapons. Only slight damage was caused, one plane was shot down.

1190 men, that is 92% of the crews of the steamers ZAR FERDINAND and BERTA have been rescued by naval forces.

The Commanding Officer Patras reported at 22.00 hours Oct 3rd:

"Fully conscious of my responsibility I have decided to evacuate Patras on the night of Oct. 3rd and am withdrawing with Army and Navy forces to reinforce Rhion and Antirhion."

Admiral Aegean Sea conveys the following assessment of the situation: The enemy has gained hold of Poros with light naval forces and has thus taken up a flanking position to the Gulf of Saronia. The intentions of the enemy are still somewhat obscure as till now no convoys have left Piraeus. It is expected that the situation will become clear as soon as the steamer ZEUS together with 2 torpedo boats and two motor minesweepers leave port for Salonika.

Actually, there is no reason for the enemy to take offensive action against these naval forces as he is at any time in the position to block the Euboea canal with aerial mines or to destroy the shipping space in port or at sea. Should offensive



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action not be taken the conclusion may be drawn that the enemy is gradually advancing in the direction of the base of Piraeus so as to be in a position to take over speedily in case the base is evacuated by our forces.

The task of the Navy in Piraeus is restricted to transfer of some 2 500 men of the last naval commands and about an equal number of German penal prisoners and Italian prisoners of war. The steamers Zeus, Lola, Laudon, Engerau, and Anna I are available for this task. If all goes smoothly the evacuation of the naval base Athens - Piraeus may be expected to take place on Oct. 10th.

Naval defence forces have been thus distributed that one torpedoboat group, one R-Boat group as well as small E-boats will cover the sea channel Piraeus - Cavaliani. One group of torpedoboats and all boats equipped with minesweeping gear will operate along the sea route Trikiri - Salonika. The steamers "Lola" and "Laudon", escorted by R-Boats will use for the first time the "Schwaigeweg" in the Gulf of Salonika, in order to eliminate the submarine danger.

The group of minelayers of the coastal defence Flotilla Attika will be engaged currently in minelaying in the Saronian Gulf as well as for cover of our own movements.

It is being intended to equip the torpedoboats with mines for their cruise to the convoy rendezvous places.

Admiral Aegean Sea intends to transfer his headquarters to the submarine base at Salonika around Oct. 8th.

c. The Situation on the Danube:

At Km 992, 1013 and 1015 the river is blocked by sunken lighters laden with stones. 25 LMB mines have been laid between Km 1049 and 1062, and another 25 a/c type B mines have been laid between Km 1083 and 1103.

The Danube below Kovin (Km 1111) has been closed to shipping since 16.00 hours October 4th.

No new dropping of mines by the enemy on Oct. 4th, and no mine clearing were reported.

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VIII. The Situation in the Far East:

No special news available.

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Items of Political Importance:

No particular news.

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The Commander in Chief Navy has slightly fallen sick.

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Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1115:

I. Subject: Air Situation. After the subordination of the Air Force 1 under the Air Force 6, the battle area of the Air Force 1 has been extended to the South, up to the right limit of the Army Group Narva. The attention of the Air Force is especially directed to the unconditional necessity of an utmost limitation in the action on account of a new tension in the fuel situation. Besides the reconnaissance action which is absolutely necessary for a control of the enemy situation, any action aimed at the support of the defense must be limited to cases of decisively critical situations reaching beyond the local scope; otherwise, it would become impossible to grant even a tolerably sufficient minimum assistance by the Air Force for the imminent major fights at the Eastern Front. The action of fighter planes will be provided only upon large enemy sorties, furthermore upon air raids on Riga as well as for the protection of our own sea transports against major waves of reconnaissance planes and against air raids.

The Operations Div. Naval Staff informs the Naval Command East, the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea, the 2nd Task Force and the Report Center East on this operational directive issued by the Air Force 6.

II. Subject: Situation West Area. The Commander in Chief, Armed Forces West has received the following directive concerning the defense of the Walcheren Island and of the bridgehead at Breskens, issued by the Armed Forces High Command Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces (see War Diary 30 Sept):

"1. The enemy news have proved again how far the enemy supplies and with that the battle activity are being hampered by a steadfast defense of the ports.

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2. Therefore, the enemy attempts by all means to come into possession of the West Schelde in order to become able to utilize the port of Antwerp; so much the more it is of importance that the 15th Army defends the line Antwerp - Tilburg - Hertogenbosch to the utmost and maintains the contact with the Waal River on its left wing. If this Army is forced away behind the Meuse River, then the Walcheren Island, the bridgehead at Breskens and the West Schelde are lost.

3. The battle activity and the coastal defense of the 15th Army must be organized accordingly. All technical means suitable for the support of this battle activity, especially the utilization of every possibility to flood the country, will be put into action.

III. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division:

a. The Bureau of Naval Armament Artillery Ordnance Department considers the hesitation shown by the Naval Command Norway with regard to a beaching of the "Tirpitz" to be justified since the bedplates of guns and control positions will probably not remain in a parallel level. With that, it would almost become impossible to avoid faults. The ship must lie in a horizontal position if the turret guns are to be dismantled.

Meanwhile, a decision has been made to anchor the ship in shallow water.

b. The Reich Commissar for Shipping informs the Armed Forces High Command Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces, with copy also to the Naval Staff, with regard to the supply in Northern Norway and Northern Finland, that he had promised the Fuehrer on 17 September to provide the transport tonnage required for the completion of the railroad section from Mo to Rognan, however, under the supposition that this construction project has not either to be brought to a standstill due to other reasons (fuel). The Fuehrer has been informed that no tonnage is available exceeding the construction of this railroad section.

c. Subject: Request of the Group South for

aa. The assignment of bombers for the Aegean Area:

The newly turned-in request is deemed useless by the Naval Staff. The disapproval made the last time by the High Command Air Ops. Staff was substantiated in an absolutely sound manner.

bb. The assignment of small battle weapons for the Aegean

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Area: The Admiral Small Battle Units states that the difficulty in this matter is to be seen merely in the transport problem. The Chief of the Naval Staff orders to find out with the Air Force Ops. Staff High Command, Air whether it would be possible and bearable to transport by air 12 gears of a total weight of 24 tons. Further steps will be taken by the Naval Staff Special Weapons Department.

IV. Chief Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff:

a. During the armament establishment of 4 October, the following delivery figures have been promised preliminarily by the Chief Committee for Naval Construction:

for the month of October: 4 PT boats, for the month of November 8 PT boats,

for the month of November: 12 armed fishing vessels, for the month of December: 22 armed fishing vessels, instead of 30 armed fishing vessels per month,

for the month of September: 10 naval landing craft, for the month of October: 11 naval landing craft,

for the month of October: 10 naval artillery lighters.

The figures are lying at a great deal under the amount that had been established last.

b. The Head of the Army Armament Department and the Commander of the Replacement Army have been issued a directive by the Armed Forces High Command Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces concerning the organization of Naval Fortress Engineer Battalions.

In a restricted circle:

V. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division Naval Staff:

According to the report from the Reich Security Head Office at Antwerp, the demolition of the lock has caused only little effects.

VI. Army Situation:

Western Front:

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Under the engagement of all reserves against the further increasing pressure of the 1st Canadian Army on the 15th Army, a breakthrough of the enemy could again be prevented.

South of Arnhem, the own attack on Driel made good progress in the beginning. During the afternoon, the enemy made major counter-attacks north of Nijmegen succeeding in some penetrations.

The Americans were successful to extend their penetration between Geilenkirchen and Aachen by putting strong and fresh tank formations into action; many casualties were suffered on either side. The impression is increasing that the enemy attempts to break off the corner-pillar of Aachen by an encirclement in the North. Countermeasures have been taken.

The changing fights in the area northeast of Nancy are going on.

At the front between Luneville and the Swiss Border, strong enemy attacks are alternating with own counter-attacks. In several sections, the enemy withdrew his formations.

Appreciation of the enemy:

According to a statement from Foreign Armies West General of the Army, the difficulties in the enemy supply of forces are being stressed by the detected distribution of one division into two other ones, as well as by the linking of a brigade that was independent so far with a weakened division. These measures lead to the conclusion that the British Supreme Command with the formations presently available has probably reached the personnel capacity, and that, as in the course of the first World - War, they are forced to arrange mergers in order to maintain the fighting strenght of the units.

Italian Front:

The enemy continued the heavy attacks against the main roads from Florence to Bologna, pushed back our main defense line after having made some penetrations, and gained important high-ground. A new blocking front is being formed.

At the Adriatic Coast, the enemy kept silent.

Balkan:

Due to the lack in fuel, the air transport of our own units from the Islands had to be discontinued.

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At the Macedonian Front, the attack of our units against Bulgarian forces gained important ground in the area of Strumica.

South of the Danube bow, the Soviets took the area of Bor and reached the northern bank of the Danube near Beograd.

While the 57th Russian Army has apparently been put into action for a push to the West into the Servian Area, the 46th Russian Army is advancing in a general direction towards Beograd. It is probably intended to join these two armies in the greater area of Beograd.

No indications are presently at hand on the whereabouts of that Russian Army which is supposed to be in action south of the Balkan Mountains. An advance of this army, together with Bulgarian Units, to the West with concentration on Skoplje and Nis must be put up with.

With that, the situation on the Balkan and in Greece is importantly becoming tense for our units.

Eastern Front:

Due to the bad weather condition, the battle activity at the entire front of the Southern Army Group was smaller than on the days before.

At the Beskids Front, the enemy attacking activity is going on, especially west of the Dukla Pass. Own counter-attacks gained only important ground. However, also the enemy had only little success.

In Warsaw, the capitulation conditions were carried out according to the agreement. The first Regiment of the rebels, in a strength of 1600 men, marched out of the city and was disarmed.

Yesterday morning, the 2nd Army with 5 divisions went into disposition for the attack against the Narev Bridgehead, 60 kilometers north of Warsaw. The attack is making very good progress, and our troops succeeded in splitting up the enemy forces.

At the front of the Northern Army Group, in the area northwest of Shavli, alternating fights took place with Soviets who had broken into our lines. The other part of the front of the Army Group remained silent.

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VII. Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff:

a. From the assessment of the situation given by the Admiral; Fuehrer's Headquarters on 4 October: The Chief of the General Staff of the Army again stressed the intention to defend the Osel Island.

The preliminary orders for the withdrawal behind the Lyngen Fjord were issued yesterday. The final order is expected to be issued tomorrow. The Chief of the Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces has pointed at the difficulty of the operation and at the necessity of a stern command of all withdrawal movements by one authority.

General Rendulic will probably be authorized accordingly. The Admiral, Fuehrer's Headquarters deems it appropriate to appoint the Naval Liaison Officers.

If the occasion arises, the Chief, Naval Staff deems it necessary to appoint a Flag Officer to this position; he will discuss the necessary action with the Head of the Department of Naval Personnel.

Furthermore, the Admiral, Fuehrer's Headquarters has reported:

Subject: Evacuation of the Civil Population.

For the time being, the enemy seems not to intend an attack against the Atlantic Fortresses in the West, since the supply routes to the front are too far. In this connection, I have pointed out again the importance of Antwerp for the enemy. The Chief of the Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces asks the Naval Staff to examine whether a break of the dike between the radar set and the Battery Westkapelle would mean a danger for the other fortifications on the Walcheren Island.

Upon the question whether it would be possible, under the flooding of the Walcheren Island, to defend the Schelde Mouth like a fortress from the mainland, I have stated that such a construction would probably take much too long a time and that, therefore, it should continuously be aimed at defending the fortification of Walcheren as long as possible.

At the instigation of the Operations Division, Naval Staff, the Admiral Netherlands has been requested through the Naval Command



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North to report immediately and continuously the appreciation of the broached question. The Naval Shore Commandant South Holland is visiting today the Admiral Netherlands for reporting.

b. Concerning Hungary, the Admiral, Fuehrer's Headquarters reports:

The situation in Budapest is further unsettled. Hungarian Monitors have been additionally put into action by the Hungarian Government for the protection of Budapest. Consequently, it will not be possible at present to reach amicably the transfer of the monitor boats into German hands and their manning with German Naval Personnel for the land-attack and the action according to the request of the Naval Group South.

A corresponding proposal of the Naval Staff (see War Diary 2 October) has been answered by the Armed Forces, High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces as follows:

The request for manning the monitors in Hungary with German personnel is not suitable for the time being.

The High Command, Navy is requested to make preparations in cooperation with the Corps Headquarters Kleemann in order to take possession of the Hungarian Danube Monitors if the political situation changes.

The Group is issued a corresponding directive through the order 1 Skl/ I E a 3164/44 Gkdos Chefs. Copy to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV a.

c. Report on the operational plans for the 2nd Task Force, complying with the written statement in War Diary 4 October. The intentions of the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea are corresponding to the views of the Naval Staff.

The Chief of the Naval Staff agrees.

Special Items.

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. With regard to the radio message releasing the submarine attack against all Finnish vessels in the northern Gulf of Bothnia, the Operations Division, Naval Staff points out to

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the Naval Command East, with copy to the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea, that an alteration of the order would be necessary in order to avoid in any case that Swedish ships are attacked. Incidents with Sweden are to be avoided in any case.

b. The Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea reports that, according to the statements made by all Naval Officers coming from the Osel Island, the combat efficiency of the Army Troops there is strikingly little.

c. In connection with the landing of the enemy on Osel Island the Naval Command East reports the following intentions:

1. For the attack against the enemy landing on the northeastern part of the Osel Island, the 6th Destroyer Flotilla will operationally be subordinated to the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea. With the first light of 6 October, a gun action against Soern has been provided as well as in case of need the attack against the ferry traffic between Dago Island and Osel Island. The torpedo boats T "23" and T "28" have been provided as anti-aircraft reinforcement. Russian Patrol Boats have been reported in the Kassar Bay.

2. The action of the 2nd Task Force, escorted by 6 Torpedo Boats and under the command of the Naval Command East, has been intended in the case that the development of the situation on the Osel Island requires the engagement of the Naval Forces.

The Naval Staff has agreed, and informed accordingly the Admiral, Fuehrer's Headquarters, the Armed Forces High Command (Navy), the General Staff of the Army, Naval Liaison Officer and the High Command, Air, Ops. Staff I a (Navy).

Copy of the order 1 Skl. I op 30332/44, Gkdos., to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

d. The Naval Liaison Officer with the General Staff of the Army gives the following information in reply to an inquiry:

1. Due to the development of the situation on the Baltic Islands, the intentions regarding the establishment of coastal batteries may become void also on the Osel Island.

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2. In Courland, the defense of the area west of the line Tukums - Markgrafen is intended, even in the case that the abandonment of Riga becomes necessary.

The Operations Division, Naval Staff informs the Naval Command East and the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea by issuing the directive to lay down plans for the establishment of the coastal batteries in a close cooperation with the Northern Army Group.

e. The Naval Liaison Officer with the General Staff of the Army transmits the following radio message to the Operations Division, Naval Staff, with copy to the Naval Command East:

"1. The Corps Headquarters of the XX. Army Corps has precautionarily surveyed the possibilities of a defense of Gdynia towards the land, in order to keep the naval harbor of Gdynia with all facilities as long as possible available for the naval forces and submarines. The survey yielded the following result: Occupation of an outer ring in a length of 34 kilometers; at present, only 13 heavy Naval Anti-Aircraft Batteries consolidated in concrete and light anti-aircraft weapons are available for the occupation of this ring; these batteries would be protected by field fortifications. For a complete occupation of the ring, 2 or 3 divisions would be required.

2. The Chief, Army General Staff has decided on 7 Sept that the Vistula Line with the Fortress of Danzig and the Nogat Line with the bridgeheads of Marienburg and Elbing be consolidated and defended, and that probably no forces will be available for a Major Fortress of Gdynia and Hela inclusively Danzig.

3. With that, the Navy will be responsible for the defense of Gdynia towards the sea and to prevent air borne landing operations in the area of Gdynia; for the accomplishment of these tasks, operationally efficient personnel will have to be equipped with arms accordingly. In the Arsenal of Gdynia, there are presently available only a few German rifles, about 100 foreign rifles, 6 machine guns and 8 mortars; the small arms equipment for anti-aircraft batteries runs up to 50% only and consists of inferior Italian carbines.

4. The opinion of the Naval Staff is requested for, whether the land defense of Gdynia, according to the order of the

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General Staff of the Army, lies at the Vistula Line and whether the defense of the seafront is the responsibility of the Navy. It is further asked for the statement whether there is a decisive importance attached to the availability of Gdynia up to the last moment.

The Naval Command East has been asked for its opinion on paragraphs 3 and 4. The Quartermaster Division has been informed and asked for cooperation as to the opinion requested for.

II. Subject: Northern Area:

On 2 October, motor minesweepers succeeded in the Varanger Fjord in halting enemy PT boats; one PT boat was sunk, two other ones were heavily damaged. The low speed of the motor minesweepers prevented the destruction of the damaged PT boats. Within a short space of time, these will probably be available to the enemy for operation.

With regard to the importance of the own sea-supply and mine-clearing traffic at the Arctic Coast, the Naval Staff asks the High Command Air, Ops. Staff I a Navy to issue a directive to the Commanding General, Air Forces Norway to utilize the extremely favorable chances in a joint operation with the naval forces and to destroy the paralyzed enemy units. The action of two ground-attack planes each in a most limited number would be sufficient for this purpose. A close inter-communication with the Naval Offices will make possible the most economical engagement of forces under great prospects as to the success. Similar circumstances existed at that time in the sea area off Holland, and a corresponding request had been turned in by the Naval Staff at that time.

The submarine actions against the latest PQ - and QP - Convoys yielded no success worth to be mentioned, since the PQ - Convoy was not at all seized and the QP - Convoy was attacked too late by one submarine only. Almost without any loss and at times in a distance of between 40 and 50 nautical miles, the enemy transported most important supply goods and a vast tonnage along the Norwegian Coast.

The Naval Staff asks the High Command Air, Ops. Staff for an examination whether it could not still be made possible to provide a stronger action of the air reconnaissance and also a sudden action of strong bomber formations (II. and III. Battle Group 40) in such particularly favorable opportunities. In the interest

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of the entire warfare, the Naval Staff deems it hardly bearable to leave the own inshore waters to the enemy without not having made at least the attempt to destroy the ships and the cargo.

Copy of letter 1 Skl. I L 30345/44, Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II a.

III. Subject: Southeastern Area:

a. In the assessment of the situation given by the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, it has been stated with regard to Hungary:

According to reliable news, the regent is negotiating armistice conditions with the Allies. The remaining Hungarian Government is not taking part in the negotiations and approaches, according to a report of General Wenk who returned today from Budapest. The German Armed Forces Offices in Hungary are of the opinion that the Hungarian Army for the greater part will stand by our side. The Hungarian General Staff believes that tactical results at any place would importantly support a further consolidation of the attitude in the Army. On the other hand, concentrations of Hungarian Troops in Budapest and on the citadel have been reported by contact men. I have got the impression that neither General Wenk nor the German Offices installed in Hungary are seeing the situation quite clearly. I consider it being absolutely possible that the statements are an intended deception of the Hungarian General Staff and Government. In any case, the situation furthermore remains absolutely uncertain.

The Group South is informed by a teleprint message.

b. Concerning the barrage of the Gulf of Trieste, the German Naval Command Italy has directed the attention to the danger for the own shipping caused by the extension of the planned minefields "AR 108", "AR 109" and "AR 110". The Group South has agreed upon a little limitation of the minefield extension.

The Operations Division, Naval Staff decided on this question as follows:

1. It must principally be clung to an efficient barrage of the Gulf of Trieste.

2. Gaps between the minefields must be kept as small as possible since the laying of extensive alarm minefields cannot be secured in due time.

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3. A close barrage gap at Trieste North would be possible only by the setting of a large number of light floats. By that, the danger would arise that

a. hints are given for the enemy minelaying actions,

b. in the alarm case the buoys cannot be removed, the mines cannot be laid, and the enemy is in the possession of an open and buoyed channel set off the coast.

4. The barrage gap at Trieste South can be kept quite close. The laying of an alarm minefield and the removal of the buoys can better be prepared here.

5. The Group South will check on the possibility in the new planning to close the barrage gap at Trieste North entirely and to provide the navigation safety of the course Grado - Salvore by leading lines and possibly one or two light floats. According to the former intention of the Group South, the entire traffic would then be led only through the barrage gap in the South.

Copy of the order 1 Skl. I E 3165/44, Gkdos. Chefs. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.

IV. Concerning the exchange of cadets scheduled for 1 Nov. 1944, the numbers and dates for the new embarkations have been appointed in agreement with the Naval Personnel Office by the Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff so that the "Prinz Eugen", the "Hipper", the "Scheer", the "Loetzow", the "Koeln" and the "Emden" maintain their war readiness, and the "Leipzig" and the "Hansa" discontinue their war readiness.

V. In order to secure a tight organization in the sea transport also on the inland waterways in the area of Holland, the Naval Command North is issued an order by the Quartermaster Division Naval Staff to appoint a Superintending Sea Transport Officer Netherlands. This officer would be subordinated to the Admiral Netherlands, and would have the same location as the latter one. At the same time, the Superintending Sea Transport Officer will be additionally a Specialist in the Staff. Instead of that, the Navy Office will be disbanded. The Superintending Sea Transport Officer will take charge of the sea transport and will be authorized to supervise in this respect the Harbor Headquarters. Sea Transport Specialists will be installed in the Harbor Headquarters.

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At the same time, the Superintending Sea Transport Officer is authorized to organize and to control the inland shipping, as it has been handled already in the area of the Admiral Netherlands. For this purpose, the Superintending Sea Transport Officer will be issued direct orders by the competent Army Offices. The organization will be the same as for the sea transport.

The organization of the Rhine Ferries will remain with regard to the naval duties in the hands of the Admiral Defense Forces (later on Commander in Chief, Defense Forces). The operational subordination to the competent Army Office will be regulated through the Group West.

VI. On account of a request from the Chief of the General Staff of the Air Force, the Naval Staff submits once more an appreciation to the High Command Air, Ops. Staff concerning the importance of the long-range reconnaissance for the submarine warfare in the Atlantic. The letter has the following wording:

On the occasion of a discussion held on 7 Sept 1944 at the Headquarters Naval Staff with Captain (rating as General) Kaehler (General Commanding Reconnaissance Planes) and Major Fischer (Group Commander Long-Range Reconnaissance Group 5), the representatives of the Air Force directed the attention to the doubts existing with regard to the technical construction of the "Me 264" and its action as reconnaissance plane for the submarine warfare. After the Atlantic Coast has been lost and the enemy air defense has been consolidated with fighter planes and anti-aircraft weapons in the presently occupied area of the West, the flying performance of this type seems to be not sufficient anymore.

According to the statement of the Representative of the General Commanding Reconnaissance planes, however, it would be possible under little expenses to construct in time a reconnaissance plane of the Dornier Company; this type would not only meet the requirements of the submarine warfare regarding the speed and range, but also the necessity of the present and future situation in the aerial warfare.

The submarine warfare will be started again on a large scale in April 1945. Due to the rather unfavorable surface qualities

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of the new submarine Type, the reconnaissance action will be still more important than it has been so far. The Representative of the General Commanding Reconnaissance planes has promised with great certainty that the required number of planes would be made available in due time for the re-opening of the submarine warfare.

After the report, the Commander in Chief, Navy has agreed upon the alteration of the plane type for the submarine reconnaissance and stressed expressly that he never had asked for a special plane type but had always stated that merely the performance of the planes could be decisive for the choice.

Since the plane type "Do 535" that has been offered now by the Air Force meets all requirements to be made for the submarine reconnaissance and flying performance, and can be made available in due time, the Naval Staff asks to support its output in the most possible extent.

VII. The Admiral Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff issued the following order on 2 Oct:

"In order to combine the defense forces, the Command "C. in C. of the Defense Forces" subordinated to the Fleet Command is to be established at a date still to be appointed. The Fleet Command will examine whether the Commander Minelayers is also to be subordinated to the C. in C. of the Defense Forces.

Two weeks after the C. in C. of the Defense Forces has been appointed, the Command "Defense Instructional Division" under the C. in C. of the Defense Forces is to be established; Special Duties Detachments and Training Flotillas will be assigned to this command.

Up to further notice, the Commanding Admiral, Baltic Defenses and the Commanding Admiral North Sea Defenses will continue to exist and will be relieved if the time arises. Effective as of the day when the C. in C. of the Defense Forces is appointed, they will be subordinated operationally and as detachments with regard to naval duties to the Naval Command East or Naval Command North, respectively. Before the detaching, the C. in C. of the Defense Forces will be the competent authority.



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The independent Defense Divisions (inclusively the 8th Defense Division) and the Inshore Defenses Units will be subordinated in their respective areas operationally and as detachments with regard to naval duties to the competent Admirals, Commanding, when the C. in C. of the Defense Forces is appointed. Before the detaching, the C. in C. of the Defense Forces will be the competent authority.

The Admiral Naval Shore Commands is to be relieved. His responsibilities will be taken over by the C. in C. of the Defense Forces. The responsibilities of the 1st Special Duties Division will go over to the Defense Instructional Division.

VIII. In the evaluation of communications concerning foreign navies, the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff FM reports on Anglo-American bases at the western and southwestern coast of Asia Minor. Copy as per 1 Skl. 3678/44, geh. to be found in War Diary, Part D, Vol. 8 a.

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Situation 5 Oct. 1944:

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

39 planes were detected at the 15th Group, and 10 planes at the 19th Group.

7 British vessels and 1 American vessel were located in the rendezvous area.

Own Situation:

Situation in the Fortresses:

Lorient:

Enemy harassing fire was directed against the eastern section. The own battery fired at enemy infantry forces southwest of Hennebont. The Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery fired at enemy positions at the western bank of the Leita. The own scouting activity was vivid.

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St. Nazaire:

A vivid fire of enemy artillery and mortars lay on the eastern front of the Fortress.

The assault detachments were vivid on either side. An enemy machine gun position was destroyed by mortar fire. Harbor Defense Vessels took an enemy strong-point under fire east of Cordemais with observed success. Off the eastern front, the enemy is establishing new positions. The arrival of important reinforcements is supposed.

La Rochelle:

Further enemy reinforcements were detected in the foreground. Attacks of an own reinforced company were successful. An enemy ammunition depot was destroyed.

Gironde North:

The Fortress Commander is negotiating with the 18th Legion of the F.F.J. in Bordeaux about the exchange of prisoners of War and evacuation.

Gironde South:

The Maquis have partly been relieved by regular troops.

Dunkirk:

The evacuation of the civil population and the transfer of seriously wounded German soldiers was smoothly carried out on 4 Oct. During the armistice, 2 enemy fighter bombers have overflowed twice the fortress contrary to the agreement. The armistice has been extended up to 1000 6 Oct. Inside the fortress, the following Naval Units have newly been formed.:

1. Battery "Gravelines" in a strength of 148 men.
2. Company "Binnig" in a strength of 138 men, as well as Battery "Schulz".

Channel Islands:

In the evening of 5 Oct. the Anti-Aircraft Battery of

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Alderney fired at 2 PT boats in the grid square BF 3543, while the 3rd L.A. Battery of Alderney directed the fire at a located target in BF, in the same square.

Re-transfers of personnel:

The 15th Manning Division has been transferred from Hattingen to the Camp of Bitsch.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

North Sea:

Bay of Heligoland:

In the forenoon, enemy planes were taken under fire by the Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery of Wilhelmshaven, Heligoland, Brunsbuettel, Cuxhaven, Wesermuende, Wangeroog and Emden. Wilhelmshaven was the target of the planes. The attacks were made by very loose formations in a thick and natural fog and tenths. Heavy damages were caused to public buildings. More than 100 living-houses were damaged. No damage was caused to naval installations.

The Elbe River has been blocked from buoy 16 up to Hamburg because of dropped mines. The Kaiser-Wilhelm-Canal has also been blocked. The smoke carrier "Dora 20" has sprung a leak and sunk in the Elbe Mouth during the transfer from the Weser River to the Elbe River.

Dutch Coast:

During the night of 4 Oct., the minesweeper M "261" reported continuously radar sea target locations and searchlight actions at 25 nautical miles west-southwest of IJmuiden, originating probably from sweeping units.

During the night of 4 Oct., an own convoy was unsuccessfully attacked by fighter bombers off IJmuiden and southwest of Den Helder.

At 1405, fighter bombers attacked unsuccessfully in a nose dive the Battery Dishoek. The Battery Hamilton at Zeebrugge

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was lying twice under harassing fire. At 1500, 2 enemy PT boats advanced towards the mole of Zeebrugge and withdrew under a smoke cover after having been fired at. In the port of Amsterdam, further quay sections were made unserviceable. The barrage gap in the Meuse Lock has been narrowed up to 140 yards by the sinking of the "Prins Wilhelm V" who has got a length of 80 yards.

According to a report from the Commanding General, Armed Forces West, the defense forces of the Walcheren Island are only little handicapped by the flood. Some battle positions and bunkers have broken down.

Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

In the area of the 18th Group, 15 planes were detected during action. A British vessel was located from Hammerfest at 0826 in 253°, and at 1200 in 246°.

Own Situation:

During the night of 3 Oct., strong enemy sorties (143 planes) with bombs and aircraft armament raids on batteries were reported in the area of Petsamo.

On 5 Oct. the convoy traffic between Bodoe and Hammerfest was stopped due to the detection of an enemy shipping detection set in the sector west to southwest of the Lofoten Islands.

On 4 Oct. and during the night of 4 Oct., a vivid enemy air activity was observed in the area of the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast. A Liberator plane was shot down by an own submarine escort in the Joessing Fjord. At Egersund, a plane was shot afire by the submarine chaser UJ "1713" in a low-flying attack.

During the night of 4 Oct., the last part of the KMA-minefield near Lister was laid. After an unsuccessful check on moored mines, the convoy route near Feiestein has again been released.

In the evening of 4 Oct., about 20 enemy planes were reported and mine-droppings observed in the Oslo Fjord Area; 9 mines

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were found ashore, 3 mines were cleared. The port of Oslo has been blocked.

16 ships were escorted to the North, 10 ships to the South.

III. Skager-Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

According to a report from the Reich Security Head Office, the Finns have made the following landings in Torneo: On 1 Oct., 3000 men with 3 ships, and on 2 Oct., 4000 men with 4 ships. On 3 Oct., a continued further supply was observed which was hampered by our fire.

On 4 Oct., German attacks with dive bombers were started; the fights are heavy.

Since 0310, the enemy has set foot on the northeastern coast of Osel Island at 5 points in a width of 25 kilometers. Enemy situation: Torpedo Boats are supporting the landing operation from a position west and northwest of the Keinan Island.

The Torpedo Boats are probably of the new type of turbine-mine-sweeping boats.

At 1738 on 4 Oct., the 7th Artillery Flotilla was taken under heavy artillery fire directed by a captive balloon from Werder, Moon and the main-land. One medium and one heavy battery in Werder, and one medium battery south of Werder were clearly recognized. Beyond the own range, a busy ferry traffic was observed.

Own Situation:

Admiral Skager-Rak:

In the evening of 4 Oct., single enemy planes entered the area of Ore Sound approaching over Central Jutland; during the night of 4 Oct., between 30 and 40 enemy planes entered the Kattegat. Numerous mine droppings were observed by a guardship. 40 boats were put into action for minesweeping works. 7 mines were cleared in the Samsøe Belt, 1 mine northeast of Anholt.

At 1600, the Commander, Minelayers put to sea at Emden, and the Commander, Destroyers with the 5th Destroyer Flotilla left from Horten for carrying out the mine task XXXII a. The escort duties were accomplished according to plans.

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Western and Central Baltic Sea:

55 boats and 2 mine exploding vessels were put into action for minesweeping works. One mine each was cleared in the Bay of Danzig and in the Bay of Mecklenburg. According to the daily report of the Reich Commissar for Shipping, altogether 70 ships over 400 BRT were on free merchant shipping in the Baltic Sea Area on 5 Oct. For details see the Situation of the Day.

Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea:

The enemy forces having landed on Osel Island are advancing towards the interior of the land. Own reserves have been put into action. In agreement with the Armed Forces Commandant, the own patrol of Kassarwik has been withdrawn. All artillery ferries and minesweepers available, as well as the torpedo boats T "28" and T "23" have been put into action against the landing operation on Osel Island.

The fouling of the northern exit of the Moon Sound was carried out according to plans by 8 PT boats during the night of 3 Oct.

At 1530, 5 October, 15 ground-attack planes with fighter escort attacked the convoy "Warthe" proceeding from Riga to Ahrensburg. Besides little casualties, the artillery ferry "AF 5" was damaged.

Since noon, the enemy has been making a heavy air raid against the roads of Ahrensburg.

The Captain of the steamer "Leda" reported an enemy submarine attack in 56° 10' North 20° East during the night of 4 Oct. One torpedo was a premature, another one passed at the bow. After the firing of the ship's anti-aircraft artillery, the submarine dived.

In the afternoon of 4 Oct, the 2nd Group of the PT Boat Training Flotilla entered Libau with 4 PT boats and the "Tsingtau".

The group will move on 5 Oct. from Libau to Windau. During the night of 5 Oct., 4 PT boats will carry out a reconnaissance patrol from Windau up to the area off Ristua and will subsequently lie in readiness in Jaagurahn.

The escorts and transports were carried out according to plans.

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On 4 Oct., 4419 tons of supplies, 3490 tons of which ammunition, were transferred to Riga for the Army Group North.

The Naval Command East reports that the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea had stopped the 6th Destroyer Flotilla since the intention would become clear by the premature passage order for the torpedo boats T "23" and T "28" issued by the Commander, 24th Special Duties Flotilla. It is intended that the two torpedo boats take under fire the southern tip of Dagoe Island early on 6 Oct.

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IV. Submarine Warfare:

The submarine U "518" has sighted a convoy near the Cape Hatteras, in the grid square D C 1580 and met a medium strong defense.

In the Northern Waters, the submarine U "313" was detected from the air by a searching group off the Kola Bay.

Due to an increased patrol activity, "Schnorcheln" is impossible. At present, the task is deemed not to be accomplished by the boat.

The Army Chief Command 20 believes that the bridgehead of Torneo will be cleared within 2 or 3 days, and desists from committing submarines. Early on 6 Oct., the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea issued an order to the two submarines to withdraw to the South.

Otherwise, no particular reports are at hand.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

During the day, about 100 fighter bombers and fighter planes were reported in the area of the Netherlands.

During the night of 5 Oct., small long-range night-fighter formations were in action over the area of the Netherlands.

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Reich Territory:

During the day, about 215 single planes were reported over North-, Northwest- and South Germany making little raids in the Rhine Province. Between 200 and 300 bombers with fighter escort entered the area of Heligoland and raided from there Wilhelmshaven. Numerous high explosive bombs fell into the water. The Naval Shipyard was only slightly damaged by fire. The damages caused to the railways and buildings at the railway-station were also moderate.

At 1040, many hundred bombers with fighter escort overflowed the Dutch Coast in 2 groups. One group made a heavy raid on the main- and goods-station of Muenster which broke down. The traffic has been interrupted to all directions. The second group made raids on Cologne, Dortmund, Rheine and Koblenz where communications, Rhine bridges and gasoline works were the targets.

Further raids were carried out on a number of airforce stations. Due to line faults, no details have become known yet.

During the night of 5 Oct., between 40 and 50 Mosquito Bombers raided Berlin.

Approximately 100 planes dropped numerous high explosive bombs and incendiary bombs on Saarbruecken. For details on the damages which were not unimportant in this town see Situation of the Day.

Furthermore, approximately 220 single planes were reported over Northwest-, West- and South Germany with high explosive bombs and attacks with aircraft armament. The Elbe River and the Weser Mouth were probably mined.

Mediterranean Theater:

On 4 Oct., 760 planes were put into action at the Italian Front. A strong bomber formation of four-engined planes jumped off from the base in Southern Italy with northwestern course over the Adriatic Sea. A part-formation attacked communications targets in the area of Bolzano, while another part-formation raided Munich. The third part-formation attacked again communications targets in the area of Bolzano.



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Eastern Area:

At the Eastern Front, 91 own and 150 enemy sorties were reported; 1 plane was shot down.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

In the forenoon of 4 Oct., 2 transports occupied by troops and 3 corvettes have entered Gibraltar. The same ships had left for the Atlantic on 2 Oct.

During the night of 4 Oct., a Cairo Cruiser left for the Mediterranean Sea. At 0430, 11 transports passed Gibraltar heading to the Mediterranean Sea, probably the scheduled "KM F 33".

The enemy situation in the Gulf of Genoa and off the French Riviera is unchanged. The ports of San Remo and Imperia were again taken under fire by destroyers.

Own Situation:

During the night of 4 Oct., the escort and patrol duties along the western coast were carried out according to plans.

At noon of 4 Oct., ammunition detonated during a raid by fighter bombers on a battery in the Magra Mouth.

The transport performance on the Po River has run up to 8129 tons in the last third of September, since the German Naval Command Italy has taken over this responsibility.

Area of the German Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

In the afternoon of 4 Oct., 6 twin-engined enemy planes attacked unsuccessfully the port of Zara. During a bombing on the port of Trieste, the torpedo boat TA "21" was slightly damaged. Early on 5 Oct., 8 enemy planes made an attack with rocket

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bombs and aircraft armament on the motor minesweeper "R 16" in the Euphemia Bay, on the Rab Island.

The overdue Italian Small Submarine "CB XVI" is being searched for by German submarine chasers.

b. Aegean Sea:

At 0540, 1 aircraft-carrier and 11 escorting vessels were southwest of the Levitha Island. At 0720, 1 carrier, 3 cruisers and 3 destroyers approached this island that was taken under fire from 0300 to 1120, from 1300 to 1430, and at 1650.

Around noon, 2 enemy torpedo boats fired at the Alimnia Island, northwest of Rhodes Island.

At 0245, the airfield of Iraklion was taken under fire from the sea. No damage was caused.

A vivid movement of war ships was observed in the port of Poros.

The position of enemy submarines was reported as being near Rhodes, south of Kassandrahuk, and near Milos.

The submarine near Kassandra was attacked by the submarine chaser UJ "2102" with depth charges and probably sunk.

At noon of 4 Oct., 16 enemy fighter bombers attacked airfields in the area of Athens. The Army Anti-Aircraft Artillery reported to have shot down 2 planes. 8 of our own planes were destroyed.

During the night of 4 Oct., mine droppings were observed in the Bourtzi Passage. 3 new mines were cleared until the evening of 5 Oct.

Rhion and Antirhion were evacuated during the night of 4 Oct. Upon the disbandment of the Naval Shore Command Western Greece, the island of Corfu is directly subordinated to the Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea.

The Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea has requested the Army Group E for the authority to evacuate the Syro Island beginning in the evening of 5 Oct., and to maintain a deceptive occupation until 10 Oct.

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The Commanding Admiral, Group South reports that he does not comply with the assessment of the situation as given by the Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea (see War Diary 4 Oct.)

From his point of view, all possibilities that are promising success will be utilized by the enemy with certainty by putting into action his air and naval forces, as long as he does not consider the risk being too high.

The Group considers it being a mistake to draw the conclusion from an occasional omission of offensive action that the enemy has principally gone into reserve.

c. Danube Situation:

During the night of 4 Oct., 32 mine-droppings were observed between the kilometer points of 1866 and 1728. Two mines each were cleared by 2 minesweeping planes at the kilometer points of 1840 and 1826. One minesweeping plane crashed. The Danube River has been blocked for shipping between Budapest and Bratislava because of minedanger. In the evening of 4 Oct., a twin-engined minelaying plane was shot down at the kilometer point of 1842.

According to a report from the Mineclearance Inspector Danube, the Fuehrer has decided that non-German nationals on the German Danube Shipping receive the same care and support for themselves and their surviving dependents as German Nationals.

The Army Group F, Ops. Staff is moving to Vukovar.

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VII. Situation in East Asia:

The Naval Attache Tokyo wired with regard to the situation in the Pacific:

On Peleliu Island (Palao Islands), the Japanese defense forces were encircled on a very close area in the North. The reconnaissance detected American light bombers on the airfield 45. Balikpapan was attacked on 30 Aug., by 60 planes, and on 3 Oct., by 23 planes.

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After the consolidation of Morotai, where 4 airfields are already in American hands, daily attacks on the oil ports of the Sunda Islands must be expected.

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Items of Political Importance

Particular reports are not at hand.

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Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1120:

I. Subject: Situation in the Aegean Sea. The point of view of the Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea given on account of an inquiry that had been made by the Operations Division, Naval Staff concerning the shipping routes in the Northern Aegean Sea (see War Diary 4 Oct.) is reported. Copy, as per radio message 1 Skl. 30364/44, Gkdos., to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.

II. The Chief of the Bureau of Naval Armament brings up the question of sending German armament specialists to Japan for taking a glance at the armament production there. The transport could be managed by submarines. The Chief of the Submarine Division, Naval Staff remarks that the transport facilities are limited. The Air Force and the Japanese require a lot, which means that the own naval requirements would have to be reduced.

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III. The Naval Staff, Special Weapons Branch reports on the air-transport facilities for Marder Gears to Athens. Only one suitable plane would be available as far as the reason for the transfer can be reported as "decisive". The fuel requirements for the transport of 10 gears would run up to 200 tons of gasoline. The duration of the total transport would be at least 20 days.

Under these circumstances, the transport is not taken into consideration. The prospects on success do not compare with the expenses. Even a transport by rail up to Budapest would not yield a better result. Until the gears have arrived at Athens, Attika will already be evacuated.

The Chief, Naval Staff orders to point out the circumstances to the Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea which are connected with the action of the gear; from these facts, the hopelessness on a decisive result may clearly be seen.

IV. The Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff reports: During a search of the Danish auxiliary sailing vessel

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"Glory" by the Coastwise Shipping Control Copenhagen, 2 undeveloped films were impounded containing extensive espionage material (110 typewritten pages with numerous special drawings.) The material originates probably from the parachutist-agent "Peter" who is the Chief Agent on Zealand.

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V. Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff: One new Naval Anti-Aircraft Detachment each will be assigned to Bergen and Trondheim.

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In a restricted circle:

VI. The Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff reports on the strike of railroad workers in Holland.

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VII. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The enemy pressure on the southern front of the 15th Army is going on.

Between the Lower Rhine and the Waal River, our own attack from the West was set going again. After a surprise reached in the beginning, the enemy resistance was getting stronger here during the afternoon.

In the area south of Geilenkirchen, the enemy did not make a concentrated attack, but attacked in all directions. He succeeded in reaching penetrations of little importance only. On 4 and 5 Oct., 42 enemy tanks were knocked out here. According to plans, a counterattack is supposed to be started in this area on 7 Oct.

In the Vosges Mountains, the American Forces are continuing their attacks on a wide front. In the main, the attacks were beaten back. The additional engagement of an Algerian and a Moroccan Division in the area of Remiremont admits the acknowledgement that the enemy is building there an absolute concentration point.

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On 30 Sept, an order was issued by the Armed Forces High Command to consolidate an Ems River Position reaching up to Lingen, i.e. a position between the Ems and Rhine on the line Lingen - Bentheim - Bocholt - Emmerich. Furthermore, it will have to be found out for an establishment at a later date: a position running from Lingen - Rheine - Dortmund - Ems Canal to Datteln, and from there over Lippe River and the Side Canal up to the Rhine.

Italian Front:

After a heavy artillery fire starting during the night and increasing in the morning to a drum fire under an unusually high expenditure of ammunition, the enemy continued his attacks in the area south of Bologna. In the main, the enemy was beaten back.

Balkan:

The evacuation of Greece, Albania and Macedonia has been ordered by the Fuehrer. At first, the front will be withdrawn up to the line Scutari - Skoplje - Klisura. The quick transfer of troops to the area of Beograd has priority. All important communications, buildings and facilities south of the named line are to be lastingly destroyed.

At the Macedonia Front, Bulgarian Forces are advancing towards Skoplje; they encircled Kriva Palanka.

The changing fights with the superior enemy forces south of the Danube Bow are going on.

The attacks against the extended bridgehead of Beograd were beaten back.

Eastern Front:

Strong enemy pressure in the area of Grosswardein and Klausenburg.

At the Beskids Passes, enemy attacks were beaten back and position improvements gained by an own attack.

In Warsaw, 6 Generals, among whom General Bor, and 10 000 men were captured so far from the central pocket.

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The attack against the enemy bridgehead across the Narev River, south of Ostenburg, made further progress. 64 tanks were knocked out so far and 47 guns captured.

Russian divisionary attacks made from the Rozan bridgehead failed.

At the front of Shavdi - Rossieni and north of that line, the enemy opened the expected attack with strong infantry and armored forces. On a broad front, the enemy broke through our more weakly occupied main defense line and advanced up to 25 km into the rear area. Counter-measures have been taken.

On the Osel Island, the enemy succeeded in occupying the entire coastal sector opposite Moon in a depth of 12 - 14 km.

Finland:

Heavy fights are going on with the Finns in the area of Tornio. After the transfer of reinforcements, the own attack is making progress. The hostile actions of the Finns are not to be considered anymore as local single actions, but as a planned operation of the Finnish Group of Forces Oulu against the 20th Mountain Army ordered by the Finnish High Command.

The presence of Russian Commissars among the Finnish Troops might have speeded-up the opening of the hostilities by the side of the Finns.

After the repeated violation of the agreements that had been made between the 20th Mountain Army and the Finnish High Command based upon loyalty and trust, the 20th Mountain Army will take up the fight with the Finns under all consequences.

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VIII. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

a. The Fuehrer has ordered that the withdrawal movements of the 20th Mountain Army be continued beyond the Birke Position, and that new positions be prepared for defense in the area of Lyngen Fjord-Narvik. A relevant order from the Armed Forces, High Command, Ops. Staff has been received now. Copy, as per 1 Skl. 3177/44, Gkdos. Chfs., to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II a. Paragraph 4 reads:

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"Under the joint command of the Mountain Army Chief Command 20 it will be:

a. the responsibility of the Navy

1. to re-transfer the coastal batteries,
2. to organize sternly the operation of the ships in compliance with the requirements of the Mountain Army Chief Command 20 for the evacuation of the area east of the Lyngen Fjord - Petsamo, and in compliance with the requirements of the Chief Quartermaster Scandinavia for the organization of the supply base Lyngen Fjord,
3. to protect the sea transports. In cooperation with the Reich Commissar for Shipping, the total tonnage available will be put into action under disregard of all other sea transport tasks in Norway.

b. the responsibility of the Air Corps:

1. to support the withdrawal movements and evacuation transports at sea,
2. to secure that upon the establishment of the defensive readiness in the Lyngen Position the continuation of an effective aerial warfare in cooperation with the Army and Navy is guaranteed in the greater area of Narvik."

It remains to be clarified with regard to paragraph 4, a 3. whether the exceptions valid so far will remain in force or not. The Chief, Operations Division, Naval Staff will settle the matter with the Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff.

b. The Naval Command East informs the Operations Division Naval Staff of an order issued to the 2nd Task Force, Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea for the action of the 2nd Task Force in order to support the Northern Army Group. Copy, as per T/P message 1 Skl 30358/44, Gkdos., to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

The order complies with the directive of the Naval Staff. The missing of a fighter defense has been put up with.

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The Chief of the Naval War Staff orders that the Naval Command East reports in time the intentions for the case of the action.

c. A report has been received from the newly appointed Fortress Commander Gironde North, Rear-Admiral Michahelles, that the former Commander, Colonel Pohlmann, had refused to give up the command and had reported sick. The decision lies in the hands of the Commanding General, Armed Forces West or the Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff, respectively.

Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. The Naval Liaison Officer with the Army High Command, General Staff of the Army reports by telephone at 1130:

"1. The Chief of the General Staff welcomes especially the positive attitude of the Navy towards the action of the 2nd Task Force for the support of the Army in the defense of the Osel Island. The Chief of the General Staff expects that the Task Force will participate in the action if the situation further becomes worse. The direct cooperation between the Army Group and the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea is secured from the point of view of the Naval Liaison Officer so that further directives are not being deemed necessary anymore.

2. Captain v. Conrady will come to Koralle on 7 October."

b. The Naval Command East informs the Naval Staff of a directive concerning the establishment of the provided batteries exclusively at the coasts from Riga over Domes Ness, Windau and Libau up to the Reich Border. The following numbers will become available from the new production: four 15 cm-batteries, one 12 cm-battery, four 10.5 cm-batteries, seven 8.8 cm-batteries and nine 7.5 cm-batteries.

c. If the occasion arises, the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea intends to engage all available naval landing craft at the coastal section of the Riga Strand (up to the Aa River of the Kurland) for the transport from Riga. Artillery ferries, motor minesweepers and minesweepers will follow as escort. The embarked troops will be disembarked against the northwestern

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coast. The attention is directed to the fact that all forces and the escort service are engaged at present for the Osel Island. The losses caused by air raids are increasing again.

d. The Naval Command East has submitted an assessment asked for with regard to the defense of Gdynia. Copy of the T/P message, as per l.Skl. 30413/44, Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

The able-bodied personnel in the area of Gdynia are armed up to 50% on an average, mostly with captured weapons. No arms are available in the Arsenal.

The Naval Command East is of the opinion that the land defense of Gdynia is mainly situated at the Vistula Line. The seafront and the local land-defense is the responsibility of the Navy. A decisive importance is attached to the availability of Gdynia up to the last moment.

e. The Naval Command East reports that the tactical command of the minelaying unit for the Skager-Rak Operation (3 cruisers, 1 destroyer flotilla) lies in the hands of the Chief of Staff, Commander Minelayers. It has been reserved for a later date to transfer the command to the Commander, Destroyers or the Commanding Admiral, Fleet.

The Naval Command East has been informed on the agreement of the Naval Staff as to this matter.

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II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. The Chief, Operations Division, Naval Staff states in a telephone conversation with the Armed Forces High Command Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces (Navy) (Commander Meier) that paragraph 4. a 3. of the Fuehrer's Order concerning the protection of the transport is to be understood literally, i.e. that the operation regarding the sea transports has priority without any exception to all other transports in Norway. Other transport tasks may be only carried out as far as the priority operation is not impaired by them.

b. The Naval Command Norway reports:

"The attack on the shipyard installations of Bergen

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on 4 October has probably to be taken for the start of a systematic action against the submarine bases of the Norwegian Coast. Therefore, further attacks have to be expected, also on other places. There is no or only a weak anti-aircraft defense. Fighter defense is not at all available at present, since the action of a few own destroyers is hopeless under the enemy fighter escort. Thus, the enemy is in a position, almost under peace conditions, to lessen severely the prospects for the coming submarine warfare. Furthermore, the loss of tonnage would become effective. As to the tonnage and supplies, the situation is tense. This is of particular importance with regard to the movements of the Mountain Army Chief Command 20. It is pointed at the heavy and continuously increasing enemy pressure towards the Norwegian Coast as well as at the favorable conditions of this coast for enemy landing operations. In the case that strong fighter forces cannot be assigned to that area, serious consequences would have to be put up with."

This assessment does not contain any new points of view. The required action report for transmittal to the Armed Forces High Command remains to be waited for.

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III. Subject: Area of the Naval Command North:

a. The Naval Command North reports with regard to the barrage plans for the North Sea Area (see War Diary 1 Oct.):

"1. Based upon the effect of the own coastal artillery and upon the experience gained in the West Area, the proposed laying of the minefields leaves allowances for possible points of bombardment. The enemy fire on the coasts under the avoidance of the own coastal artillery's effect has been taken into consideration upon receding courses. It is aimed at causing damage already in the starting positions.

2. Through the removal of the minefields closer to the own batteries, a removal of the own routes becomes necessary. This would cause a limitation in the mobility and a greater danger of mines because of lower water-depths. With superior air forces, the enemy can paralyze our own traffic along the coast within a short space of time by a systematic

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mine-action. Alternative routes outside the minefield system extend the passage, increase the attacking possibilities by enemy air forces and PT boats, and prevent an avoiding action of our vessels to the South.

3. Under the increase to be expected in the own convoy traffic for the supply of the troops in the West from and to the EmsGuard, it is necessary for the security of our own units that a distance of at least 5 nautical miles between the minefields and the routes is maintained.

4. Conclusion: The examination yields that, from the point of view of this headquarters, the submitted plan is appropriate."

On account of these statements, the plans are being approved in their original form by the Naval Staff. Copy of the T/P message l. Skl. I E 30359/44, Gkdos., to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II a.

b. The Naval Command North has submitted a fundamental order for the concentration and re-organization of the infantry battle forces of the Navy in the area of the Naval Command North to the Admiral Bay of Heligoland and the Second Admiral North Sea, with copy to Naval Staff Protocol, as per l Skl. 30409/44, Gkdos, to be found in File l Skl. I West. There will be newly appointed:

1. Staff for a Naval Rifle Brigade,
2. Staffs for 4 Naval Rifle Regiments,
3. 4 fully equipped Naval Rifle Battalions,
4. 4 Naval Replacement Battalions,
5. Landing Defense Batteries, after the directive of the Admiral Bay of Heligoland,
6. 4 Naval Rifle Battalions, for the reinforcement of the islands,
7. Training Units for prospective recruits in rear station.

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IV. Subject: West Area:

. Upon request of the Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff, the Command General, Armed Forces West has agreed that the authority to dispose of the Naval Special Service Personnel in the area of the Commanding General, Armed Forces West is re-transferred to the competent Ops. Headquarters of the Navy. However, no decrease in the coastal defenses must be caused by this. With the exception of the Naval Fortress Engineer Staff Major Riebau, a transfer of the Naval Fortress Engineer Units is not yet possible at present with regard to the consolidation of the positions in the West ordered by the Fuehrer, however, it is being aimed at the transfer.

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V. Subject: Southeastern Area:

In view of the development of the situation in the Southeastern Area, the Naval Staff deems the time to be appropriate for the lifting of the barrage plan "Fliegenpilz" and for releasing the mine material provided for the barrage in order to protect the last communications at sea in the Aegean. The Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces (Navy) is requested accordingly to grant right away the approval for the lifting of the measure "Fliegenpilz".

Copy of the order l. Skl. I E 3170/44, Gkdos. Chefs., to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.

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VI. Subject: Submarine Warfare:

The Submarine Division, Naval Staff, Commanding Admiral, Submarines, has transmitted for information the Operation Order "Atlantic" No. 57 for the submarines in the Atlantic. Protocol, as per l. Skl. 30393/44, Gkdos., to be found in File l. Skl. I u.

Among other details, the order reads as follows:

"The principal task of the submarine - destruction of the enemy tonnage and its cargo by attacks against merchant and naval forces - remains unchanged also under the present situation of the

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submarine warfare.

Furthermore, every commander must be conscious of the fact that his action - even in the case that he should not succeed in reaching results - is absolutely required in order to fulfil the second important task of the submarine warfare "to bind enormous forces of the enemy as to the material and personnel at sea and in the air, in bases, in shipyards and in production center."

Despite all precaution which has become necessary for the submarines on their passages, the submarine has proved again and again her strength in an attack under the operation of determined commanders. In the fight on shallow waters near the coast, in the battle against convoys and in single fights in the Atlantic against the strongest escort, the submarine has carried out her tasks and gained results. Under the continuous exploitation of all available resources, the best weapons possible at present are being placed at the disposal of the submarines for attack and defense. It is the most important responsibility of any submarine Commander to utilize these weapons for a successful attack during an encounter with the enemy."

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VII. According to a report of a German Captain on a steamer, the Swedish Authorities are impounding all war material (weapons, explosives) on board of ships calling at Swedish Ports, and return it just immediately before the departure. Therefore, it is possible that the material is examined in the meantime by Swedish Technicians and that information on this is forwarded to the Agent Service of the enemy.

The Mining and Barrage Office is requested by the Operations Division, Naval Staff to check immediately whether it would be possible to lead the noise boxes aboard German merchant men in a way that an unauthorized dismantling can be detected immediately and beyond any doubt. With that, it must be secured that the lead sets are fitted so that any tearing or damage is impossible during the transport, since otherwise the enemy would at once use this as an excuse. In the case that such a measure is possible, the Mining and Barrage Office is requested to speed up the necessary action.

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Furthermore, it is considered to be suitable not to equip the ships proceeding to the neutral foreign countries with noise boxes fitted with a mandoline head or with whistle buoys, but merely with noise boxes of which it can be expected that they have become known anyway to the enemy by the losses suffered in the Western and Southern Area.

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VIII. With regard to the distribution of mine exploding vessels (see War Diary 28 Sept.), the Naval Staff makes the following decision:

"1. The assessment submitted by the Naval Commands yields: The Naval Command North can give up 4 mine exploding vessels out of 11 available, in the case that 2 motor minesweepers each are attached to every mine exploding vessel. - At present, the motor minesweepers are building the greatest bottle-neck in the area of the Naval Command East. - An exchange against mine exploding vessels of the Commanding Admiral, North Sea Defenses will not be possible before the newly constructed flotilla has been assigned.

2. On account of paragraph 1., the exchange is postponed until at least one flotilla of motor minesweepers "43" has become available, and is made dependent on the general situation which has arisen then."

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IX. The Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff has established the Enemy Situation Report No. 19/44 as of 1 Oct. 1944. Protocol, as per l. Skl. 30486/44, Gkdos., to be found in War Diary, Part D, Vol 8 b.

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X. The Special Radio Intercept Report No. 40/44 of the Naval Communications Division Naval Staff III contains a composition of the enemy news picked up by radio-decoding and radio reconnaissance during the period 25 Sept. to 1 Oct. 1944.

Reference: Page 9: The Headquarters 19th Group has not been transferred to Hartlepool, but is still located at Plymouth.



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The actions of the 16th Group with aircraft - torpedoes and aircraft armament against the German Shipping are extending from the Dutch Coast farther and farther into the Bay of Heligoland up to the Weser Mouth and the Jade Bay. Probably, the planes are escorted by fighters. According to radio traffic, the action was not increased compared with the previous weeks; the reconnaissance action was concentrated during night hours.

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I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

29 planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, and 8 planes at the 19th Group. 2 British vessels were located in the grid square A L.

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2. Own Situation:

Situation in the Fortresses:

Lorient:

The northern and western section were lying under short and sudden bursts of enemy fire. The own artillery fire was directed against an anti-aircraft artillery position at the west bank of the Leita and the bridge at Hennebont. An enemy reconnaissance sweep against the eastern section was beaten back. The enemy used rocket shells fitted with propellant and guide wings.

St. Nazaire:

The own artillery attacked enemy movements east of Cordemais and added serious losses to the enemy. Under the escort of harbor defense vessels, further 46 horned cattle were brought in from the Loire Islands. At the same time, the boats

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fired at enemy positions east of Cordemais with observed result. Several enemy attacks against the eastern and southern defense lines have been beaten back.

An own assault detachment operation was successful.

La Rochelle:

On 5 Oct., the Army Battery on Oleron Island was taken under fire from land. The Battery "Iltis" returned the fire. An observed concentration of enemy forces was dispersed by artillery fire.

No particular reports have newly arrived from the Gironde Fortresses.

Dunkirk:

The armistice was finished at 1000. Sudden bursts of fire were started immediately and directed against the entire outer area of the fortress. Besides that, raids were made by fighter bombers. The own artillery attacked enemy batteries and concentrations of enemy forces that had been detected.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

A. Bay of Heligoland:

From 1015 to 1430 enemy bomber formations were attacked by Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery in all sections of the Bay of Heligoland, from Brunsbuettel up to Brokum. Enemy bombs were dropped on some places. One plane was shot down.

During a noon-raid on Hamburg, the Army Depot at Glinde was set afire. A bombing carpet of minor extent was dropped on the submarine base of Muetzelburg. The building U VI/1 was damaged. The boat-harbor with sailing vessels was destroyed. Another bombing carpet of minor extent was dropped on the German Shipyard at Finkenwerder where one building was also heavily damaged.

From 2019 to 2046, a heavy air raid was made on Bremem. The Navy Office and the Haus des Reiches were set afire. The fire

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in the shipbuilding hall of the Deschimag Shipyard has partly been extinguished. 2 stores of the Naval Rations Depot were destroyed. The Hansa Mill suffered fire damages. The Deschimag Barracks of the 6th Warship Construction Acquaintance Detachment have partly burned down. Further fires have been reported in the quarters of the Navy Local Administration Office and Naval Engineer Office.

At noon, the light-vessel D on the Weser River was set afire by fighter bombers with aircraft armament. The ship has been towed-in after the fire was extinguished.

3 mines were cleared on the outer Elbe River. The lower Elbe River has been blocked. The blocking of the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal will take probably a few days. The patrol positions in the Bay of Heligoland were occupied.

B. Dutch Coast:

Enemy planes were attacked by Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery in the area of North Holland during the entire day. Off Hoek of Holland, the patrol boat VP "1303" and the block-ship "Nasovia" were attacked in vain by fighter bombers. Another unsuccessful low-flying attack was directed against the barrage off Hoek of Holland. One plane was shot down.

At 1155, the hospital ship "Zrd 14" was attacked by planes near Plaat Oude Tonge. The burning ship has driven ashore and beached; casualties were suffered.

During the night of 5 Oct., a convoy on the Zuider Sea got lost in a storm. 2 searching sweepers putting to sea were fired at by Mosquito planes; one of them was slightly damaged.

All escort tasks and the minesweeping works scheduled for the night of 6 Oct. to 7 Oct. have been revoked due to the stormy weather condition.

C. Southern Holland:

In the forenoon, the seaport of Dordrecht was unsuccessfully attacked by enemy planes. The port area of Flushing was lying under enemy artillery fire at about 1000 in the forenoon and from 1600 on.

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During the night of 5 Oct., the K-Flotilla 214 was put into action in connection with the operation "Kameraden". A report on the result has not been received yet.

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Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

In the area of the 18th Group, only 8 planes were detected during action. At 0217, an American vessel was detected by Hammerfest in 310°.

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2. Own Situation:

In the area of the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast, several AT-mines were cut during a check-sweep of the Feiestedin Channel on 4 Oct. On 5 Oct., 4 British submarine mines "Mark T 3" with a ZE-fitting of 22 days were salvaged at sea in the same channel. Therefore, 4 total losses suffered on 26 and 27 Sept. were caused by mines.

Two of the dropped enemy mines that were found ashore on 4 Oct. in the area of the Oslo Fjord are of the newest type unknown so far.

19 ships each were escorted to the North and to the South.

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III. Skager-Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

At 0805, 11 small and midget vessels were sighted in the Kassar Bay. The enemy landing operation on the Osel Island was carried out at Taaliku, Lunia, Orisaar, Moondamm, Nenu and Kieru.

According to air reconnaissance, several merchant men were sighted in the northern Gulf of Bothnia, south of Tornio. On

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4 Oct. our own air forces have set afire a merchantman of 3000 BRT. During the air raid on the roads of Ahrensburg, 4 enemy planes were shot down.

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2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skager-Rak:

On mineclearing duty, 24 boats were put into action in the Baltic Sea entrances, and 3 boats at the western coast of Jutland. 4 mines were cleared in the northern exit of the Sound, 3 mines in the Samsø Belt, and 1 mine each in the southern exit of the Sound, near Grenaa and near Arnholt.

The Commander, Minelayers with the "Emden" and the 5th Destroyer Flotilla has carried out the mine task XXXII A in the Skagerak according to plans and has entered the Oslo Fjord at noon.

The cruiser "Koeln" has been assigned to the Admiral Skager-Rak.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

8 boats and 2 mine exploding vessels were put into action for mineclearing duty. The mine exploding vessel 22 was damaged during the clearing of a mine north of Hela. In the evening of 5 Oct., the steamer "Neptun" (1594 BRT) sinking after a mine hit northeast of Darsserort was reached by a salvage ship.

At 1008, the convoy SAT "Ostsee" with the training vessels "Nordstern" and "Nautik" was attacked by an enemy submarine west of Memel. The "Ostsee" has outflanked a torpedo. The Commanding Admiral Baltic Defenses has declared the area east of 17° East as dangerous because of submarines. The 3rd Defense Flotilla has been ordered to carry out an increased submarine hunt.

Beginning at 1115, about 350 enemy bombers with fighter escort approached the area of Stettin via the western Baltic Sea. At 1300, a raid of medium strength was made on Stralsund by 120 bombers. The raid was concentrated at the port and the Rügen Dike. The survey ship "Triton" was sunk. The barracks, the powerstation of the town and the water supply lines have been damaged or have broken down, respectively.

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Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea:

The destroyers Z "23 and Z "28" have discontinued the reconnaissance duties and entered Libau.

In order to impede the enemy landing operation at the northwestern coast of the Osel Island from the Kassar Bay, the fouling of the Cape Toffri has been intended by 2 PT boats. At the same time, 2 other PT boats are to foul the Worms-Nuckoe Channel with LMB-mines and attack thereafter with torpedoes the vessels lying at the pier in Lechtma, as well as the freighters on the roads as far as those are present.

At 1038, 4 enemy planes have unsuccessfully attacked the patrol boat VP "1706" in the Irben Strait. One attacking plane was shot down. At 1520, 20 bombers attacked and damaged the patrol boat VP "303" in the grid square AO 6545.

The convoy routes in the eastern Baltic Sea have been shifted to shallow waters because of the submarine danger.

The transports and convoys have been carried out according to plans.

Five submarines have gone into position off the exit of the Gulf of Finland. A sixth boat is standing northwest of Dagoe.

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IV. Submarine Warfare:

In the Northern Waters, the submarine "U 313" was ordered to continue imperceptibly the patrol in the outer Kola Bay.

The two submarines that had been ordered back from the northern Gulf of Bothnia occupied the attacking area south of Koekar Fjord and the Nashorn Guard, respectively.

The submarine U "242" has put to sea for carrying out a mine task southeast of the Kaldoe Fjord.

No particular reports have been received from the other operational areas.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

Western Area:

The photograph reconnaissance made by own planes on 5 Oct. over Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth yielded no particular results. Compared with 11 Sept., the increase in small vessels is not worth to be mentioned.

On 6 Oct., the enemy carried out a strong action with fighter bombers and fighters during the day in the area of Holland. From the same area, only a little action of long-range night fighters was reported for the night of 6 Oct.

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Reich Territory:

From 0710 to 1600, approximately 600 enemy sorties were reported over North-, Northwest-, West- and Southwest Germany. The activity was concentrated at the lefthand area of the Rhine and the industrial area of the Rhineland - Westfalia.

Beginning at 1640, approximately 300 bombers with fighter planes entered the Reich for making raids on Scholven, Gelsenkirchen and Recklinghausen. The Hydrogenation Plant of Scholven suffered damages of medium extent, while the Hydrogenation Plant of Holten was hit. Details are missing.

Beginning at 1020, approximately 1000 enemy planes entered the Bay of Heligoland proceeding from there in 2 separate groups. The first group consisting of about 700 planes and fighter escort raided Hamburg with 300 planes, and Berlin with 400 planes. The second group consisting of 300 bombers and fighter escort entered the area of Stettin and raided Stettin, Stralsund and the airfields of Stargard and Neubrandenburg. As a screen to the South, further fighter formations were put into action in Northwest Germany. For details on the damages in Berlin, Stralsund, Stettin, Hamburg look up the Situation of the Day.

During the night of 6 Oct., approximately 100 enemy planes approached via North-, Northwest- and West Germany. About 250 four-engined planes were put into action via the Bay of Heligoland for raiding Bremen. About 400 four-engined planes raided Dortmund.

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From the south about 30 planes entered Hungary.

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Mediterranean Theater:

At 0630, bomber formations had started on 5 Oct. in the area of Southern Italy over the Adriatic Sea and were ordered back at 0900. No particular action reports otherwise.

On 4 Oct., own planes were on reconnaissance duty in the Adriatic Sea.

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Eastern Area:

At the Eastern Front, 169 own and 567 enemy sorties were counted on 5 Oct.; 1 plane got lost on our side, and 9 enemy planes were shot down.

Own airplanes were on reconnaissance duty over the Gulf of Bothnia and the Gulf of Finland. For details on the observation see the Situation of the Day.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean Sea and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

At noon of 5 Oct., a cruiser of the "Cairo"-Type has departed from Gibraltar for the Mediterranean Sea.

According to radio reconnaissance, the "Elonor Walley" reported a mine hit in the grid square C H 3613 at 1530, on 6 Oct. It was reported at 1607 that it was doubtful to keep the ship afloat.

Due to weather reasons, no reconnaissance action was carried out in the sea area of Toulon - Ligurian Sea in the afternoon and at night. The usual action of patrol vessels was detected by gear.



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Own Situation:

The escort duty was carried out according to plans during the night of 5 Oct. The action of 4 minelaying naval landing craft for carrying out the mine task "Heinrich" at the east coast was discontinued due to weather reasons.

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2. Area of the Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

At 0630 on 5 Oct. continuous attacks with rockets were made on a convoy of naval landing craft between Trieste and Venice. One naval landing craft was damaged. On the same day, an enemy battery on the Brac Island fired 30 rounds at the own battery at Omes, and 50 rounds at the own battery at Macarsca. During a raid made by 16 fighter bombers on the battery of Zlarin North, one attacking plane was shot down.

During the night of 4 Oct., a mopping-up operation was started on the Veglia Island by the Harbor Headquarters Fiume.

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b. Aegean Sea:

Enemy destroyers which had taken under fire the Naval Signal Station Giorgio withdrew under a smoke cover in the morning of 6 Oct. During the afternoon, 5 vessels entered Proos. At midnight, the Giorgio Island was still in our hands and engaged in fights. Northwest of Phleves, enemy minesweepers were taken under fire and withdrew under a smoke cover.

A formation of carriers was again sighted during the day south of Levitha Island. Levitha Island was fired at by 2 vessels before noon. The communication with the island was interrupted at 1300.

According to a French broadcast report, Allied Airforces are on the Rhodos Island.

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The enemy reconnaissance activity in the Aegean Sea was normal. 30 Mustang planes raided airfields in the area of Athens. 6 enemy planes were shot down, and 4 of our own planes got lost so far. In the Burtzi Passage, altogether 6 mines were cleared so far.

At 2300, probably 3 enemy destroyers had a fight with our own submarine chasing forces in the southern exit of the Gulf of Salonika. After the exchange of fire, 3 explosions were observed. Losses have probably been suffered, details have not become known yet.

The Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea reports the attitude of the enemy still incalculable. At present, enemy forces are being concentrated in the eastern Aegean Sea.

The Commander 9th Torpedo Boat Flotilla reported after the arrival of the boats that they were continuously followed by radar location and reported by planes during the departure from Phleves. At the northern tip of Zea Island, 3 enemy destroyers were sighted, an own formation could withdraw from these destroyers by keeping closely at the coast.

The flanking minefield at Agios - Giorgio has been laid according to plans with the exception of the last part section; the minefield on the Swedish course between Giorgio and Zea Island was also laid according to plans by 2 torpedo boats. Besides that, the last gap between Aegina and Phleves has been blocked. With that, the stock of the Mining and Barrage Command Skaramanga has been depleted with the exception of 64 mines which are supposed to be laid as minefield in the entering course of the Piraeus.

The port of Patras was destroyed and fouled with mines on 4 Oct. according to plans. On 5 Oct., the evacuation of Rhion and Antirhion was carried out under enemy pressure according to plans. The part-evacuation of Syra has been started in the evening of 5 Oct.

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c. Situation in the Danube Area:

During the night of 4 Oct., another 25 mines were

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dropped between the kilometer points 1866 and 1728, 7 of which were observed ashore. 8 mines have been reported cleared. The Danube has been blocked from Bratislava up to the kilometer point 1679. One naval landing craft with a cargo of mines departing from Neusatz was fired at from the Banat Bank, at the kilometer point 1190. The ammunition room was set a-fire, the ship beached. After the fire had been extinguished, the ship entered Beograd. The Russians have occupied the Banat Bank from the kilometer point 1191 up to the Tisza Mouth. At the kilometer point 1204, probably the minelaying naval landing craft 1036 blew up into the air with its mine cargo.

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VII. Situation in East Asia:

Particular reports are not at hand.

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Items of Political Importance:

According to reports of British Agencies from Washington, it is said that Stalin has agreed to a new conference with Churchill and Roosevelt. The conference will take place in the near future.

In a broadcast election speech, Roosevelt declared that the war was not won yet. The German and Japanese resistance remained as determined as ever. However, the Allies would not stop just before their final aim. The Americans still intended to remain united with their allies in a powerful world organization which would be able to maintain the peace - if necessary by the use of force.

According to Reuter, also Churchill declared the British should not consider the situation being not serious because they felt that "the victory is certain." During the next months, much blood would still be shed.

The "Daily Mail" expresses sorrow that for the first time England has had indeed a fatal crop this year.

Portugal, Spain and Sweden are going to exchange diplomatic representatives with the Italian Bonomi Government.

According to a Swedish report the Article 3 of the Russian-Finnish Armistice Agreement concerning the demilitarization of the Aland Island is not yet to come into force for the time being.

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Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1115:

I. Subject: Situation West Area:

According to a report of the Commanding Admiral North Sea Defenses, the group of armed fishing vessels that had been put into action for the supply of Dunkirk within the scope of the operation "Kameraden" has several times run aground after having passed Deurloo Gat. The operation was discontinued since the connection with the "Linssan" was interrupted and the armed fishing vessels saw themselves endangered by them. At present, the tide situation is unfavorable. The earliest possible date for a repetition promising success is the 10th of Oct. (High water on the sands at 2030.).

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The Chief, Naval Command North reminds of the fact that the operation failed already twice (the first attempt was surprised by a guard in the Wislingen Gat), and suggests to desist anyway from the operation so that it would not be necessary to postpone any longer the entire closing of the Schelde Mouth by laying mines in the Deurloo Gat. It will not be possible anymore for a long space of time to supply mines and to carry out loading at Flushing.

One group of the Battle Flotilla 214 was put into action as escort for the group of armed fishing vessels during the night of 5 Oct. 4 groups of the Flotilla were supposed to attack the enemy minesweeping formations off the coast of Flanders. Shortly after the departure, the escorting group was taken under fire by harbor defense vessels being at sea, due to a distribution fault of the Sea Defense Commandant Southern Holland. 2 "Linsen" were sunk. By the weather condition becoming unfavorable, the execution of the tasks was made impossible for all groups being at sea. Up to 0500 of 6 Oct., 26 "Linsen" had returned, and 14 were blown up within the own sphere of influence. For a copy of the short action report see T/P message 2130.

The Commander in Chief of the Navy who has been informed on the proposal of the Chief, Naval Command North decides that the operation "Kameraden" be carried out beginning on 10 Oct.

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II. Subject: Situation in the Baltic Sea:

At 0400, the Commander 24th Landing Craft Flotilla reported that the Army intended to evacuate Ahrensburg.

By order of the Chief of the Naval Staff, the Naval Liaison Officer with the General Staff of the Army who is present at the discussion points out the consequences of this step in a telephone conversation with the General Staff of the Army, General Wenk. General Wenk replies that the defense of Ahrensburg and Sworbe by all means is being aimed at, however, he doubts himself whether the forces will be sufficient for this purpose. The peninsula of Sworbe, however, should definitely be defended.

At the same time, the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters is to bring

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about an order from the Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces demanding the defense of the place and port of Ahrensburg, since otherwise the withdrawal of the German service personnel running up to about 15 000 men would be questionable.

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III. Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

a. The 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla has been put into action by the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea for the speeded-up transport of 3500 men from Riga to Memel. The situation at Memel is dangerous.

b. The transport of the civil population from the Channel Islands which would be possible as far as the supply with fuel is concerned has been postponed for the time being since the attempt is being made to obtain the supply from the International Red Cross.

The Chief of the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff commends to support the action by propaganda. The Chief of the Naval Staff agrees to forward a corresponding hint to the Armed Forces High Command.

c. The Armed Forces High Command has decided that the assignment of the Rear-Admiral Michahelles as Fortress Commander Gironde North and of Colonel Pohlmann as Fortress Commander Gironde South is maintained. The assignment of a new Fortress Commander for Gironde South as requested by Colonel Pohlmann has been disapproved. Colonel Pohlmann has to appoint a suitable Officer of the Army as his representative for the duration of his illness.

d. On 5 and 6 Oct., Russian submarines were detected beyond doubt in the northern Baltic Sea. The Naval Command East reports the following possibilities for the defense against the submarines:

"1. For the security of the naval and merchant ships traffic, the prescribed route for convoys will have to run north of Memel. In the case that the forces are insufficient for this,

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ships of minor importance and small vessels will have to proceed at night without escort from port to port.

2. For the security of the training and exercise service, no force can be made available from the Naval Command East. Therefore, the protection must be carried out by the training units and naval formations themselves."

Thorough considerations taken by the Operations Division, Naval Staff have led to the conclusion that the deduction of further vessels from schools and inspectorates is out of question and that a weakening of the defense forces belonging to the Naval Command Norway is not possible either. For the time being, the Naval Command Norway must give up the re-transfer of the 3 motor minesweepers and 3 patrol vessels that had temporarily been placed at the disposal of the Naval Command East. Despite acknowledging the existing lack of forces, the situation might however bring about the necessity of transferring suitable vessels from the North Sea to the Baltic Sea for the submarine hunt.

The Naval Command North is requested to report as soon as possible.

aa. which forces are provided for a transfer to the Naval Command East if the necessity arises,

bb. which reactions are caused by the transfer,

cc. how long the re-transfers from the area of Holland which are being made at present will probably be accomplishable.

The Naval Command East can still dispose of mine stocks so that the action of this defensive weapon against submarines is also possible up to a certain extent.

IV. Naval War Staff, Special Weapons Branch: Report on performance improvements of the 2-men submarine "Seehand II". The range is supposed to be increased up to 750-800 nautical miles. 35 boats are being expected in October, and 60 boats each in November and December. The first front-line action has been scheduled for the beginning of December. Practically all ports of the eastern coast of England can be reached by the new "Seehunde". For the "Seehunde I", mainly a defensive action

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has been taken into consideration. The Chief of the Naval Staff points at the area of the Lofoten Islands.

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V. Chief, Operations, Division, Naval Staff: The British answer on the inquiry concerning the action of the hospital ship "Berlin" in the French Atlantic Ports is unsatisfactory. Besides, the "Berlin" is indispensable at present in the Baltic Sea. Details on this matter to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. VIII.

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In a highly restricted circle:

VI. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff: Report on the condition of the port of Cherbourg on account of radio-reports from a contact man left behind in Cherbourg.

The enemy reports the occupation of Samos Island and a landing operation on Rhodos Island.

For the starting of ship-borne planes, the British Navy is using rocket firing.

The Prime Minister of the Netherlands has pointed at an imminent famine which will arise due to the strike of railroad workers and the flooding measures.

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VII. Army Situation:

Western Front:

Fierce fighting is going on in the area of the 15th Army. The own attacks north of Antwerp did not succeed.

In the area of Arnhem, the own attacks against the stern and strong enemy did not reach the result aimed at; the enemy himself started counter-attacks.

In the area north of Aachen, the Americans continued their offensive under the engagement of fresh forces and extended their

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breakthrough in spite of the loss of more than 50 tanks.

The enemy pressure in the lower Vosges Mountains is continuing with concentration at Remiremont.

Italian Front:

Due to the bad weather condition, local fighting took place only.

Balkan:

A vivid fighting activity is going on at the Macedonian Front.

At the pass-road of Kriva Palanka, a strong enemy attack supported by tanks and ground-attack planes was beaten back.

South of the Danube River, the single fights are going on. The own bridgehead north of the Danube River, near Beograd, was attacked by strong enemy forces and partly pushed back.

Eastern Front:

The enemy started with several Tank and Cavalry Corps the expected major offensive from the area north of Arad, broke through the Hungarian positions in a width of 120km, crossed the railroad from Nagyvarad to Szeged, and advanced with his patrol detachments in a depth of 50 km up to the Koerves Section (Schnelle River Area) near Endroed.

In the area of Klausenburg and Naumarkt, local enemy attacks remained in the main unsuccessfully.

After a temporary decrease of the enemy attacking activity, the enemy pressure increased beginning at noon near the Beskids Pass and on either side of the Cziwka Valley Pass. South of the Dukla Pass, the enemy followed only hesitatingly the withdrawal movements made for straightening the front-line. At the Narev River, north of Warsaw, we succeeded by fierce fighting in taking the southern part of the bridgehead north of Serock and in defending it against strong counter-attacks.

Yesterday, the enemy started a counter-attack also in the area

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of Raseiniai and gained breakthroughs of a depth of 20 km. Artillery Defensive Positions were overrun after the batteries had been made silent.

Between Kelmen and Vickonia, the enemy succeeded in breaking through the Windau Position that had just been occupied and in reaching with tanks the area east of Warnen. Further north, the Soviets pushed back our troops up to Tryskiai.

The own forces are split-up and are building local centers of resistance only, off which the Russians at first come to a halt, however, with their forces they outflank irresistibly these islands on the left and right and overflow them afterwards.

Despite a strong enemy pressure, the withdrawal movements of the 16th Army east of Riga are taking place according to plans. Undoubtedly, Riga will be abandoned now, and a defense line will have to be occupied near Tukum. The decision is still open.

The occupational force of Osel Island is fighting with delaying tactics against the superior enemy supported by tanks in the eastern and middle part of the island.

VIII. Chief, Quartermaster Division: The "Tirpitz" reports that a number of shipyard works has still to be continued after the transfer. For this purpose, it would be necessary to transfer the auxiliary depot ship "Lockstaedt", the auxiliary warship "Neumark", the diving tender "Frauke", the 20 ton-floating crane and the picket boat "Bjoernefjord". The "Neumark" will later on be retransferred to the 4th Destroyer Flotilla in the Kvaenangen-Fjord.

The transfer of the "Tirpitz" is to be started on 15 Oct.

IX. Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

a. The Naval Command Norway intends in connection with the eastbound convoy to put into action the 4th Destroyer Flotilla on the next occasion in the area of the outer Varanger Fjord. Main task: Destruction of the enemy PT boats; secondary task: Training of the crews under war-like conditions. The approval is requested.

The Naval Staff agrees as far as the required training of the crews under war-like conditions is concerned. It is pointed

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out, however, that

a. the protection of the transfer of the "Tirpitz" and of the movements of the "Nordlicht" operation will be the main task of the 4th Destroyer Flotilla during the next months.

b. as long as the convoys at the open coast are not attacked by stronger enemy surface forces (destroyers) than by submarines, PT boats, mines and planes, the defense forces of the Admiral Arctic Coast are more suitable for the escort of these convoys than relatively heavy and valuable own destroyers.

The relevant T/P message l. Skl. I op 30443/44, Gkdos., to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II a.

b. The Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces has agreed to the proposed revocation of the barrage plan "Fliegenpilz".

The Operations Division, Naval Staff informs the Group South and the Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea adding that the provided mine-laying material will be released for other tasks serving the protection of the sea communications in the Aegean Sea.

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X. In view of the possibility of an unexpectedly fast development in the situation in the Eastern Area, the Chief of the Naval Staff orders to inform the Naval Command East of the fact that an appropriate action would be secured in the case that deductions of troops from Riga and the Sworbe Peninsula become necessary. It is further necessary that the action of the 2nd Task Force is taken into consideration. It is not being deemed appropriate to draw the large ships into the Bay of Riga for an action around the Sworbe Peninsula; eventually an engagement of the Group from the West against the Sworbe Peninsula will be taken into consideration.

A submarine hunt training is to be organized immediately in the Baltic Sea. A decision concerning the movements of our coastal batteries is appropriately postponed yet in order to watch the development of the situation.

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At 1700, the Commander In Chief, Navy is informed by the Naval Staff on the essential items of the foregoing discussion as well as on questions having arisen in the meantime.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. The Fleet Training Unit informs the Naval Staff on the order that has been issued by order of the Commanding Admiral Fleet in compliance with the training procedure of Captains submarines established with regard to the submarine danger in the Baltic Sea. Copy, as per l. Skl. 30513/44, Gkdos., to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

b. The Naval Staff issues the following directive to the Naval Command East, the Admiral Commanding Submarines, the Fleet, the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea and the Commanding Admiral Central Baltic Sea, with copy to the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters:

"The development of the situation ashore requires preparatory measures for the evacuation of Libau and Memel. The issue of the catchword "Weissdorn" is not intended yet. However, a short-timed transfer of the training units must be possible, effective immediately."

c. Furthermore, the Naval Command is issued an order demanding that merchant men which are calling at Swedish ports be furtheron equipped with GBT's (turbine noise boxes). GBT's fitted with a mandoline head or whistle buoys will not be used.

d. Besides that, the attention of the Naval Command East is directed to the fact that an attempt of the enemy to break through the Irben Channel is soon to be expected on account of the development of the situation on the Baltic Islands and on the mainland. Therefore, the speeded-up execution of the barrage measures as ordered by the Naval Staff on 29 Sept. is required. Upon establishment of the plan, the evacuation of Osel Island (Sworbe Peninsula) which might become necessary, and the possibility of re-transfers on a large scale for the Bay of Riga will have to be taken into consideration. Copy of T/P message l. Skl. I North 3194/44, Gkdos. Chfs., to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol III.

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•. The Naval Command East reports with regard to the submarine danger in the Baltic Sea:

"1. Due to the general situation, the organization of a Submarine Hunt Flotilla as provided in the assessment of the situation Naval Command East, Ops. Staff, Gkdos. Chfs., 950/44 dated 2 Oct., is not possible from own forces.

2. Due to the same reasons, it is not possible to carry out the protection of the training and exercise service.

3. If not at least 2 Submarine Hunt Flotillas can be made available from other areas, the reinforcement of forces would be possible only by a recourse to the vessels of the Admiral Commanding Submarines, the Director General Trepido Schools and the Communications Experimental Command which are suitable for the defense of submarines. The consequence, however, would be the discontinuation of the entire training and exercise service what would be unbearable for the total warfare.

4. Therefore, the only solution would be a thorough check of the shipping pool of the Air Force for suitable vessels.

The attention is directed to the telephone conversation between the Air Force Liaison Officer, Naval Command East and the Chief, Operations Division Naval Staff of 6 Oct.

5. In order to utilize the available forces in the most reasonable way, it is intended to divide the exercise areas of the Admiral Commanding Submarines Fleet, Schools and Inspectorates into degrees of priority so that they may be supervised according to their priority. There, the forces are to be combined and put into action. (Building of concentration points.)"

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II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. The Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces orders that the withdrawal movement of the 20th Mountain Army into the area of the Lyngen Fjord - Narvik as ordered on 4 Oct. be given the cover-name "Nordlicht".

b. The Commander in Chief of the Naval Command Norway reports with regard to "Nordlicht":

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"The 20th Mountain Army Command has demanded such short-timed deadlines and such extensive transport tasks that the accomplishable part can be carried out only under the condition that the Naval Command, Superintending Sea Transport Officer is immediately authorized to supervise alone the sea transports for the entire area of Norway, complying with the regulation provided for the A-case. An immediate decision is requested."

The Commander in Chief of the Navy decides that no further orders be issued from here to the Superintending Sea Transport Officer and the Reich Commissar for Shipping before the discussion scheduled to be held on 9 Oct., all the more as the directives given in the order of the Armed Forces High Command for "Nordlicht" are also sufficient.

c. At 2050, the Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces (Navy) transmits the following:

"With regard to the beginning of Russian major attacks at the front of the 20th Mountain Army, the Fuehrer demands a speeded-up report of the Navy on the intentions concerning "Nordlicht", especially on the tonnage dispositions.

1. How many ships will be transferred to the Arctic Coast for the execution of "Nordlicht."

a. from the area of Norway,

b. from the other sea areas:

2. When may the arrival of the ships at the Arctic Coast be expected? A time schedule will be reported."

The answer will be given by the Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division. The Operations Division, Naval Staff is informed.

d. The Naval Command Norway has provided a distribution of the Anti-aircraft Defenses, that have been so far in the Kvaenangen Fjord, between the new operational area of "Tirpitz" and the Bogen Fjord. After a discussion of the matter with the Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division the Ops. Div., Naval Staff agrees to this proposal of the Naval Command Norway. The Quartermaster Division will deal with the matter.

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e. The Naval Command Norway is requested by telephone

1. to submit by a T/P message immediately an action report on the air raid against Bergen on 4 Oct., and

2. to wire propositions for the consolidation of the air defenses of Bergen and Trondheim based on the experiences made in Bergen.

Acknowledgement is made by a T/P message of the Chief of the Naval Staff, 1. Skl. Nord 30479/44, Gkdos. Copy to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. X.

f. The Naval Command Norway has turned in the following requests under reference to the increased ferry traffic in the Lyngen Fjord: Information on the number of naval landing craft probably to be expected; speeded-up transfer of the ferries to the Norwegian Area; re-transfer of the 3 motor minesweepers and 3 patrol vessels that were temporarily assigned to the Naval Command; new assignment of artillery naval landing craft.

The Naval Staff decides as follows:

"1. The Naval Command North has been issued an order speedily to transfer the 2nd Artillery Flotilla, which is positioned at present in the area of the Netherlands, to Norway.

2. The transport naval landing craft in the North Sea and Baltic Sea, inclusively the major portion of the Flotillas under the Admiral, Sea Command Stations, are in action at present in the eastern Baltic Sea for assisting the Army in the battle for the Baltic Islands. A deduction of these arises no change in the situation. The Naval Command East will survey once more, in cooperation with the Commander 1st Landing Craft Division, whether the deduction of single vessels is possible.

Additional note to 1. and 2.:

The Naval Staff intends to make an allotment of naval landing craft and artillery ferries becoming available from the new production. The dates for the delivery of the artillery ferries cannot be surveyed yet. 6 naval landing craft are to be expected in October.

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3. Due to the increased tension in the situation in the eastern Baltic Sea and to the showing-up of Russian submarines in the central Baltic Sea, the deduction of the 3 motor mine-sweepers and 2 patrol vessels placed at the disposal of the Naval Command East is not possible either at present, but depends on the availability of the 12th Minesweeping Flotilla (New Construction Flotilla)."

The Naval Chief Command North and the Admiral Netherlands, with copy to the Commanding Admiral North Sea Defenses and Naval Command Norway, are issued the following directive:

"The 2nd Artillery Flotilla being at present in the area of the Netherlands is subordinated to the Naval Command Norway for carrying out a special task. The flotilla is speedily to be transferred to Norway. The departure will be reported."

III. Subject: South Eastern Area:

a. The Armed Forces High Command Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces sends the following radio message:

"In view of the development in the situation at Beograd, the Command General, Armed Forces Southeast has turned in a request for withdrawing the main defense line from the coast off the mountain passes (line running approximately over Seny, Knim, Livno, Mostar, Gacko) in order to make forces quickly available, i.e. withdrawal of the batteries, destruction of the ports and leaving little Croatian reconnaissance forces at the coast. The political effects concerning Croatia will be examined by the Foreign Office."

The Group South, with copy to Admiral Adriatic Sea, is issued a corresponding directive by the Naval Staff and is requested to submit a survey before 0900, 8 Oct., paying attention therein also to the transport problem of the Naval Units and the time required for the transport, as well as to the question of a further defense of the islands off Fiume.

b. On 5 Oct., the Group South informed the Operations Division, Naval Staff on a directive issued by the Commanding General, Armed Forces South East on 3 Oct. According to this directive, Greece, South Albania and South Macedonia are to be abandoned by order of the Fuehrer. Copy of the relevant T/P message complying with l. Skl. 3172/44, Gkdos, Chfs. to be found in File 1st l. Skl. I op II, 15.

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Situation 7 Oct. 1944:

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

5 planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, and 16 planes at the 19th Group. 5 British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

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2. Own Situation:

a. Area of the Atlantic Coast:

During the night of 6 Oct., a check on ground mines was carried out off Lorient by a harbor defense vessel and a patrol vessel. In the evening, 3 patrol vessels have departed from Lorient via Port Maria to St. Nazaire for transporting personnel and material.

b. Situation in the Fortresses:

Lorient:

Sudden bursts of fire were directed by heavy and medium enemy artillery against the precincts of the fortress and the main defense line in the northern and southern section. The own batteries attacked observed enemy concentrations and positions. An own assault detachment blew up a group of houses which was repeatedly occupied by the enemy near Hennebont.

St. Nazaire:

The artillery activity was vivid on both sides. Off the northeastern front, a new and heavy enemy battery was detected. The Battery Batz fired at troops quarters in St. Etienne. Harbor defense vessels fired at enemy positions near La Peille.

Gironde North:

Enemy quarters at the northern bank of the Soudre

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River were taken under artillery fire with observed result. The supply of corn from the area of Semussac is being continued. The supply of power and water from the outside has been interrupted since 6 Oct.; it has been restored by own means for the requirements of the fortress.

c. Channel Sea Area:

During the night of 7 Oct., a plane of the type "He 111" landed on the Channel Islands for supplying naval cipher material, artillery range tables and mail.

d. Situation at Dunkirk:

A continuous and vivid enemy artillery and mortar fire was lying on the entire fortified area. Besides that, single attacks of fighter bombers were reported. There was a vivid activity of own assault detachments. Our own artillery attacked infantry concentrations in the South East and single tanks.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

A. Bay of Heligoland:

Besides the reported damages, little fire damages in the shipyard of Blohm & Voss and in the aircraft works of Finkenwerder were additionally reported to have been caused during the air raid on Hamburg at noon of 6 Oct. It has additionally been reported on the air raid on Bremen in the evening of 6 Oct. that 2 large fires and 20 medium fires have arisen in the port. 3 vessels were damaged, 1 fire boat burned out.

Around noon of 7 Oct., mine droppings were observed on the Jade River. Returning planes from the area of the Baltic Sea were attacked by the heavy anti-aircraft artillery on Sylt Island and Heligoland.

At 2230, a patrol position northwest of Terschelling was attacked by enemy planes. The artillery ferry AF "76" was sunk by a bomb hit. The patrol vessel VP "1532" was damaged by a mine hit.

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B. Dutch Coast:

At 1330, the dike between Boulevard and the Anti-Aircraft Battery at Flushing-West was continuously raided in waves. At 1430, the battery received a direct hit. The ammunition was blown up. East of the Battery 4/810, the dike collapsed at 1450 due to bomb hits. At 1725, the water broke through between Boulevard and the Battery 3/810. The result cannot be surveyed yet. The enemy had put into action 300 bombers which dropped approximately 2000 bombs.

At Rotterdam, 2 newly constructed steamers were damaged by sabotage.

During the first week of October, 71 ships of 16 000 BRT and with 7 100 tons capacity were led into the Reich Territory via Groningen - Delfzijl. Approximately 20 000 tons were transported to the eastern ports of Zuider Sea and to Friesland, respectively, and 10 000 tons to the western Zuider Sea. The entrance at Emmerich has been blocked. The amount of goods of all parts of the Armed Forces and of the Civil Administration still to be transported to the Reich is estimated at far more than 200 000 tons.

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Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

18 planes were detected during action in the area of the 18th Group.

At 0222, a British vessel was inaccurately located at 40 nautical miles west of the North Fjord. Between 2200 and 2300, a U.S.A. vessel was detected at 270 nautical miles west of Mo, another one by Hammerfest in 307°.

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2. Own Situation:

In the area of the Admiral North Norwegian Coast, the

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steamer "Ilse Fritzen" (4883 BRT) ran aground south of Roervik on 6 Oct. at 1900. The salvage works have been arranged. The vessel F "221" ran aground near Trondhemsleden.

In the area of the Admiral West Norweigan Coast, the Norwegian steamer "Fjeld" (2960 BRT) touched ground in the Grimstad Fjord and beached.

9 ships were escorted to the North and 18 ships to the South.

According to a report of the Naval Liaison Officer with the Army Chief Command 20, the withdrawal movement of the 18th Army Corps has taken place according to plans so far. It is hoped by the Army Chief Command that Tornio will be re-occupied. An enemy attack on the Fischer Peninsula and a landing operation must be expected on account of different indications as well as of statements of prisoners of war.

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III. Skager-Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

The radio traffic detected in the Gulf of Finland the usual Staffs and Units on 6 Oct. Ahrensburg was occupied by the enemy on 7 Oct.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skager-Rak:

19 boats were put into action for mineclearing works. One mine each was cleared in the Aalborg Bay and in the Samsø Belt. An anti-submarine net barrage has newly been laid in two rows up to the Swedish Territory.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

45 boats and 2 mine exploding vessels were put into action for mine-clearing works. One mine each was cleared in the Bay of Danzig and the Bay of Mecklenburg, and 2 mines near the Falster Island. The blocking of the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal remains still in effect.

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Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea:

On 6 Oct., the port and the ships in Ahrensburg were continuously raided in waves by enemy planes with bombs and aircraft armament. Other attacks were directed against the escort unit in the Moon Sound and the group of armed fishing vessels at the northwestern coast of Osel Island. 9 of the attacking planes were shot down. More or less heavy damage was caused on our own boats.

On 7 Oct., at 0910, the mine exploding vessel "Amerland" was attacked by 6 enemy planes east of Domesues. One plane was shot down. At 0920, the patrol boat V "313" was hit by a bomb and suffered casualties. At 1245, 20 ground-attack planes attacked an own convoy northwest of Riga. The transport "Tanga" was damaged. One plane was shot down.

Effective as of the evening of 6 Oct., the 2nd Torpedo Flotilla has been transferred with 7 boats to Riga in order to carry out speeded-up troop transports from Riga to Memel.

At 1735, the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea reported that the Russians are advancing with direction to Memel where weak own forces are positioned only. It is urgently necessary to provide small vessels in order to evacuate to the Nehrung in the case of emergency.

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IV. Merchant Shipping:

The Reich Commissar for Shipping counts on the following shipments during the month of October:

Tonnage required for the Armed Forces Supplies and the supply of the war-economic industry in Norway:	approximately 348 000 tons.
War material to the Eastern Countries:	150 000 tons.
Additional coal transports of	70 000 tons.

Due to the changed situation, these amounts will be largely decreased. The ore shipments from Lulea and Oxeloe Sound have been dropped. A certain shipping will be maintained from the ports of Western Sweden to Germany.

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V. Submarine Warfare:

During the last 7 days, 3 submarines entered Norway having come from Western France.

The withdrawal of the 9 submarines that are at present still in the Atlantic will cause an emptiness in this sea area which has not been reached almost since 3 years. In order not to grant the enemy this complete relief, the Submarine Division, Naval Staff considers a speedy replacement to be urgently necessary. However, this will be possible at present only by the action of the submarines from the Central Group, since the transfer from the homeland has almost ceased for the time being. The risk which arises by this with regard to the protection of Norway must be put up with in the interest of the warfare in the Atlantic. Nevertheless, the replacement seems to be bearable at present, taking into consideration all circumstances of the enemy situation.

On request of the Naval Shore Commandant Loire, 2 submarines are loaded at Kiel with anti-tank weapons, special ammunition, medical dressing and other equipment. The boats will be ready for leaving on 7 Oct.

On 4 Oct., the submarine U "1227" reported a convoy consisting of 12 steamers in the grid square BF 3932 proceeding at a speed of 14 knots on west course. Due to the strong escort, an attack was not possible. One destroyer was probably sunk.

According to a report from Tokyo, the submarine U "168" got lost east of Semarang (Java Island). The commander has fallen. 22 men have been rescued so far.

No particular reports have arrived from the other operational areas.

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VI. Aerial Warfare:

Western Area:

No particular action reports to be noted.

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Reich Territory:

Approximately 250 - 300 enemy planes without fighter escort approached via Rotterdam and attacked Emmerich. During the day, 577 enemy planes were in action singly and in groups over North-, Northwest-, West- and Southwest Germany and carried out raids mainly with armament.

In the forenoon, between 0900 and 1000 bombers with fighter escort entered the area of Hameln and approached from here the area of Central Germany for attacking industrial targets. Dresden, Zwickau, Freiburg, Merseburg, Naumburg, Kassel and Bielefeld were raided, furthermore 12 Air Force Stations as well as trains and railway installations. For details see the Situation of the Day.

Some hundred bombers with fighter escort entered around noon the Baltic Sea having approached via the Bay of Heligoland and Jutland and raided the Hydrogenetic Plant of Poelitz with about 1000 high explosive bombs, 90% of which fell outside the works.

Coming from the South, several hundred bombers with fighter escort raided the oil industry and Air Force Stations in the area of Vienna.

During the night of 7 Oct., about 50 single planes were reported over North-, West- and Southwest Germany. Besides that, several planes were detected in the sea area of Heligoland.

Coming from the East, between 50 and 60 planes made raids on Breslau and in Upper Silesia.

Further raids were made in the Hungarian Area by about 30 enemy planes.

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Mediterranean Area:

Large actions were not reported. About 20 fighter planes attacked airfields in the area of Athens and lost 6 planes with that.

Eastern Area:

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On 6 Oct., 491 own and 2275 enemy sorties were reported at the Eastern Front; 11 own planes got lost, 29 enemy planes were shot down.

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VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean Sea and in the Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

At noon, 3 transports, 4 corvettes and 1 Italian submarine left Gibraltar for the Atlantic. Troops were on deck of 2 Dutch transports.

In the forenoon, a strong activity of patrol vessels was detected by gear off the French Riviera. A surfaced enemy submarine was unsuccessfully attacked with 2 torpedoes by the vessel RA "254" near Nervi.

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Own Situation:

At noon of 6 Oct., a battery in the Magra Mouth took the enemy main defense line under harassing fire. In the evening, a battery west of Spezia directed a sudden burst of fire against a concentration of gangs in the area northeast of the fortress.

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2. Area of the Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

According to the photograph reconnaissance of 4 Oct., the landing craft tonnage in Ancona was sufficient for about 2 divisions.

During the night of 4 Oct., numerous gangs attacked strong points on the roads between Trogir and Sibenik. During the night of 5 Oct., 2 Infantry Boats sank 9 boats of gangs near Biskupija and took in prize 5 other ones.



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In Albania, 3000 men have landed lately in Himara. In the port, there are probably stationed 4 destroyers and 2 transports. The supply traffic is vivid.

The Naval Battery on the castle of Durazzo was raided by gangs. The Navy and the Army suffered losses. The Battery was freed by alarm forces. Linguetta has been evacuated.

Own artillery attacked truck concentrations on the Brac Island.

In the evening of 7 Oct., the steamer "Adria" (366 BRT) sank in the fog off Trieste after a collision with the steamer "Ugliano."

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b. Aegean Sea:

No new reports were received from the carrier unit. According to a British broadcast report, Levitha was occupied by British landing parties. The landing operation took place under the protection of two British war ships. Other war ships fired anew at targets on Crete Island.

In the evening of 6 Oct., 2 destroyers were reported east of Agios - Giorgios. Between 0255 and 0345, 2 heavy detonations were observed by Sunion in direction to Keos. The observation has been acknowledged by the 9th Torpedo Boat Flotilla which observed another detonation with a glare of fire and a huge mushroom of smoke in the new mine area. It is possible that enemy destroyers were hit by mines.

No clear conception could be won yet on the course of the battle in the Gulf of Salonika. Between 2250 and 2312, on 6 Oct., own submarine chasing vessels had a brush with 3 enemy destroyers southwest of Cassandra-Huk. The minelayer "Zeus" observed 3 strong explosions during the passage to Salonika. In the same area, the net tender "Rovigno" was fired at, however, could withdraw to the North. The torpedo boat TA "37" as well as the submarine chaser VJ "2102" and the vessel GK "62" are overdue on the approach to the convoy "Zeus". Further reports are still missing.

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c. Situation on the Danube:

In the afternoon of 6 Oct., the motor ship "Honzak"

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has sunk after a mine hit at the kilometer point 1430. Due to the aerial situation, no minesweeping planes could be put into action.

The Danube Flotilla is escorting the ferry traffic of Racial Germans at Mohacs. The Command has moved to Budapest. A large convoy with 15 escorting vessels, consisting of 10 tugs and 71 ships-in-tow, passed the Tisza Mouth with the last tow at 0600 on 7 October. The convoy moored in Neusatz at 1700. In the evening of 6 Oct., the large convoy was lying under heavy fire from both river banks. One naval landing craft, one freight barge and 6 ships-in-tow got totally lost. 2 vessels of the Danube Flotilla were damaged. Besides that, casualties were suffered.

1 clearance ship and 2 naval artillery lighters were damaged by bomb hits. 1 naval artillery lighter was sunk. The naval artillery lighter MAL "28" reported to have shot down 2 planes.

VIII. Situation in East Asia:

Particular reports are not at hand.

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Items of Political Importance:

No particular reports.

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Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1100:

I. Subject: Aerial Situation:

a. Concerning the reinforcement of the Air Forces in the Eastern Baltic Sea (see War Diary 28 Sept.), the following answer has arrived today from the High Command Air, Ops. Staff:

"1. In the main, the assessment of the aerial situation is agreed upon. For the time being, the defenses against the Russian Air Forces is still sufficient. The defenses against the attacks of the Anglo-American Air Forces are entirely too weak, and the strength of the fighter forces is insufficient for securing a concentrated protection of the industrial works and hydrogenetic plants. The action of fighter formations is further impaired by the increasing shortage in aircraft fuel. Therefore, a reinforcement of the fighter defense in the area of the Eastern Baltic Sea beyond the limit existing so far is not possible. The reinforcement of the Anti-Aircraft Defenses in Danzig and Libau has been ordered or carried out, respectively, by the High Command, Air. The three other objects named (Gdynia, Pillau, Memel) are fortified areas of the Navy. Therefore, a reinforcement may be accomplished by the Navy if the occasion arises. An assignment of anti-aircraft forces of the Air Force cannot be made for these objects regarding the aerial situation in the home area war zone and at the fronts.

2. For the patrol and escort duties, the reconnaissance duties in the inshore waters and the anti-submarine hunt, the following transfers will be made first of all:

a. The Staff and 2nd Squadron, HAGR 126 (Ar 196) to Lochstaedt, near Pillau. Corresponding to the development of the situation in the Aegean Sea, the transfer of the 1st Squadron HAGR 126 is also intended at a later date.

b. The 2nd Ship-borne Aircraft Squadron 126 (Ar 196) from Aalborg to Bug on Rugen Island.

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However, it must be pointed at the fact that the action of the seaplane formations also depends on the aircraft-fuel."

b. Besides that, the High Command, Air, Ops. Staff has informed the Operations Division, Naval Staff on a directive issued to the Air Force Command South East and the Air Force 6 etc., respectively, concerning the transfer of the Staff and the 2nd Squadron HAGR 126 from Scaramanca to Lochstaedt; these forces are to be put into action for escort and reconnaissance tasks in the Eastern Baltic Sea, in close cooperation with the competent Naval Operations Headquarters.

c. The Naval Command East, the Report Center East, the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea and the Admiral Commanding Submarines are informed according to paragraph a. by the Operations Division, Naval Staff. The Naval Command East and the Admiral Commanding Submarines are further informed that the necessity to transfer the Replenishing Group (Sea) from Copenhagen to Kamp has been discussed with the General of Reconnaissance planes and the High Command, Air, Ops Staff, and that the High Command, Air has been requested for granting the Training "Fliegerfuehrer" Baltic the permission for reconnaissance action.

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II. Subject: Situation in the East:

At 1615, on 7 Oct., the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters had additionally reported that despite the most difficult situation on the Osel Island the defense of Ahrensburg should be attempted. Under the present distribution of forces, the General Staff of the Army would probably deem this not possible, however, he intended to defend the Sworbe Peninsula in any case. As a matter of fact, Ahrensburg has been evacuated in the forenoon of 7 Oct. and occupied, by the enemy. The Northern Army Group has issued an order to defend the Sworbe Peninsula up to the last cartridge. The Commander in Chief of the Navy wanted that this order which paid attention just to the tactical side of the matter be still more based on appropriate reasons. The Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters is to be informed in this sense.

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III. Subject: Situation in the West:

The Naval Command North reports from the assessment of the situation at the front of the Army Chief Command 15 of 6 Oct. that the occupation of Santoliet (north-northwest of Antwerp) has been caused by the failure of the Battalion Theuerkauf (Naval and Local Defense Units) which was put into action there and admitted to be driven from the place and to be annihilated by weak enemy forces in spite of the contrary and special order. The reason for the failure is to be seen partly in the lack of rigor, and partly in the high number of casualties among the officers suffered the previous day. A court-martial procedure has been started. The Admiral Netherlands reported with regard to this matter that the Battalion of the Lieutenant (E) Theuerkauf was composed of remnants of the Antwerp Port Company, the Land Manning Company and parts of the 6/II Warship Construction Acquaintance Detachment as well as of joined stragglers; the battalion has been in action since 5 Sept., after Antwerp was abandoned.

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IV. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

The Fleet intends to carry out tactical exercises from 28 Oct., to 30 Oct. with all vessels which might participate in action, as far as they can be made available for this purpose.

The intention is welcomed by the Naval Staff.

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V. Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff:

a. For the case of extraordinary emergency, the Chief of the Army Armament Department and the Commander in Chief of the Replacement Army, General Army Office had issued an order on 15 July to organize powerful units by way of mobilization in the corps areas from reserve and training units, from schools and courses, from instructional detachments, from parts of the field forces being in the home area war zone and from other Army Offices. The preparations were made under the catchword "Walkuere" (see War Diary 27 July).

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According to an information from the Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces Org., dated 27 Sept. 1944, the High Command of the Army, Army Armament and the Commander in Chief of the Replacement Army have changed the catchword "Waluere" into "Gneisenau."

b. The Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces has issued an order concerning the establishment of reserves in weapons, ammunition and fuel. The high consumption has caused that the fighting forces must be supplied almost exclusively and immediately from new shipments. With that, the operational freedom of action has been withdrawn from the Operations Staff of the Armed Forces or has been severely aggravated, respectively. Therefore, the Fuehrer has ordered that reserves of the named sorts be speedily established under utilization of the next coming months which are unfavorable for the enemy air forces as to the weather condition, and under an intended reduction in the allotments to those fronts which are presently not engaged in major fights. The Branches of the Armed Forces have to submit corresponding proposals to the Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces not later than 15 Oct. 1944.

c. The Quartermaster Division has ordered that the demanded establishment of new Anti-Aircraft Batteries (12.8 cm) in Bergen and Trondheim be speeded-up to the utmost. The personnel for two batteries will be transferred on 15 Oct. The construction of the fortification will require at least 6 weeks. The installation of a smoke generator for Bergen has been started. There is already a smoke generator in Trondheim. The air reporting will be the responsibility of the Air Force.

d. The Northern Army Group has discontinued all land transports to Libau.

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In a restricted circle:

VI. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

According to Swedish reports, it is possible that the fortification works on the Aland Islands are continued whereby a Russian assistance of the Finns is expected.

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The Reich Security Head Office submits a report from Attache circles in Lisbon, dated 28 Sept., according to which a talk is circulating about a Russian invasion of Lapland, Northern Norway up to Narvik. It is said that British circles are worried about this. Allegedly, the concentration of the British Home-fleet in the Scotland Waters is connected with this problem.

The First Lord of the British Admiralty talked of an incomparable concentration of the British Fleet in the Indian and Pacific Ocean. The German Fleet was, as he said, still a factor which one must not overlook. Since the war broke out, more than 9000 convoys had entered British ports. More than 96% of the ships had been escorted without suffering any damage.

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## VII. Army Situation:

### Western Front:

The situation at the front of the 15th Army, in the area north of Antwerp, has become serious, The danger is existing that the land communications to Walcheren Island get lost. Forces are being provided for a counter-attack. There are also fierce fights going on south of Breda.

The great battle in the area north of Aachen is going on with unweakened strength. Despite the loss of ground, the 7th Army succeeded also on 7 Oct. in preventing a breakthrough of the enemy.

Following fixed plans, the enemy destroys with his air forces the entire communications and roads network in the West up to the area of Osnabrueck - Giessen. Similar to the circumstances during the battle in Normandy, all own plans are overthrown by that or at least strongly delayed.

At Metz, the enemy continued his attacks.

Troop transports from the U.S.A. to the Western Front have allegedly been provided now directly to Marseille. Regarding the inadequate capacity of the Channel Ports, this report seems to be not improbable, all the more as an important ease would be caused by this for the roads network of Northern France.

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Italian Front:

At the Alps Front, 1.5 m snow depth and a temperature of 11° below zero were reported from the Pass Roads. The transfer of 2 French Assault Divisions which were especially tried and experienced in the mountains from this area to the Vosges Front means an important ease of the Ligurian Front.

At the Southern Front, the enemy attempted again to break through to the North under a very strong expenditure of material in major fights. Owing to our exceedingly brave fighting troops, the enemy succeeded only in gaining little penetrations under high and serious losses.

The surprising retention of the XIV. British Army Corps which probably is fighting in Italy with certainty in a strength of 2 divisions as well as of the Polish Group of Forces is further on indicating the intention to keep these units ready for operations against the area of Istria - Croatia.

Balkan:

The islands of Skarpantos and Nisyros were evacuated according to plans.

Further parts of the Army were transferred from Crete to the main land.

The withdrawal movements from the area of Athens have been started. The first trek of Armed Forces (an Air Force Marching Unit of 11 500 men) has started the march from Larissa to the North.

At the Macedonian Border, Bulgarian attacks were beaten back.

In Serbia, strong Russian attacks on Zajecar caused the loss of the eastern part of the town.

Eastern Front:

In Hungary, the Great Russian Offensive continues quickly to gain ground. Merely south of Debrecen, on the Koeroes River, German units are offering fierce resistance. The Hungarians are attempting to establish a line of resistance at the Tisza River and in the Koeroes River section.

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South of Kolozsvar, the Soviets continued their attacks and succeeded in gaining a penetration which could not be blocked so far. In the area of Neumarkt and Szasz Regen, the enemy attacks remained unsuccessful.

At the Beskides Front, the enemy resumed his attacks as it was expected after the improvement of the weather. In the main, the numerous attacks were beaten back.

At the Central Army Group, in the bridgehead south of Ostenburg, the enemy succeeded in reaching again the front trench and in occupying an important hill.

The fierce defensive battle at the Northern Army Group is going on. The enemy advance directions are aiming at Tauroggen, Tilsit and Memel, and in the North of the penetrated area at Libau. The own front has mostly been rolled up and strongly splitted up. At some points, the enemy penetrated already the protective position of East Prussia which is only weakly occupied.

The assault wedges of the Russians are standing at 30 km north-east of Tauroggen, 50 km east of Memel near Retowo as well as near Seda and Moscheiken (80 km east-southeast of Libau).

On the Osel Island, the enemy forced the occupational garrison of the island by several strong attacks into further withdrawal movements. In hard fights against the enemy armored forces, Ahrensburg got lost during the afternoon. A bridgehead position around the Sworbe Peninsula has been occupied by the 23rd and 218th Infantry Division in the line running 7 km southeast of Ahrensburg - Kaesla - north of Riksu.

Finland:

The plan of the Finns to push into the withdrawal movements of our army by an attack from the bridgehead of Tornio towards Rovaniemi and alongside the Swedish-Finnish border road has been made vain by our counter-attack involving the enemy in very serious fights. The withdrawal movements are generally taking place now without enemy pressure in that area.

At the Murmansk Front, the enemy has started the expected attack after a preparatory fire of several hours' duration and with the aid of tanks. The enemy took an own strongpoint southwest of the Tschapr Lake and advanced in direction of Titowka.

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The situation at the front of the Northern Army Group makes acute the question for the issue of the catchword "Weissdorn" for Libau.

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VIII. The Group South has submitted its point of view concerning the abandonment of the Dalmatian Coast coming to the following summary assessment:

"The responsibilities of the Navy are already lying now mainly in the scope of the Armed Forces Warfare (coastal defense, supply transports), apart from the warfare with PT boats and small battle weapons; therefore, the execution of the plan, in compliance with the basic communication, is not of decisive importance from the point of view of the naval warfare.

In order to accomplish the ordered defense of the area of Trieste - Fiume, the possession of which would grant the enemy the greatest operational possibilities towards the East and Northeast, respectively, it is the minimum condition in the opinion of the Group to increase the occupational force and to defend lastingly the Quarnero Islands of Krk and Cherso (northern part); furthermore, it is urgently desired to hold entirely the Chuso Island, Lussino Island and, if possible, also Arbe Island. The latter would be simultaneously the condition for the defense of Fiume as basis for the naval forces and as protection for the sea communication from Fiume to Pola.

Concerning the transport, the Group South reports:

1. Since the responsibilities of the Navy have become void, the transfer of the entire personnel from the area of Dalmatia is required, as far as parts of the Army Group must not be provided for the operation in the battle ashore. Greatest importance is attached to the re-transfer of all specialists (including the coast) and of the greatest possible number of other trained crews of the naval forces and coastal batteries because of the urgent requirements in other areas (Bay of Heligoland, Baltic Sea).
2. In the most favorable case, the Admiral Adriatic Sea estimates the duration of the sea transport from Northern Dalmatia (inclusively about 7000 men of the Reinforced Frontier Guard Control Service Coastal ) at 4 days.

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3. The transport from Southern Dalmatia (about 3000 men) will be accomplished in the main by land. 150 tons capacity of motor trucks are available. The transport by trucks and the march, respectively, will be terminated at Sibenik or at the railroad ends. The duration has been estimated at 3 or 4 weeks. If it is still possible, a current transport of units arriving at Sibenik will be made from Southern Dalmatia by sea.

4. The transport of material and equipment, and of about 2000 tons of supplies by naval facilities will not be possible in an extent worth to be mentioned. It cannot be surveyed in how far the transports will be accomplishable that have been provided on the evacuation schedule in cooperation with the Army, since the suppositions have become void by the enemy situation and the destruction of the railways."

A corresponding stand taken by the Naval Staff is to be forwarded to the Armed Forces High Command, Ops Staff of the Armed Forces. Copy, as per l. Skl. I op 3202/44, Gkdos. Chfs., to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.

The Commander in Chief of the Navy agrees.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. The following reports arrived on the situation which has seriously become tense in the northern part of the Eastern Front:

At 0055, the Chief of Staff, Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea reported:

"The unfavorable development of the situation at the army front in the area of Memel demands a precautionary provision of tonnage for the evacuation. At present, the situation cannot be clearly seen, however, the development may very quickly necessitate the evacuation."

At 1824, the following report of the Memel Sector Commandant was received having been transmitted via the Report Center of the Naval Command East at 1555:

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1. Effective as of the morning of 8 Oct., the Commanding Officer of the 390th Defense Division, Major General Bergen, will be the Local Defense Commandant of Memel.

2. Russian tanks have unobjectionably been observed at Eindrėjavas where the Commanding Officer of the 551st Division is fighting against approximately 200 of them. The Division is presently being reinforced by the 4th Submarine Instructional Division under the command of Lieutenant Commander (Eng.) Miller. The strength of the 4th Submarine Instructional Division has not become known yet.

3. It is believed that the enemy is advancing towards Memel not only from the Southeast but also from the Northeast. Against this, the 1/21st Naval Replacement Division standing at Koralisken (road fork) will be reinforced by the 3/12th Naval Replacement Division under the central command of the Commanding Officer of the 21st Naval Replacement Division, Lieutenant (s.g.) Kothe; at the same time, 2 by 2 cm Naval Anti-Aircraft will be made ready to move.

4. The concentration point of the foreground defense of Memel is at Gardzdai, east of Memel.

5. The Sector Commandant reports to have gained the impression that the Naval Units are embodying the backbone of the defense since their troops are the only ones regularly led. The Army has organized formations just from retreating and straggling soldiers and personnel on leave. For the time being, the armament is unsatisfactory.

6. In the forenoon of 8 Oct., the first bunch of troops entered Memel with the 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla. The second bunch is expected to arrive in the afternoon. According to an information from the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea, one division is being transferred with the 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla.

7. According to unconfirmed reports, Russian tanks are allegedly standing also at Kuliai and south of Libau, up to 15 km off the Baltic Coast. The Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea does not know anything about this.

8. The evacuation of Memel is going on according to plans. The population has strongly to be urged to leave the town. Commencing today, the land trek begins to march in southeastern direction.

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9. In general, the Army considers the situation to be repairable, and believes that Memel can be held."

At noon, the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea gave the following radio message to the Naval Staff, the Naval Command East, the 2nd Task Force and the Report Center of the Naval Command East:

"1. The situation in Kurland might result in a temporary breakthrough of the enemy at some points up to the coast.

2. The appearance of the 2nd Task Force at these points of breakthrough lets expect a moral success. However, the appearance must be a surprise because of the danger by submarines and planes. The Task Force will be able to be a short time merely in the sea area. Under the quickly changing circumstances, there is no possibility to organize a channel of communication as demanded by the Report Center East with Order No. 175, S.O. only.

3. Therefore, the Task Force is requested to submit proposals as to the possibility of reaching a somewhat successful action along the Courland Coast with the simplest means, and with the forward observer and close-reconnaissance group 5.

4. It has further to be taken into consideration that the communications channels to the Sworbe Peninsula do not correspond to the conditions laid down in the Order No. 175, S.O. only.

5. The attention of the Army Offices will have to be drawn in time to the fact that not the same effect can be expected from the appearance of the 2nd Task Force as at the Invasion Front, since there existed the possibility to reach the superiority in the air, to organize a sufficient defense against submarines and to bring into action for hours on end the massed fire of the heaviest calibers upon an accurately established plan."

Subsequently, the Naval Command East ordered at 1955:

"The proposal of the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea is approved in principal. The 2nd Task Force will make all preparations for the provided operation, especially with regard to the communications.

At present, the Task Force is in the state of a three-hours-

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readiness. A shortening of the time of readiness will be ordered depending on the situation."

The 2nd Task Force reported with regard to this matter:

"1. A strong moral effect will have to be expected in the case that the enemy having broken through operates as a mass on a close area.

The duration of the shelling and of the cruising of the Task Force off the shelling target will depend alone on the counter-effect and, therefore, cannot be determined in advance. The weather condition will also have to be taken into consideration.

It is pointed at the possibility of shelling several points of breakthrough by proceeding along the coast.

It will be necessary to inform the tactical operations headquarters of the Army on the limits of the possibilities of such supporting measures.

2. The only and absolutely necessary inter-communication will have to be established with the tactical operations headquarters of the Army. It will not be necessary to assign a Naval Radio Detachment since there is an Army Radio Detachment aboard the "Prinz Eugen."

3. It will have to be taken care that a clear and distinctly demarkated target designation made-up by longitude, latitude and Army square grid with a safety distance of at least 1000 meters from the own troops is forwarded in time to the Group.

4. It is absolutely necessary to give an information on auxiliary aiming points which are indicated on the Army square grids and can clearly be discovered from the seaside.

5. It is requested to notify the Group immediately on the frequency to be used for the continuous connection with the tactical operations headquarters of the Army beginning 24 hours before the intended shelling."

b. For the blocking of Duenamuende which is of greatest importance also from the point of view of the Naval Staff, 2 suitable steamers will be assigned by the Naval Command East to

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the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea; these steamers, however, must first be transferred from the Central Baltic Sea. The Operations Division, Naval Staff decides that the selection of the block ships must be handled by the Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division.

c. According to a report of the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea, it has not yet been fully determined whether the sinking of "RO 24" was caused by the hit of a submarine-torpedo or by mines. Furtheron, the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea reported:

"The vessels of the 9th Defense Division are very strongly engaged by the transports from Riga, the supplying of the Sworbe Peninsula and the Courland escort duty, all the more as the state of war readiness is continuously decreasing. If the escort duty would be performed in a way that sufficient protections against submarines, air raids and mines were at hand in any case, then the requirements of the Army Group could by no means be met anymore. Therefore, losses have to be put up with.

It is suggested - after the Submarine School Flotillas of Memel and Libau have evacuated their bases - to put into action for the escort and anti-submarine hunt duties the Su-GG vessels of the Memel Base as well as the torpedo recovery vessels there, and those 6 torpedo recovery vessels having belonged so far to the submarine base of Libau. Only the Operation of all available means can reduce the losses of steamers and the number of casualties."

d. Concerning the effect of the issue of the catchword "Weissdorn", the Naval Command East reported:

"1. Effect of the catchword:

a. The transfer of the 24th Submarine Flotilla to Gdynia is on the way. In the opinion of the Admiral Commanding Submarines the training can be continued there.

b. The towing of 1 floating dock, 2 floating cranes and 1 new construction to Gdynia will be started by tugs in the forenoon of 9 Oct.

c. The transfer of the Armed Forces Ancillary Service to the T-Unit 650 will be carried out on the transports presently being in Memel.

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2. Effect of the revocation of the catchword; The re-transfer of 1, a. through c. will be possible at any time as far as the port is still serviceable."

e. The Naval Command East urgently requests a reinforcement by naval landing craft for the evacuation and transports from the Baltic Islands and from the small ports at the Courland Coast. The Army alone requires 15 naval landing craft for the supply of the Sworbe Peninsula. The losses are increasing.

It is made clear in a telephone conversation with the Naval Command East that this request cannot be met. The Naval Command East itself had not expected a different decision.

f. The Naval Command East counts upon at least 25 Russian submarines ready for action in the Baltic Sea, and deems the support of the submarine defenses by the Air Force to be absolutely necessary. For the central operational command of all naval and air forces being in action for the submarine defense, the Naval Command turns in a request for the appointment of an anti-submarine commander Baltic Sea at Pillau.

The High Command, Air, Ops. Staff has been informed by the Ops. Div., Naval Staff on the proposal that the responsibility of the anti-submarine hunt is to be taken over by the 126th Group. The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff will take further steps concerning the appointment of an anti-submarine commander.

g. The Naval Staff has agreed upon the proposal of the Naval Command East to defer the barrage plan "Great Belt B" for the time being, in order to prevent a premature attrition of the material.

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II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. For the reinforcement of the left wing in the Lyn-gen Position (sea flank), the Naval Command Norway has ordered to put into action 1 heavy, 6 medium and 7 light batteries on the Western Lofoten Islands up to Moskenesoey inclusively; at the same time, it is planned to use suitable bays as bases by blocking them with minefields. The Naval Command informs the Army Chief Command 20 and the Naval Staff of this matter, and states:

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"A further adequate reinforcement by artillery will not be possible within a short space of time. All the more a sufficient defense by stronger army forces is necessary since a longer defense of the Lyngen Position is not deemed possible after the enemy has gained a foothold on the Western Lofoten Islands."

b. The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff informs the Ops. Div., Naval Staff on a directive issued to the Naval Command Norway concerning the establishment of a time schedule for the dismantling of the artillery in the area of the Arctic Coast. The preparations for the dismantling are to be started immediately.

c. The Naval Command Norway, with copy to the Fleet, and the 1st Task Force are issued the following directive by the Naval Staff:

"1. The establishment of new battle instructions for the floating battery "Tirpitz" is necessary. The instructions must contain also the battle tasks yielding from the remaining strength of the ship and from the location of the new berth in the Sandesundet. The tasks will be determinative for the supplies to be established as to the ammunition and equipment.

2. The Naval Command Norway will lay down and submit the instructions as soon as possible."

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III. Subject: West Area:

A. On 7 Oct., the Armed Forces High Command ordered:

"The fundamental order No. 21 will take immediate effect for all units of three parts of the Armed Forces or the Waffen-SS being in action in the command area of the Commanding General, Armed Forces West, and for all other organizations. (Open display of unit designations on uniforms and vehicles.)"

The order has been transmitted by the Naval Staff to the Group West.

B. The Armed Forces High Command, Ops Staff of the Armed

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Forces has fixed the eastward limit of the command area of the Commanding General, Armed Forces West on the west bank of the Dollart Bay as follows, corresponding to the border existing so far between the Commanding General Armed Forces Netherlands and the Naval Command North Sea:

Rottumeroog Island (belonging to the area of the Naval Command North) - Usquart - Scheemde - Winschoten - intersection of the Reich border between the Corps Areas VI and X.

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IV. Subject: Southern Area:

The Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff reports on the situation at sea in the Mediterranean:

1. The highest number of 11 auxiliary aircraft-carriers that had been observed in the beginning of the landing operation in Southern France meanwhile has decreased to 7, after the deduction of 4 carriers to the Atlantic has been detected. The further deduction of 2 auxiliary carriers to the Indian Area has reliably been reported. It is to be expected that the carriers having remained in the Mediterranean will be all put into action in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, in the Aegean Area, where the present concentration of the Naval warfare is stressed by the operation of the major part of cruisers and destroyers of the Mediterranean Fleet.
2. Compared with the previous months, an importantly increased transfer of troops from the Atlantic has been taking place since the beginning of September. The transfer of troops made with 20 loaded troop transports during the period from 1 to 6 Oct. is especially noteworthy. The ports of destination for the troop transports have not been detected. Italy is the most probable area for the reinforcement of the front there, however, partly also the transfer to the Western Front via Southern France may not be excluded since the overburdening of the communications network in Northern Front has reliably been reported several times.
3. Lately, the ports of Ancona and Leghorn revealed a moderate increase in the occupation by freighters and landing vessels. This increase is quite clearly to be understood by the progressive restoration of ports which are preferably used because of

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their close location to the front for the reception of the increased supply requirements of the Italian battle front. For the time being, no preparations of ships and landing vessels can be detected in Ancona for new enemy landing operations on a large scale."

The Supreme Operations Staffs have been informed. Copy as per l. Skl. 37232/44, geh., to be found in War Diary Part C, Vol. XIV.

V. For the month of October, the Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff has established the following allowances:

1. Furnace Oil:

Fleet	15 000 m <sup>3</sup>	
Admiral Commanding Submarines	8 500 m <sup>3</sup>	
Naval Command East	25 000 m <sup>3</sup>	
Naval Command North	3 400 m <sup>3</sup>	
Naval Command Norway	12 000 m <sup>3</sup>	
Group South	4 000 m <sup>3</sup>	
German Naval Command Italy	1 700 m <sup>3</sup>	69 600 m <sup>3</sup>

2. Heavy Diesel Oil:

Fleet	2 300 m <sup>3</sup>	
Admiral Commanding Submarines	5 000 m <sup>3</sup>	
Naval Command North	2 000 m <sup>3</sup>	
Naval Command East	7 000 m <sup>3</sup>	
Naval Command Norway	3 000 m <sup>3</sup>	
Group South	400 m <sup>3</sup>	
German Naval Command Italy	1 000 m <sup>3</sup>	20 700 m <sup>3</sup>

The requirements of submarines used in operations have been set at 4 200m<sup>3</sup> in the plan of the High Command of the Navy, and of the naval forces used in operations at 800m<sup>3</sup>.

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VI. With regard to the importance of the mine clearance by planes (see War Diary 17 June 1944), the High Command Air, Ops. Staff has transmitted on 28 Sept. that it was of the same opinion as the Naval Staff.

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"The High Command Air, Ops. Staff is fundamentally of the same opinion on the importance of the mine clearance by planes.

However, the aircraft armament has completely been changed to the task of the Reich defense, so that there is not seen any possibility to put into action another plane than the "Ju 52".

The development of sweeping gear for the remaining types of planes has been launched, however, a solution of the new problems arising with that may not be expected in the near future."

The Ops. Div., Naval Staff has informed the Quartermaster Division and the Naval Armament Department.

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Situation 8 Oct. 1944:

I. Enemy Situation:

14 planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, and 18 planes at the 19th Group. 5 British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

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2. Own Situation:

a. Situation in the Atlantic Fortresses:

Lorient:

In the eastern sector, the enemy repeatedly feeling his way towards the own positions was beaten back.

St. Nazaire:

On 7 Oct., harbor defense vessels took under fire enemy positions near Cordemais. On 8 Oct., the own harassing fire was directed on enemy accommodations. Two 10.5 cm railway guns attacked enemy positions. An attack of American companies was beaten back. The demand for surrender by 2 Americans and 1 French intermediary was refused. At 1300 an enemy fighter plane dropped a bomb on the hospital ship "Muenchen"; the bomb struck 200 meters beside the ship. The Fortress Commander protested.

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La Rochelle:

Increased enemy entrenching was observed.

Gironde North:

In the precincts of the fortress, reconnaissance and a supply operation were carried out. Due to the food shortage, the further evacuation of the civil population has been started. 13 prisoners of war were exchanged with troops of the FFJ.

b. Channel Sea Area:

A convoy proceeding from Guernsey to Alderney has been carried out with 2 artillery carriers and 1 motor coaster, and another convoy proceeding from Guernsey to Sark with 2 fishing smacks. At 0840, the following sightings were made: 1 auxiliary aircraft-carrier in the grid square BF 3528, and 11 LST in the grid square BF 3552 on northern course.

At Dunkirk, enemy artillery and mortar fire was lying on the precincts of the fortress. The own artillery fired at enemy observation posts. According to statements of prisoners of war, the 51st British Division has been relieved by a Czech Division under the command of British Officers. The occupational strength of Dunkirk amounts to 319 Officers, 1929 NCO's and 8027 EM. Of these 2386 men are navy personnel.

On the southern tip of the Sark Island, the Battery "Klein-Sark" with three 8.8 cm semi-automatic guns has been tested by patrol and motor minesweepers placed out of commission, and is ready for action. The Battery has been manned by the crew of the patrol boat VP "203".

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

A. Bay of Heligoland:

6 patrol positions were occupied. The escort and mine-sweeping duties were carried out without particular incidents.

B. Dutch Coast:

During the night of 7 Oct., the patrol boat VP "1418"

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and the minelayer M "3410" being on patrol positions were damaged by attacks of fighter bombers. The fouling with mines of the Oost Gat, in the Schelde River, has been carried out.

It has been provided to continue the passage of the Convoy 1297 from Helder to Borkum with several new constructions in tow, under a strong escort, during the night of 8 Oct. At 1600, bombs were dropped on Breskens. The Battery "Hamilton" was lying under enemy shelling. One gun has broken down.

The Small Battle Weapons Flotilla 215 with 60 "Linse"-torpedoes will be at war readiness on 10 Oct. and will move to Groningen as replacement for the Small Battle Weapons Flotilla 214.

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Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

18 planes were detected during action in the area of the 18th Group.

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2. Own Situation:

On 6 and 7 Oct., a vivid enemy air activity was observed in the area of the Arctic Coast. 60 enemy planes were reported in the area of Petsamo, and 35 enemy planes in the area of Vardoe.

At 0230, on 8 Oct., the Norwegian steamer MS "Freikoll" (236 BRT) was shot afire by 2 PT boats north of Floroe, in the area of the west coast. 5 Norwegians were captured from board. The PT boats withdrew to the West. At noon, harbor defense vessels defended 3 submarines against the attacks of Mosquito planes off Haugesund and the Selbjoernfjord.

25 ships were escorted to the North, 6 ships to the South.

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III. Skager-Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

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1. Enemy Situation:

On 7 Oct., the usual staffs and units or vessels, respectively, were detected by radio traffic in the Gulf of Finland. At 0415, on 8 Oct., 3 small vessels were observed on alternating courses in the grid square AO 2996.

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2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skager-Rak:

23 boats were put into action for mineclearing duty. The transports were carried out without any particular incidents.

Central and Western Baltic Sea:

35 boats and 1 mine exploding vessel were put into action for mineclearing duty. One mine each was cleared in the Bay of Danzig and Bay of Kiel. The escorts were carried out without any particular incidents.

Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea:

The bulk of the German troops in a strength of about 16 000 men is standing on the Sworbe Peninsula. At 1530, on 7 Oct., 9 enemy bombers and 2 fighters have attacked the port and roads of Montu. The anti-aircraft defense was accomplished by 2 minesweepers, 5 motor minesweepers, 4 artillery ferries and 1 heavy gun carrier. On 8 Oct., the motor minesweepers have put to sea with the first light for the return passage to Libau. 8 armed fishing vessels have taken position off the west coast of the Sworbe Peninsula. East of Montu, a heavy gun carrier has run aground.

At 2000, on 7 Oct., the 2nd PT boat Flotilla has put to sea with 8 boats from Windau for laying mines in the Parnu Bay; the mine-laying was carried out according to plans. The laying of mines in the western exit of the Soelu Sound was not carried out because of weather reasons. At 2340, on 7 Oct., the transport RO "24" (4499 BRT) has sunk south west of Windau after having been hit by a mine or torpedo, respectively. The crew has almost completely been rescued.

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In Memel, the Commanding Officer of the 390th Defense Division, General Bergen, has been appointed Local Defense Officer.

The 4th Submarine Instructional Division, 2 companies of the 21st and 12th Naval Replacement Division, respectively, have been put into action as reinforcement of the land-front. In the forenoon, the first unit of the express-transport has entered Memel with boats of the 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla from Riga. The 2nd unit is expected to arrive in the afternoon. The evacuation of the town has been continued. Troop transports and special transports have been carried out according to plans. The steamer FUESILIER has entered Memel in the forenoon with parts of the 58th Infantry Division from Riga. Several hundred wounded, prisoners of war and evacuated persons have been transferred from the Osel Island by 12 naval landing craft.

Special Items:

It can be seen from the monthly survey for the month of September that 238 warships, among them 216 submarines, and 341 merchant men with 1,216,680 BRT were escorted in the area of the Naval Command East. 1 armed fishing vessel has been lost, and 2 patrol vessels and 2 mine exploding vessels have been damaged by mines. The following merchant men were sunk or damaged, respectively: 1 German and 1 Danish steamer, furthermore the catapult ship "Westfalen" and the refrigerator ship "Hartmut" were sunk, and the motor ship "Monte Rosa", the tanker "Hydra", the steamer "Kap Cuir", 1 tug and 1 steam trawler were damaged.

Owing to an air raid, 2 motor minesweepers and 1 patrol vessel have been destroyed and 2 motor minesweepers have been damaged.

219 mines were cleared or detonated, respectively, including the hits.

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IV. Submarine Warfare:

In the Atlantic, the submarine U "541" has reported on the return passage from the operational area off the St. Lawrence River that a tanker of 7000 BRT was sunk in the grid square BB 5957 on 3 Sept., and a destroyer belonging to a small convoy in the grid square BB 1869 on 8 Sept. On 27 Sept., a missing four-fan was fired on a 12,000 ton ship



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in the Halifax Traffic.

In the Gulf of Finland, the submarine U "370" has sunk 1 gun boat out of a convoy in the grid square AO 0253.

The submarine U "242" has laid a minefield northwest of Porkalla according to plans.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

A vivid activity of fighter bombers and fighters was reported during the day in the area of Holland. During the night of 8 Oct., no enemy air activity of importance was observed in the area of Belgium - Holland.

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Reich Territory:

Approximately 500 enemy planes were reported during the day over the western Reich Territory operating singly and in small formations. A number of places and Air Force Stations was attacked partly with bombs, and partly with aircraft armament. Among others, damages were reported from Offenburg, Bad Schwalbach and Muenster am Stein caused especially to railway installations and airfields.

57 own fighter planes shot down positively 4 enemy planes.

During the night of 8 Oct., no enemy sorties of importance were to be noted.

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Mediterranean Theater:

On 7 Oct., 850 enemy planes were detected during action over the Italian Front Area. On 8 Oct., own planes carried out reconnaissance in the Aegean Sea.

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Eastern Area:

At the Eastern Front, 603 own and 2570 enemy sorties were reported on 7 Oct.; 11 own planes got lost, while 46 enemy planes were shot down.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Early on 8 Oct., 3 auxiliary aircraft-carriers were sighted in the Bay of Gibraltar which had probably entered during night from an unknown direction. At 1410, 3 carriers and 1 destroyer put to sea heading to the Atlantic.

Coming from the Mediterranean Sea, "MKS 63" has passed the Strait of Gibraltar with 11 freighters, 1 tanker and 2 corvettes heading to the Atlantic. On reverse course, the scheduled convoy "UGS 55" in a strength of 53 freighters, 10 tankers, 7 corvettes and 1 destroyer was reported.

The morning reconnaissance of 8 Oct., in the Ligurian Sea was not carried out due to weather reasons. During the night of 7 Oct., the usual activity of guard vessels was detected by radar location. The guarding of the Riviera Coast during the day was also carried out by the enemy with the usual forces. The port and battery of Imperia were taken under fire during this action.

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Own Situation:

The escorting and patrolling duties along the west coast were carried out according to plans. The pretended enemy submarine that had been attacked with torpedoes by the vessel RA "254" on 7 Oct. has turned out to have been an own drifting conical container, submarine pressure hull, which was brought to port later on.

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During the shelling of Imperia, 3 naval landing craft and 1 barge were damaged. The Battery in the Magra Mouth which continued the harassing fire on the enemy main defense line on the forenoon of 7 Oct. was unsuccessfully attacked at noon by enemy planes with aircraft armament and bombs.

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2. Area of the Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

On 7 Oct., a vivid enemy reconnaissance activity with fighter bombers as well as sorties of small bomber formations were reported in the area of Split. The shipping traffic between the islands of Lissa and Brac is continuing. Two auxiliary sailing vessels were sunk by an enemy plane east of Lussin.

At 1800, on 8 Oct., 7 PT boats put to sea from Ragusa for an offensive action against the Southern Dalmatian Islands. The boats are supposed to enter Sibenik.

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b. Aegean Sea:

Early on 7 Oct., the minelayer "Zeus" has entered Salonika with 1125 men aboard. The steamers "Lola" and "Landon" have arrived at the same time at Piraeus.

Further own reports on the battle in the Gulf of Salonika have no more arrived. According to a British broadcast report, 1 German destroyer was sunk by British destroyers, and another one was heavily damaged.

From 0515 to 0600, the base of Cassandra was shelled by a cruiser of the "London"-type with 20.3 cm caliber.

The Commanding Admiral Aegean Sea appreciated the situation as follows:

The enemy has succeeded in penetrating the North Aegean Sea. With that, the convoy traffic between Lemnos or Leros, respectively, and Salonika has been endangered most seriously. It

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remains to be seen whether the offensive action is just aimed at rolling up our submarine chasing line, or at attacking the convoy traffic to Salonika. As a counter-measure, at first the shipping to and from Salonika has been blocked. The convoys coming from Piraeus are waiting in Volos for a clarification of the situation. The submarine chasing forces have been issued an order to go into land protection at night.

The Commanding General, Armed Forces, South East has declared Albania as battle area.

The Commanding Admiral Aegean Sea has again taken over the command in the alternative route "Adele".

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c. Situation in the Danube Area:

A mineclearing vessel was hit by a mine at the kilometer point 1532. Another mineclearing vessel has sprung a leak.

The southern unit of the Danube Flotilla has continued the escort of the large convoy from Neusatz to Vukova.

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VII. Situation in East Asia:

Particular reports are not at hand.

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Items of Political Importance:

According to a Reuter report, a high official having participated in the conference at Dumbarton Oaks which has been finished these days stated that the actual reason for the inability of the three major powers to reach a complete agreement was to be found in the cautious attitude of the Russians. This attitude was based on the fact that Stalin wanted to wait for the result of the presidential elections in November before he would be ready to enter a permanent international organization. The Soviet Union would aim at the establishment of a security zone around Soviet Russia comprising Greater Poland under inclusion of East Prussia, Finland and Norway, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Jugoslavia and, if possible, Turkey. This zone would be all the Russians demanded.

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Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1120:

I. According to preliminary reports, the enemy has landed in the Schelde River near Breskens from the air in the early morning.

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II. Subject: Situation in the East:

This morning, for the first time a submarine target ship has been sunk by an enemy submarine north of Hela.

III. Subject: Situation in the West:

According to a report from the Naval Command North, the execution of the operation "Kameraden" will become questionable as of 10 Oct. since the Commanding General, Armed Forces West has ordered that the Army Chief Command 15 make a recourse to the ammunition which has been loaded for shipment to Dunkirk. The ammunition has been shipped to Dordrecht.

The Naval Command North has been asked by telephone for its opinion as to when the operation would be ready to be started and how the operation with "Linse"-torpedoes could be accomplished independently of "Kameraden", respectively.

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The Commander in Chief of the Navy states that a new situation has arisen. The defense of the Schelde River is more important than the supply of Dunkirk. The opinion of the Naval Command remains to be waited for.

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IV. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

a. The Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces informs the Naval Staff of an order according to which the transport of the 269th Infantry Division from the area of the Commanding General Armed Forces Norway will be led at first to Jutland as a reserve for the Armed Forces High Command in the West. The replacement will be made by the 560th Home Guard Division.

b. The Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea has reported on the evening of 8 Oct.:

"At 1300, on 7 Oct., General Schoerner having a meeting with the Admiral Commanding reports confidentially:

1. The Russian advance requires a withdrawal of the front up to Tuckum. The proposal has not been approved yet by the Fuehrer, however, as it is believed also at this headquarters it would be the only measure for the holding of Courland.
2. A temporary breakthrough of the Russians to the coast between Libau and Memel must be put up with. The threat impending on Memel and Libau continues to be very serious since the spared units are not to be put into action as divisions, but have to clear the area from the North towards the South after having gathered.
3. The importance of a lasting destruction of the Riga port facilities has once more been pointed out by the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea.
4. General Schoerner once more expressed his appreciation of the exemplary collaboration of the parts of the Armed Forces as it has recently proved again during the fights on Osel Island."

On account of a telephone conversation between the Chief of the Ops. Div., Naval Staff and the Commander, Naval Command East, the order concerning the catchword "Weissdorn" for Libau has been desisted from.

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c. The Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea and the Naval Command East have suggested to give up the small strongpoint on the island of Runoe in the Riga Bay since it cannot be held with the forces available at present and a reinforcement would not pay.

Following the proposal of the Naval Staff, the Commander in Chief of the Navy agrees.

d. From the assessment of the situation given by the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters on the evening of 8 Oct.:

The situation at the enemy assault wedges against Memel and Libau is serious. All measures possible for a clearing action have been taken. By order of the Commander in Chief of the Navy, I have pointed at the importance the defense of Courland would have for the naval warfare. The Chief of the Armed Forces High Command stated that he had informed the Fuehrer accordingly on the evening of 7 Oct. For the time being, the withdrawal of the bridgehead of Riga has been ordered up to the position of Riga East. A further withdrawal is to be expected in the near future. The Sworbe Peninsula will be defended."

The Naval Command East has been informed accordingly by a T/P message on the evening of 8 Oct.

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V. Chief, Quartermaster Division:

The Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces has transmitted the plan concerning the issuance of orders in Norway after the movement of the "Nordlicht" operation has taken place, and has requested for an appreciation without participation of the offices in Norway and Finland.

Copy, as per T/P message l. Skl. 3213/44, Gkdos. Chfs., to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol IIa.

The Naval Staff and the Commander in Chief of the Navy agree to the plan. A corresponding message will be forwarded to the Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces by the Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff.

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VI. Report of the Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff on the question of the armament for PT boats.

With regard to this matter the Commander in Chief of the Navy states that the question has been taken into consideration ever so often and that new points of view have not arisen thus far. It remains as the only practical suggestion that a supplementary motor be installed for little speed. Otherwise, the defense of PT boats must be carried out by defense forces, mainly by motor minesweepers, as it was handled so far. There, it is still necessary to increase the number of motor minesweepers and PT boats as far as possible. The Commander in Chief of the Navy is of the opinion that the question of arming the PT boats with artillery has been settled.

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VII. The Naval Staff, Special Weapons Department reports on the action with "Linse"-torpedoes during the operation "Kameraden". Contrary to the weather forecast, the weather became bad. 34 boats have been lost by ground swell, probably for the most part at the enemy coast. The Operations Officer, Lieutenant (s.g.) Bastian, has reported as a personal impression that it will not be possible for the armed fishing vessels to come through to Dunkirk.

In a restricted circle:

VIII. Chief of Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

According to press reports from Scandinavia, the Germans allegedly have given up their hope to restore the "Tirpitz". It is said that the dismantling of the ship's artillery has been started lately in order to put in into action for the defense of the coast or of the Lyngen Line which is being fortified at present in greatest haste.

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IX. Army Situation:

Western Front:

In the Schelde Bridgehead, the Canadians have established



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a bridgehead across the Leopold Canal near St. Laurent. After having crossed, the enemy was beaten back across the Canal in a counter-attack.

In the area north of Antwerp, the situation is still tense. The communication to the Walcheren Island is lying under enemy gunfire.

The situation around Aachen has become more serious. We succeeded by fierce fighting to withstand the main pressure of the enemy who came from the penetrated area north of Aachen and pushed towards the Southeast and East, and to neutralize the pressure at Alsdorf by reckless counter-attacks with reserve forces, however, a breakthrough of tanks from northern direction to Bardenberg made on the evening of 8 Oct. could not be prevented. As two tank columns broke through at the same time from the South to Haaren, the danger for Aachen has now become very serious.

The daily increasing destructions of railways are delaying the approach of reinforcements accordingly. Thus, it was not possible so far to transfer a unit of "Tiger" tanks from the area of Arnhem across the Rhine to the 7th Army.

The situation as to the personnel of the 7th and 15th Armies has become particularly tense due to the heavy losses during the last fights; the same applies to the equipment of the units around Aachen with heavy tank weapons.

Southeast of Pont a Mousson, the enemy started an attack with strong forces against a salient in the front (2 Infantry divisions and 2 armored divisions). The fiercely fighting enemy succeeded in gaining deep penetrations at several points. At the front of the 19th Army, the fierce defensive fights between Rambervillers and south of Remiremont are going on. Despite our strong counter-attacks the Americans and the French deepened their penetrations made the previous day and gained some new penetrations.

Enemy Situation:

61 units are put into action in France, 32 units are in England, and 47 units in America.

Italian Front:

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The combat activity of the day yields a clear conception of the enemy plan to break through on a broad front along the Futa Pass Road to the Via Emilia. After a very strong preparation with artillery, the enemy started here a major offensive with 5 reinforced divisions having attempted already the previous day to lay the foundation for a success by very strong attacks with ground attack planes and bombings against important targets. After fierce and strong fights, our own troops succeeded heavily battling in stopping all attempts to break through and to cut off local penetrations. In general, the main defense line is tightly being kept.

Balkan:

The withdrawal movements from the area of Athens cannot be started before 10 Oct. in order to salvage at first important stocks of fuel.

At the Macedonian Front, the Bulgarians occupied the important pass east of Kriwa Palanka and the town itself.

East of Nis, enemy attacks were beaten back. In the area of Zajecar - Danube, the fights with the superior enemy are going on.

Enemy attacks against the bridgehead of Beograd were beaten back. Between Beograd and the Tisza Mouth, the Russians have crossed the Danube; they are advancing in southern direction to Semlin. Little German forces have been put into action for countering the advance movements of the enemy.

50 kilometers north of the point where the Tisza River flows into the Danube, the enemy having crossed was beaten back.

Eastern Front:

Between Szeged and Szolnok, the Russians reached the Tisza River on a 100 km wide front, beat back the Hungarians, established bridgeheads at some points and, thus, are standing 90 km southeast of Budapest.

At the railroad from Szolnok to Debrecen, newly arriving German divisions are establishing a defense line of strongpoints.

In the area west of the line - Nagyvarad - Debrecen, two German tank divisions are attacking the enemy flank of the Soviets to the West.

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At the Beskids Front, the enemy pressure was not so strong as the previous day. The attacks were beaten back, especially west of the Dukla Pass.

Enemy offensive plans are to be observed in the large Vistula Bridgehead.

North of Warsaw, our units started an attack for clearing the northern part of the bridgehead north of Serock, however, met an extremely stubborn resistance of the enemy. The enemy on his part began strong attacks and pushed back the German Battalions to the initial positions. The attack was discontinued.

At the front of the Northern Army Group, the enemy continued his major offensive in an undecreased strength. East of Memel, the enemy succeeded in breaking through the first defense position of East Prussia and to advance up to Krottingen. He gained less ground, however, in the direction to Libau where he was partly thrown back.

Altogether, it is planned to withdraw the weakened divisions up to the second defense position of East Prussia, between Schirwint and Polangen.

At the Windau River, east of Moscheiken, the strong enemy attacks were beaten back to the North.

The enemy followed closely the withdrawal movements of the 16th Army, especially north of the Duena River. Single penetrations were cleared or cut off, while the extended bridgehead-position of Riga was occupied.

On the Osel Island, the Sworbe Peninsula is being defended against strong enemy pressure.

Finland:

In the area of Tornio and Kemi, encircled forces have liberated themselves. The Finns are following with small forces.

In the other sections, the own movements are taking place according to plans. Posio was occupied by the Finns. An encounter with Finnish Forces took place at the road from Kemijaervi to Salla, whereby the infiltration of Finnish Forces between the German and Russian Front seems to become confirmed.

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In the North, several attacks made against the Titowka Position with strong support from the air and operation of tanks were beaten back. The own withdrawal movements in this area have been started.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. The Naval Staff has transmitted an acknowledgement as requested by the Naval Command that the order of 12 August, according to which no preparations are to be made for the destruction of German ports, remains in effect for Memel.

b. The Naval Liaison Officer with the General Staff of the Army wires:

"The development of the land situation in Courland stresses the growing and decisive importance of the supplies for the Northern Army Group by sea and their escort."

c. The Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea reports with regard to the landing possibilities at the coast of Northern Courland:

"1. The coast from Windau up to Duenamuende is suitable for a landing operation of shallow draught vessels. Sandstrand.

2. The rear area from Windau up to 12 km south of Domesnes is marshy. This prevents the establishment of bridgehead, however, alleviates also a landing operation, all the more if reserve forces are kept back in the coastal area by a landing operation at several points. In cooperation with partisans probably the landing points would be a connection, and then an extension would take place to both sides. Since the western weather condition is dominating, a landing operation is to be expected at the coast south of Domesnes in order to be able to unload later on under land protection, as the first servicable port is Windau. At Domesnes, a landing operation is to be expected at the same time at the north-western coast in order to be able to occupy the Cape from two sides.

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3. The same considerations apply to the area from Markgrafen up to Engure. The approach would be made from the East.

4. The Russians have a few special vessels. The landing operations in the Viborg Bay prove that even the smallest fishing boat is occupied. Tanks ready for firing would be set up in special vessels."

d. The Naval Command East submits its point of view regarding the shipping routes in the eastern Baltic Sea:

"1. The shipping routes should be chosen under consideration of the least danger caused by mines, submarines, and planes. The least danger caused by submarines would be found on the coastal route, while the proceeding far off the shore would yield the least danger caused by planes and ground mines. The quickest adaptation to any change in the situation will be necessary. A decision will be made by the authorized commanding officer.

2. Due to the newly arising danger by submarines, the shipping has been shifted to the coastal routes as far as possible. However, this measure will not be of permanent duration since the enemy is attracted by this to put air forces into action and to lay ground mines. Therefore, a withdrawal from the coasts is necessary in due time. Night passages and a frequent change of the routes will be the safest means in order to aggravate the discovery of the shipping traffic by the enemy.

3. A further tension in the situation and an extension to the central Baltic Sea is to be expected by the increased action of submarines and air forces, and by a new showing-up of PT boats. The complete discontinuation of passages in daylight as the best defensive measure against this would mean an important limitation of the tonnage circulation and towage of ships in the ports, therefore, the measure could be justified only in case of need. The new showing-up of AT-mines will enforce the assignment of AT-mine escorts. By this, an additional binding of forces is to be expected."

e. The High Command Air informs the Naval Staff of an order according to which the Ship-borne Aircraft Squadron 196 with the 1st Squadron in Pillau and the Staff and 2nd Squadron

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in Aalborg are subordinated to the Air Force Reich in all respects. The operational subordination of those parts of the 1st Squadron 196 being put into action on board of warships and the subordination as to the training of R 2/196 under the General of Reconnaissance planes are not affected by this as far as the training for action on board is concerned.

The Air Force Reich will transfer the Staff and the 2nd Squadron 196 from Aalborg to Bug on Ruegen Island. The Squadron is to be put into action for the escort, the reconnaissance of the inshore waters and the anti-submarine hunt in the central Baltic Sea under a close cooperation with the competent Operations Headquarters of the Navy, as far as this is necessary and the training tasks admit. A special allocation of aircraft-fuel for this purpose will not be made. The demarkation line between the Air Force Reich and the Air Force 6 will be the terminal point of the territorial border between both fleets east of the Leba land-tip/south of Karlskrona.

The Ops. Div., Naval Staff informs the fleet, the Naval Command East and the Admiral Commanding Submarines accordingly.

f. The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff has issued an order to the Naval Command East on 4 Oct., that the material provided for the consolidation of the artillery defenses at the coasts of the Baltic Islands be utilized with priority in the area of Windau - Domesnes - Western Bay of Riga, and that a new operations plan be submitted.

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II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. The following directives concerning "Nordlicht" have been received from the Quartermaster Armed Forces High Command Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces:

aa. "The Fuehrer expects that all offices concerned will grant their cooperation for the execution of the movement "Nordlicht" with all their power and within the shortest space of time. For this purpose

l. the entire tonnage available and somehow suitable will be put into action for the re-transfer of valuable material,

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2. all ship transports not serving "Nordlicht" will be postponed,

3. a fast loading and unloading of the ships will be secured by a tightly operated loading organization and with a sufficient number of personnel,

4. vigorous officers equipped with full power will be appointed in the ports in order to prevent the transport of unnecessary ballast.

5. the tonnage available will be utilized according to plans."

bb. "The movement "Nordlicht" will take place under a strong enemy pressure. Therefore, possibilities for the transport from Petsamo will exist only until 20 Oct., from Kirkenes until 5 Nov. 1944. All means will be put into action in order to remove the important supply goods without any remainder during this limited space of time."

b. With regard to the infantry defense of the coastal batteries in Norway, the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters transmitted the following radio message (see War Diary 3 Oct.):

"For the time being, a reinforcement is impossible, on the contrary the Fuehrer ordered yesterday that one division be removed from the area of Bergen for operation at another front. The removal of further divisions from Norway has been taken into consideration. The Commanding General Armed Forces Norway has supported the request of the Naval Command by transmitting a T/P message to the Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces."

The Ops. Div., Naval Staff informs the Naval Command Norway accordingly.

c. Answering a request turned in by the Naval Staff with regard to the operation of the Air Force in the area of Norway the High Command Air, Ops. Staff reports (see War Diary 5 Oct.)

"1. The General of the Air Forces in Finland has been issued an order to destroy damaged enemy vessels with the fighter and reconnaissance planes available at the Arctic Coast, in cooperation with the Navy. Ground-attack planes operating in daylight are not present in this area.

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2. The Air Force General Commanding in Norway has been issued an order to increase the reconnaissance activity as far as possible within the limit of the available fuel supplies after the PQ-Convoys have been detected. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to put into action the suspended bomber formations in the area of Norway. There is no fuel available with the exception of a "threatening danger North" whereby action will be taken without any regard to the fuel situation."

The Naval Command Norway and the Admiral Arctic Coast are informed by the Ops. Div., Naval Staff.

d. Additional Note:

On 24 Sept., the Commander in Chief of the Navy has transmitted a proposal to the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters and the Armed Forces High Command, Ops., Staff of the Armed Forces (Navy) concerning the further use of the "Tirpitz"; the proposal was accompanied by the request to submit it to the Fuehrer as a report and to secure his approval. Order l. Skl I op 3067/44, Gkdos. Chfs., to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II a.

III. Area of the Naval Command North:

a. According to a report from the Naval Command North and the Commanding Admiral North Sea Defenses on the 2nd Artillery Flotilla (see War Diary 7 Oct.), only 11 artillery ferries are at war readiness in the area of the Admiral Netherlands inclusively the 2nd Artillery Flotilla. These artillery ferries have additionally been put into action for the defense of the Schelde River and the Zeeland Waters. New tasks are to be seen in crossing the Meusa and Waal Rivers.

The Naval Staff informs the Naval Command Norway accordingly and decides that the boats cannot be removed from their present operational area without involving the greatest disadvantages, and that they have to stay in Holland for the time being.

b. The Naval Staff makes the following transmittal to the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters:

"With regard to Antwerp, the Commander in Chief of the Navy considers the defense of the position at the Schelde Mouth by the



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Army to be of decisive importance. As seen at a long sight, the engagement of a further division for the operation in that area is deemed necessary. Concerning this matter, an article written by James Stuart in the "Evening Standard" contains the following sentences;

"The large port of Antwerp has been in our possession for one month, however, we cannot utilize it yet. The enemy batteries stationed on the Walcheren Island are preventing the shipping in the Schelde Mouth. The utilization of Antwerp is of great value for the Allies. Even under the fact that Calais and Boulogne have fallen and Dunkirk is being besieged nowadays it is hardly probable that these ports will soon be serviceable. Undoubtedly, the port of Antwerp which had a capacity of more than 20 millions of tons before the war will enable us to solve all problems arising in the supply of the Allies up to Berlin. The utilization of the port of Antwerp will speed-up the advance movements of the Allies. The port has undamagedly fallen into our hands, and it is really a tantalization that one cannot utilize the grand facilities of the port of Antwerp."

IV. Subject: West Area:

a. Concerning the operation "Kameraden", the Naval Command North informs the Naval Staff of a statement which had been transmitted at 1745 to the Group West and the Naval Liaison Officer with Army Group B. According to this statement, a possibility for the execution on 10 or 11 Oct. is still existing under circumstance. The Group West and the Naval Liaison Officer are asked for a clarification whether the Commanding General, Armed Forces West is still attaching an increased importance to the execution after the Chief Quartermaster of the Army Command 15 has declared that he is uninterested. The Naval Command North points out once more the risk connected with the operation and the dependence of the remaining barrage of the Schelde River on the execution deadline for "Kameraden". It will not be possible to bring small battle weapons into action before 11 Oct.

The Naval Command North has been informed by the Ops. Div. Naval Staff at 1850 by telephone that in the opinion of the Commander in Chief of the Navy the defense of the Schelde River and

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Antwerp are presently of decisive importance for the battle in the West; against this, the defense of Dunkirk would deserve only a minor importance. The ammunition supply of the Army for the defense of the Schelde River in Southern Holland, of the Walcheren Island and of the bridgehead at the southern bank of the Schelde River would have to be handled with priority. Only in the case that ammunition is available beyond these requirements, Dunkirk would have to be supplied. In the other case, the operation "Kameraden" would have to be given up.

At 2110, the Group West reports that the Commanding General, Armed Forces West has ordered the execution of the operation "Kameraden". Later on, the Naval Command North reports accordingly.

At 2300, the Naval Command North reports by telephone that the Chief of Staff has directed the following inquiry to the Commanding General, Armed Forces West and the Army Group B:

"The Commander in Chief of the Navy wants to be informed on the supply situation of the Armed Forces in Southern Holland in order to come into a position to appreciate the urgency of the supply of Dunkirk by sea (artillery ammunition)."

Independently of this, the Naval Command North has ordered to prepare the execution of the operation "Kameraden" and the allocation of "Linse"-torpedoes.

b. The Group West submits a report of the N.O.i/c of the Port of Ostende on the demolition measures in the port of Ostende. A report on the same matter has been turned in by the Mining and Barrage Command Ostende.

Copy, as per l. Skl. 37071, in connection with 36170/44, geh., to be found in War Diary, File "Invasion 7 Oct. 1944."

V. Subject: Southern Area:

The operational possibilities and result prospects for special weapons have been judged by the German Naval Command Italy in its area as follows:

"1. A visible success will be expected only under the action of about 20 special weapons. Due to the insufficient air

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reconnaissance and the great distances, this would be possible only as an exception. The reached results are not decisive for the course of the battle in this area.

2. It can be seen from the reports of the observation service that the special weapons importantly tie-up enemy forces and hamper the enemy in his freedom of action even in the case that they are put into action in a small number. In order to make more difficult the shelling of the coast, which is most disturbing for the West-Italian Front, and furthermore the mineclearing activity, the operation with special weapons in a number which is just available would be appropriate for an immediate effect and more decisive for the result of the fight ashore.

3. The result prospects, also as shown under 2., are still more promising in the Ligurian Sea than at the Adriatic Coast.

4. A preparation at coastal sections endangered by landing operations which will not remain unknown to the enemy has to be made both in the area of Imperia - Savona and at the coast of Eastern Italy."

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VI. The Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces has issued the following order on 6 Oct.:

"The transfer of territory-bound command authorities and offices (for example Corps Area Headquarters, Air Force District Headquarters, Recruiting-Service Offices etc.) to adjacent territorial command areas is principally not authorized. In the case of a partly loss of the own command area, a shift will be made to the remaining area, or the remaining responsibilities will be taken over by the adjacent command area under the disbandment or another utilization of the headquarters existing so far."

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VII. The High Command Air has agreed to lend the following boats to the Navy:

FL A 202, 204, 402, 403, 404, FL B 201, 204, 205, 207, 208, 210, 211, 302. Furthermore, the High Command Air has made an offer

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to the Navy to take over a part of the boats being built.

The Quartermaster Division has ordered the Naval Command East to take over the vessels.

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Situation 9 Oct. 1944:

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

28 planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, and 20 planes at the 19th Group. The vessels being at the northwest coast of England or in the Northern Channel, respectively, carried out an exercise on the afternoon of 8 Oct.

On 9 Oct., 6 British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

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2. Own Situation:

a. Situation in the Atlantic Fortresses:

In St. Nazaire, superior FFJ units were beaten back. At 0745, a "He 115" plane with medical equipment, submarine spare parts and a General Staff Officer for the Fortress La Rochelle has landed. It has been provided to continue the flight to La Rochelle on the morning of 10 Oct.

In La Rochelle, the own foreground patrols remained without encounter with the enemy. A demand for surrender submitted by FFJ-Troops was not answered.

In Gironde North, the supply operation has been continued. 80 tons of grain have been brought in.

Rear-Admiral Michahelles has taken over his responsibilities as Fortress Commander on 9 Oct.

The Group West reports the following armament figures of the fortresses, ranging upwards from the caliber of 7.5 cm:

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Lorient:

Including the Ile de Croix and Belle Ile, altogether 260 barrels, 21 of which are for naval sea targets, 190 for naval action ashore, and 49 for army action ashore.

St. Nazaire:

Altogether 373 barrels, 16 of which are for naval sea targets, 121 for naval action ashore, and 36 for army action ashore.

La Rochelle:

Including Re and Oleron: Altogether 197 barrels, 19 of which are for naval sea targets and 87 for naval action ashore, 4 for army sea targets, 63 for army action ashore, and 24 for aerial warfare action ashore.

Gironde North:

Altogether 88 barrels, 24 of which are for naval sea targets, 23 for naval action ashore, 10 for army sea targets, and 31 for army action ashore.

Gironde South:

Altogether 55 barrels, 18 of which are for naval sea targets, 16 for naval action ashore, and 21 for army action ashore.

b. Channel Sea Area:

At 1100, the Fortress Commander of Dunkirk reported a unit on eastern course, among which were 3 landing vessels, in the sector 9 at a bearing of 63°, 15 nautical miles off.

At 1345, the relief of the enemy destroyers on southern waiting position was observed from the Channel Islands. 12 Liberty Ships were on northern course northwest of Cherbourg.

In Dunkirk, enemy artillery fire and anti-tank harassing fire was lying on the entire area of the fortress.

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The armament runs up to a total of 128 barrels over 7.5 cm caliber, 8 of which are for naval sea targets, 27 for naval action ashore, 8 for army sea targets, and 85 for army action ashore.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

A. Bay of Heligoland:

In the forenoon, single enemy planes advanced into the area of Borkum for mine dropping. In the evening, an air raid of medium strength was made on Wilhelmshaven.

B. Area of Holland:

The vessel "K 4" with the Commander North Sea Defenses and 2 motor minesweepers had an encounter with enemy PT boats off Helder during the night of 8 Oct. 2 PT boats were sunk, 2 were heavily damaged. Only 7 men were slightly wounded by our side. The own unit has continued the passage to Borkum.

Patrol vessels on the "Cairo"-Position, too, had several fights with enemy PT boats. During these fights, 2 PT boats were sunk, and 1 PT boat was damaged. The patrol boat VP "1303" has sunk after a hit of a torpedo. 19 men are missing.

The port entrance of Ijmuiden has partly been blocked.

The demolitions in the port of Amsterdam were continued.

Near Flushing West, the gap in the dam which was closed up has again broken. The flooding now keeps on also in low water. The water supply of Flushing has broken down. For details about the extension of the flooded area see the Situation of the Day.

At 0200, the enemy has landed east of Hoofdplaat in a strength of a regiment. At 1240, 6 enemy battalions have landed; further landings are being made. The own coastal batteries have taken the enemy landings under fire with visible result. At 1600, the enemy landing vessels have withdrawn.

The Battle Flotilla 214 has arrived at Groningen on 8 Oct. with 60 "Linse"-torpedoes.

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Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

56 planes were detected during action at the 18th Group. At 1951, on 8 Oct., a British vessel was detected by Hammerfest in 275°<sup>0</sup>, and at 0124, on 9 Oct., in 234°<sup>0</sup>; an American vessel was detected in 307°<sup>0</sup> at 1450, on 9 Oct.

2. Own Situation:

On the evening of 7 Oct. and on 8 Oct., a vivid exchange of fire was going on in the area of Petsamo.

At 0552, on 9 Oct., Petsamo was raided by 10 enemy planes without any particular result. At 1154, 2 Spitfire planes coming from the East flew over the area of Alta. Probably the ship berths were looked into.

At about 2200, the Russians landed with 40 landing vessels on both sides of the Sonja Hill; the hill is being attacked by own artillery. Further own measures have been taken. Detailed reports are missing.

In the area of the west coast, numerous enemy plane sorties into the area between the Sogne Fjord and Kristiansand South were reported on the afternoon of 8 Oct. and during the night of 8 Oct.

On the afternoon of 8 Oct., a harbor defense vessel in the Kors Fjord was attacked by 2 Mosquito planes with bombs and aircraft armament; casualties were suffered. A harbor defense vessel in Hangesund was unsuccessfully attacked.

At 0728, on 9 Oct., a northbound convoy was attacked by 21 enemy planes with torpedoes and aircraft armament near Egersund. The submarine chaser UJ "1711 and the steamer "Oldendorff" (1953 BRT) with a cargo of building material were sunk. The steamer "Rudau" (2833 BRT) and the vessel K "2" were damaged and towed to port.

The Battle Flotilla 263 with 30 "Biber"-torpedoes has arrived at Christiansand South.

24 ships were escorted to the North, and 13 ships to the South.

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III. Skager-Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

Own submarines reported a vivid ship traffic off Hango as of 8 Oct., and besides that a strong activity of guard boats in the grid squares AO 3548 and AO 0256.

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2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skager-Rak:

21 boats were put into action for mineclearance. One mine each was cleared in the Langeland Belt, near the Zealand Reef, in the Aalborg Bay and on the Middelgrund; 3 mines were cleared near the Anholt Island. The Danish steamer "Mette" was beached after having hit a mine.

The "Emden" and the 5th Destroyer Flotilla have carried out torpedo-firing exercises. The cruiser "Koeln" is on a transfer passage to the Oslo Fjord.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

46 boats were put into action for mineclearance. 2 mines were cleared in the Bay of Danzig, and 1 mine near Rixhoeft. A ground-mine escort will be started in the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal on 11 Oct.

At 0330, the steamer "Siegfried" (563 BRT) was fired at by an enemy submarine north of Hela. The steamer is attempting to reach Gdynia or to beach, respectively.

Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea:

On the Osel Island, the Naval Shore Commandant has been put into action with Marine Troops for the coastal defense on the Sworbe Peninsula after having fought a fierce battle and having been exposed to continuous air raids. The losses are heavy, and the supply is unsatisfactory.

Beginning at 0830, heavy and continuous air raids were directed



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against Montu and the ships lying on the roads. The troops transport "Iller" (3290 BRT) has sunk after several bomb hits and vain salvage attempts. The steamer "Elbing I" (466 BRT) was set afire after a direct hit, and blew up later on. The steamer "Inge Christophersen" (1335 BRT) has sunk. Due to a direct hit on the mole, the loading works are strongly hampered. Mines are suspected on the roads. The 2nd PT boat Training Flotilla and the 1st Motor Minesweeper Flotilla have been sent to Kihelkonna for picking-up marine stragglers, however, they returned to Winday without having carried out their mission.

West of Lyserort, a towed dredger has sunk due to unknown reasons.

The transports of material and troops have been carried out according to plans.

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IV. Submarine Warfare:

The submarine U "370" has attacked with machine-gunfire an armed Finnish tug off Hango. The fight was discontinued because of trouble with the weapons. No particular reports are at hand otherwise.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

No special operations have been reported.

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Reich Territory:

Beginning at 1240, 1000 American bombers with a strong fighter escort entered for carrying out raids on Schweinfurt, Koblenz, Mainz, Wiesbaden and Enskirchen. For details see the Situation of the day. Due to rain and fog, no own fighter planes were able to start.

During the night of 9 Oct., about 300 enemy planes raided Bochum.

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50 planes made raids on other places in the industrial area - of the Rhineland - Westphalia. 50 Mosquito planes raided Wilhelmshaven.

Mediterranean Theater:

9 Bulgarian "Ju 87" have raided railway installations and railway bridges south of Skoplje. The other operations were reported without any particular comments.

Own planes have carried out reconnaissance.

Eastern Area:

On 8 Oct., 1370 enemy and 475 own sorties were reported from the Eastern Front; 18 enemy planes were shot down, while 5 own planes got lost.

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean Sea and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

According to an army report, 3 large and 5 medium vessels were lying in the Bay of Nice on the afternoon of 8 Oct. During the night of 8 Oct. and on 9 Oct. the usual activity of patrol vessels was detected.

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Own Situation:

The escort and patrol duties were carried out according to plans. At 2200, on 8 Oct., a small southbound convoy was attacked by enemy PT boats. One motor coaster was destroyed east of Maestra. Another southbound convoy consisting of naval landing craft and barges had a fight with 3 enemy PT boats off Maestra without damages and casualties.

On 9 Oct., the Naval Battery in the Magra Mouth has continued the harassing fire on the enemy main defense line during the forenoon and afternoon.

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2. Area of the Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

At 1830, on 8 Oct., an enemy surface unit was at 15 nautical miles abreast Ragusa. At 1730, 3 British PT boats were reported near Brac.

At 0345, on 9 Oct., the army strongpoint on Pago Island reported a shelling. The connection with Pago Island has been interrupted since 0500.

During the night of 9 Oct., PT boats have been put into action as convoy escort.

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b. Aegean Sea:

In the opinion of the Commanding Admiral Aegean Sea, the enemy is aiming at the blocking of the Gulf of Salonika. Therefore, patrol flights are made by fighter bombers in the sea area of South Euboea up to Trikeri, and surface forces are brought into position by day and at night in the exit of the Gulf of Salonika for the attack against targets at sea and ashore. The other sea areas are of minor importance. The enemy forces are showing up in an increased extent in the sea area of Agios - Giorgios and in the Dodecanese. For details see the Situation of the Day. The Commanding Admiral Aegean Sea does not expect that the exit of the Gulf of Salonika is fouled with mines.

The island of Paros has been evacuated according to plans. The transports from the Dodecanese have been blocked until the situation has cleared-up. The evacuation of Corfu Island has been carried out according to plans. The last sea transports from the Piraeus are to depart on the evening of 9 Oct. The remaining parts of the Naval Forces will be joined with the Army on the land march. The further transfer of the tonnage from Volos to Salonika is depending on the development of the situation. The communication from Trikeri, Lemnos and Leros to Salonika is blocked. Despite that, the Commanding Admiral Aegean Sea attempts to bring through fast steamers to Salonika under taking advantage of the darkness, after the steamers have disembarked the troops. The evacuation of Milos is presently being carried out by air transports. The same plan is existing for the evacuation of Rhodos and Leros.

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c. Situation on the Danube:

One minesweeper has sunk at the kilometer point of 1575, and one dumb barge at the kilometer point of 1353 after having hit a mine. Minesweeping planes have not been put into action due to the fuel shortage.

The blocking of the Danube from Bratislava to Vac has been released.

The large towed convoy has continued the passage from Vukovar to Apatin.

Units of the Danube Flotilla are transferring Racial Germans and heavy anti-aircraft artillery from Petervarad to Vukovar or to the Drau Mouth.

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VII. Situation in East Asia:

Particular reports are not at hand.

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Items of Political Importance:

Churchill and Eden have arrived at Moscow for a conference.

Apparently, Churchill seems to consider the situation to be favorable for tying down at last Stalin who attempts to get rid of all obligations. In particular, the attempt might be made to come to a solution of the Polish Problem, a solution which would less encounter the British prestige than it threatened to do so far. The non-participation of Roosevelt, too, proves that British interests are specifically concerned.

The World Security Plan of the Conference of Dumbarton Oaks which has now been made public is nothing else than a new infusion of the League of Nations under the participation of the Americans and Russians.

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Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy  
at 1115:

I. Report of the Chief, Hydrographic and Meteorological Division, Naval War Staff on the extension of the flooding on Walcheren Island.

II. Subject: Situation in the East:

a. The Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea has submitted the following assessment of the situation:

1. It is assumed that at least 50% of the Russian Submarine Flotillas which have a strength of about 22 boats are operating at present south of the Irben Narrows. The surfaced boats are presently attacking steamers in bright daylight.

2. The own Ops. Staff of the submarines has always stressed the fact that the plane is the main rival of the submarine. The attack against Russian submarines by the Air Force will probably fail due to the fuel situation. Besides that, the development will lead to the consequence that the planes provided for the action are attacked by Russian fighter planes.

3. After the communications with the Reich have anew

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been cut off, the circulation of a large tonnage must be maintained for the transport from Riga, the supply of the Sworbe Peninsula, the evacuation of Memel, the thinning-out of Libau and Windau, and the supply of the Army Group, under a small number of escort forces available.

4. It is the urgent necessity of the present time to put into action all vessels which are suitable in any way for the attack against convoys and submarines in order to save tonnage and valuable evacuation goods and to avoid further losses in personnel and civilian population, until

a. the Army Group has cleared again the communications to the homeland, and

b. Riga has been evacuated.

5. The present situation might be compared with the German Submarine Operation in the Mediterranean Sea without enemy air forces and a weak convoy escort.

b. The Commanding Admiral reports:

"After very heavy fights during which the missing of armor piercing weapons was of a threatening effect, the naval battle troops of Memel have been withdrawn from the main defense line and put into action by the Central Army Group for the defense of the Haff and Memel towards the South on the Kurische Nehrung. The task will be solvable only under an important reinforcement of the fighting strength by organizing a Haff Flotilla with an appropriate armament; this would have to be considered as an immediate measure taken for the defense of the Nehrung towards the mainland against enemy crossing attempts (a number of twelve vessels is suggested). Furthermore, the supply of armor piercing weapons (3,7 cm guns, small and large bazookas) for the Battle Group Memel and the operational forces in the northern section of Pillau will be necessary for the solution of the task. The requirements of the Army are extremely urgent since the situation at Memel continues to be serious after the Central Army Group has arrived, and despite the firmness that has been reached compared with the previous day."

III. In the Northern Area, the Russians have landed east of the entrance to the Petsamo Fjord, on both sides of the Sonja Hill. A counter-attack has been planned.

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An action report on the large-scale enemy air raid on Bergen has been received, and will be forwarded to the Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters and to the Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces (Navy).

IV. Chief of Ops. Div., Naval Staff:

The Ops. Div., Naval Staff is of the opinion that a repetition of the operation "Kameraden" should not be carried out since the enemy now closely watches the supply by sea to Dunkirk and the remaining barrage of the Deurloo fairway should not be released anymore.

The Commander in Chief of the Navy decides accordingly.

The Ops. Div., Naval Staff issues a corresponding directive to the Naval Command North, the Admiral Netherlands and the Group West, with copy to Admiral Small Battle Units.

In a restricted circle:

V. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

The Army Chief Command 20 has reported to the Armed Forces, High Command with copy to Naval Staff, that the organization of the ships for "Nordlicht" has been counteracted by the intervention of the Reich Commissar for Shipping and the Army Transport Officer Scandinavia in the clear arrangement of order set up by the Navy. Delays and conflicts are unavoidable since 3 authorities are now disposing of the same ships, the command of which should lie alone in the hands of the Navy.

The Chief, Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division will personally proceed with the Reich Commissar for Shipping to Norway in order to clarify the matter on the spot.

Apparently, the Mountain Army Chief Command 20 had expressed the opinion that the execution of "Nordlicht", under enemy pressure, would probably have to be accomplished in a very speedy manner. A relevant directive has been issued by the Quartermaster Division of the Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces (see War Diary October, Special Items II).

In contradiction to the above, the Mountain Army Chief Command 20 has received this night the following order from the Operations Branch of the Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces:

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"1. The plans of the 20th Mountain Army concerning the combat principles of the XIX. Mountain Army Corps did not pay attention to the space of time absolutely required for lasting demolitions in the Russian-Finnish frontier area and for a far-reaching evacuation of the area of Petsamo - Kirkenes. According to the material on the enemy situation available at this headquarters, the distribution of forces on both sides - compared with other fronts - cannot be judged so unfavorable that the units of the XIX. Mountain Army Corps which are almost completely filled-up as to the personnel and material are forced into such a quick and excessive avoiding action. Also the reaction of the early winter on the Reich Highway No. 50 be no obstacle to the XIX. Mountain Army Corps, considering its experience and equipment.

2. The Fuehrer demands that the Mountain Army secure an extensive evacuation of the ports in the Arctic Ocean by its combat principles; a speeded-up execution will be supported by the Armed Forces High Command by all means. The area of Petsamo - Kirkenes must not be abandoned until all scarce goods which are difficulty replaceable have been evacuated.

3. Out of regard of the valuable and irreplaceable stocks in the Northern Area, the Armed Forces High Command does not cling anymore to the original request (the bulk of the XIX. Mountain Army Corps will reach the area of Lakselv in the middle of November.) Necessary precautions against the difficulties of the winter are to be taken by the transfer of the snow sweeping troops and shovel detachments as well as by the establishment of bases for the march supply so that strong rear guards (Mountain Divisions without heavy vehicles) which are to move during winter may still be withdrawn even at a later date; this date must be set in the first place with regard to the evacuation of the most important supply goods.

4. The dismantling of the coastal batteries must be brought into conformity with the retreat on the main land and with the necessary escort of the sea transports.

5. No considerations are existing against a speeded-up withdrawal of the units from the large area of Rovaniemi, as far as the evacuation of that area and the necessary defense towards the South for the protection of the movements of the XIX. Mountain Army Corps admit this.

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6. It will be secured by all means that the transfer of the 6th SS-Mountain Division "North" takes place as quick as possible (superfluous motor parts to be transferred in advance) since the division is urgently required at another front. The 2nd Mountain Division is to follow the 6th.

7. I am referring once more most emphatically to the fact that the fuel reserves in the northern area must absolutely last until at least the middle of April. The operational measures, too, have to meet this requirement. The entire fuel situation is enforcing the accomplishment of radical economic measures as they have already been executed for a long time in the homeland."

#### VI. Army Situation:

##### Western Front:

On 9 Oct., the enemy started an attack against the Schelde Bridgehead aiming at a decision. Maintaining a strong pressure on the Leopold Canal, the enemy landed with about 5 battalions, among which he had also tanks, at the northern tip of the bridgehead and succeeded in establishing a bridgehead in a depth of 3 km and a width of 6 km. About  $3\frac{1}{2}$  battalions, among which companies were transferred from the Walcheren Island, could be put into position against the enemy, and thus the cutting-off of the bridgehead could be secured. The situation remains extremely tense.

Fierce fighting was going on for the land communications to the Walcheren Island at the narrows of Woensdrecht. The own counter attack could gain ground only step by step against the fiercely fighting enemy. Due to the destruction of the dams by bombings, the flooding of the Walcheren Island is increasing. Observed concentrations of tanks are leading to the conclusion that the enemy plans an attack in direction to Hertogenbosch.

In the penetrated area of Aachen, the enemy made weaker attacks than on the preceding days, probably because of the bad weather. Thus, the own blocking front in the North and East could be consolidated owing to the fact that no enemy air attacks at all took place, while in the South lost ground could be regained by an attack.

In the battle area southeast of Pont a Mousson, the enemy continued his strong attacks without being able to reach important results. A breakthrough of the enemy was made vain by the fierce

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resistance of our own troops. The own losses are serious. Only one group of 160 men out of the regiments of a division which had been put into action in the main defense line has fought its way back.

Heavy fighting is going on in the forest of Parroy.

The enemy pressure between Rambervillers and the area south of Remiremont is continuing with unweakened force. The enemy who made attacks at the hitherto existing concentration points was beaten back under heavy losses at several places. Only south of Bruyeres and in the area of Le Tholy the enemy succeeded in gaining ground under heavy and changing fights. West of Le Thillot, the enemy pushed back our troops to the east bank of the Mosellotte River.

Italian Front:

South of Bologna, the enemy attempted in the course of yesterday to take advantage of the results he gained on 8 Oct. and to break through further to the North. All attempted breakthroughs failed as a result of the undiminished combat efficiency of our troops who fought stubbornly despite exhaustion. Under the engagement of all reserves, heavy losses were added to the enemy in counter-attacks which were again and again started under not important casualties by our side.

Further to the East, along the road to Forli, vivid fights were going on during which a hill changed the possessor several times.

At the Adriatic Coast the day was calm.

Balkan:

East of Nis, Bulgarian penetrations in a strength of three Infantry and Cavalry Divisions as well as of 1 Tank Brigade (German equipment) were beaten back.

Between Nis and the Danube River, the Soviets have crossed the Timok River with numerous strong units and reached the Morava River between Lapovo and the area further to the North after having advanced 100 km. According to air reconnaissance, a strong enemy column of 1200 vehicles is approaching Pozarevac, 60 km southeast of Beograd. With that, the own troops (1st Mountain Division) fighting in the area west of Negotin have

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been cut off from their communications and encircled by the enemy. The main railroad from Beograd to Greece has been interrupted.

Eastern Front:

In the Hungarian Area, the large-scale offensive of the Russians continued to make important progress. The main forces seem to be advancing towards Budapest, while the wing-armies are concerned with protecting this advance along the Danube River and with occupying the area of Debrecen and north thereof.

Between the Danube River and Szolnok, the Russians are advancing on a front of 180 km width and are establishing several bridgeheads across the Tisza River. They could be beaten back at some points.

Between Szolnok and Debrecen, own forces are standing in a successful defensive. Several attacks on Debrecen were beaten back.

West of the line Nagyvarad - Debrecen, two German Tank Divisions are still standing in heavy and changing offensive and defensive fights.

The front of the 8th Army, between Kolozsvar and the area north of Szasz Regen, was withdrawn by 10-40 km. The withdrawal movements of the 1st Hungarian Army towards the Arpad Line, between the Tartar Pass and the Beskids Pass, were also started.

At the Beskids Front, the enemy again continued with strong assistance of artillery and air forces the attack on the front on both sides of the Cziroka Valley Pass and in the penetrated area southwest of Dukla. In the main, all attacks were beaten back under fierce fighting.

Further indications are confirming the enemy preparations for an attack in the Great Vistula Bridgehead. The further reinforcement of the air forces in that area which are already extremely strong anyway is particularly extraordinary.

In Warsaw, the suppression of the mutiny movement may be considered as completed after the remaining parts of the rebels have been disarmed.

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In the bridgehead north of Serock, the objectives chosen for an improvement of the position were reached.

The heavy defensive battle in Courland is going on. At the border of East Prussia, the concentration of the attack was directed towards Tauraga. Northwest of Tauraga, enemy forces advancing in southern direction were attacked by own tanks and pushed back to the North. In the vicinity of Neustadt (east of Heydekrug), we succeeded in beating back the enemy and in occupying the East Prussia Position on both sides of the town.

Further to the North, the Soviets succeeded in breaking through the bridgehead-position of Memel near Thaleiken. Heavy fights with enemy tank forces developed also at the most important approach roads to Memel which could only partly be beaten back or stopped. In the course of these fights the enemy entered Krottingen.

Heavy fighting was going on with the enemy advancing in north-western direction towards Libau; the results gained by the enemy in the beginning were partly made vain by an own counter-attack. Only in the area of Vainode, superior enemy forces succeeded in occupying the place.

At the remaining front of the Northern Army Group, penetrations could be cut off or cleared, respectively. Local advances in the area of the 16th Army, north of the Dvina River, were mainly beaten back under heavy losses for the enemy.

On the Osel Island, the Russians attacked the Sworbe Peninsula under a strong engagement of artillery and planes without gaining major results.

A directive of the Chief of the General Staff of the Army issued to the Northern Army Group and the Central Army Group as per Skl. 3234, Gkdos, Chfs, to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

VII. The Commanding General, Armed Forces Southeast, the Naval Staff and the High Command Air Ops. Staff are issued the following directive concerning the evacuation of the South Balkan Area by the Operations Branch of the Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces:

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1. In compliance with a request, the Fuehrer has approved the withdrawal of the 118th Rifle Division and 264th Infantry Division (each of them less one regiment) and the removal of the main defense line into the line Fiume - Senj - Ridge of the Velebit Mountains - Knin - Livno - Mostar - Nevesinje - Gacko. A safe contact with the Commanding General, Armed Forces Southeast must further be maintained.

2. The coastal batteries of the Army and Navy, as far as they can be dismantled, are to be put into action in the new main defense line for the protection of the mountain passes. Fixed batteries which cannot be removed are to be left behind in their present firing positions with a small infantry guard as strongpoints and will fight up to their annihilation in the case of an enemy landing action.

3. As far as possible, the guarding of the coast and the securing of a strong and reliable reconnaissance action are to be carried out by Ustascha Units.

4. Important objectives, especially the ports, are to be lastingly destroyed during the evacuation; the roads leading into the mountains are to be prepared for a lasting demolition, and the prompt execution of the demolition is to be secured.

5. The Commanding General, Armed Forces Southeast will report his plans in agreement with the Naval Group South.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. The Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea has issued an order for the tight operation of the escort service regarding the increased endangering of the shipping. Only small vessels and naval landing craft are still approved for the operation in the traffic to and from the Sworbe Peninsula; in the case of flying weather they have to carry out the passage out and back in the dark. The Irben Strait has been blocked for ships over 2000 BRT proceeding to the East.

b. The shelling of the Osel Island by the 2nd Task Force as suggested by the Naval Shore Commandant Baltic Isles is out

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of question since it would have to be carried out from the West and the firing ranges would become too remote on this side. Therefore, the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea has issued an order to the Naval Shore Commandant Baltic Isles to put into action artillery ferries for the shelling in the first light of 11 Oct. and to let withdraw the units subsequently to the south.

At 1335, the Naval Liaison Officer, General Staff of the Army wired:

As it is seen at this headquarters, the development in the land situation on the Sworbe Peninsula requires the determined action of the 2nd Task Force, even without an express order, in order to bring relief to the heavily fighting land-front by the naval artillery. The General Staff is of the same opinion.

It has been found out by an inquiry at the Naval Command East that new details about the development of the situation are not at hand either there, or at the Naval Staff.

Meanwhile, the situation in the area of Memel has importantly grown tense in the course of the afternoon.

At 1850, the Naval Command East informed the Naval Staff of a directive issued to the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea that the situation at Memel and the threat of a crossing of the enemy to the Kurische Nehrung urgently required the action of further artillery ferries and naval landing craft. As soon as possible, also torpedo boats are to be put into action against the enemy traffic west of Nilhorn.

During the evening hours, the Naval Liaison Officer, General Staff of the Army reported that the situation at Memel had become dangerous during the last 8 hours. The assistance of the 2nd Task Force is requested.

The Chief, Naval Staff has informed the Naval Command East by telephone and transmitted the order for the land target shelling by the 2nd Task Force near Memel. Data for the further execution are to be procured by the Commander of the 6th Destroyer Flotilla in Memel who also transports the Liaison Officer of the Army for the shelling to the Task Force. Since the Task Force is lying in a three-hours readiness in Gdynia, the departure may be expected at about 0200 in the morning.

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After a report of the Chief, Naval Staff by telephone, the Commander in Chief of the Navy has approved the measure.

The Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters and the Chief of the Submarine Div., Naval Staff have been advised by the Chief of the Naval Staff, and the Fleet by the Chief of the Ops. Div., Naval Staff.

At 2350, the Naval Command East informs the Naval Staff on the following directive issued to the 2nd Task Force:

1. The 2nd Task Force will carry out a land target shelling for the assistance of the heavily fighting army front at Memel. The data for this will be procured by the Commander of the 6th Destroyer Flotilla in Memel.
2. The destroyer "35", four boats of the 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla, as well as the destroyer Z "25" and Z "36" will be put into action as defense forces. The Commander of the 6th Destroyer Flotilla has been issued an order to leave Memel after having completed the task and to join-up with the 2nd Task Force.
3. The operational command will be in the hands of the Naval Command East, the tactical command will be executed by the 2nd Task Force.
4. The planned departure and the time schedule will be reported.

The Commander of the 6th Destroyer Flotilla as well as the destroyers Z "25" and Z "36" are issued an order by the Naval Command East to put to sea from Memel after the required data have been procured and to join-up with the 2nd Task Force.

II. The High Command Air, Ops Staff informs the Naval Staff of a directive issued to the Air Force 6 and other concerned ones regarding the transfer of L. (F) 131 (BV 138) without TLE AR 196 and BV 222 from Stavanger to Pillau provided for reconnaissance action in the Eastern Baltic Sea under a close cooperation with the competent Naval Operations Offices. The squadron will be refilled up to the required strength.

The Ops. Div., Naval Staff informs the Naval Command East and the Admiral Commanding Submarines by issuing a directive to the Naval Command East to secure by corresponding measures that this squadron is operated as cleverly as the Staff 2/196 and 2/126. The aircraft fuel situation (also Diesel oil) does not admit any idling.

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III. For the consolidation of the coastal defenses in the area of Denmark and in the Western Baltic Sea, the Quartermaster Division Naval Staff has assigned - besides the allotment already made - one battery of four 28 cm semi-automatic guns for the Laesoe Island and one battery of four 24 cm KM for the Fehmarn Island.

In addition, three heavy batteries have been assigned for the consolidation of the coastal defenses in the Bay of Heligoland:

- a. 1 battery of four 30.5 cm KM for Wangerooge Island,
- b. 1 battery of four 30.5 cm KM for Sylt Island,
- c. 1 battery of four 24 cm KM for Cuxhaven.

IV. Subject: Southeastern Area:

a. Concerning the withdrawal of the main defense line from the Adriatic Coast to a forces conserving mountain position as approved by the Fuehrer, the Commanding General, Armed Forces Southeast has issued an order on 9 Oct. which will be transmitted at the same time by the Group South for information to the Naval Staff accompanied with an own executive directive for the Admiral Adriatic Sea. Copies of both T/P messages, as per 1/Skl 3240 and 3239/44, respectively, Gkdos. Chefs. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.

According to 1/Skl 3239/44, Gkdos. Chefs., the Group South asks the Naval Staff for releasing the Naval and Army Coastal Artillery in the sense of the aforementioned directive, in the case that the right to dispose of the coastal artillery as claimed by the Commanding General, Armed Forces Southeast must be acknowledged.

The Group South is seeing quite clearly that the defensive strength of the remaining strongpoints will be little only since the supplies and armament are scarce.

b. With regard to the attitude of the German troops withdrawn through Servia, the Group South has submitted the reports which had been requested for in compliance with orders from the Chiefs of the Offices established in the Serbian Area on their observations; for further explanation, the results of the inquiries made by the Air Force Command Southeast were inclosed.

These reports yielded the proof for the Group Command Southeast that the charges raised by the Reich Main Security Office were not justified, with the exception of single cases which do not weigh under consideration of the high total number of personnel having been transferred. The Group reports that the transport of the withdrawn Naval Units has for the most part been carried out under the supervision of officers and in good order.

Report of the Group South, as per 1/Skl 30761/44 Gkdos., to be found with all inclosures in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.



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Situation 10 Oct. 1944:

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

Thirty-five planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, and twenty-three planes at the 19th Group. Three British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

Own Situation:

No particular reports have been received from the Atlantic Fortresses.

A vivid fighting activity by our side has been reported from Dunkirk. Enemy assaults were beaten back. A convoy from Jersey Island to Guernsey Island has been carried out with one mine-sweeper and two armed fishing vessels. The Fortress Commander of the Channel Islands, General v. Schmettow, was aboard.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

On the evening of 9 Oct., strong enemy sorties were flown in the Bay of Heligoland. Heavy Anti-Aircraft Artillery was put into action in all sections. The Battery Kirchweyhe was damaged during a raid on the town and shipyard of Wilhelmshaven. The Admiralty Building received a direct hit. Five harbor defense vessels were sunk, three other ones damaged.

No particular reports are at hand on the naval forces.

Area of the Netherlands:

The fouling of the Schelde Fairway north of Terneuzen has been carried out with 40 LMB-mines. Four artillery ferries have fired at enemy ships at the beach near Hoofdplat.

All heavy anti-aircraft batteries in the area of Flushing as well as the sea target batteries in the bridgehead on the south bank of the Schelde River and in the main works of Flushing have taken under fire the bridgehead of Hoofdplat. The battery on the south bank of the Schelde River was lying under enemy fire. The control position has broken down by a direct hit.

Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Twenty-seven planes were detected over the northern North Sea in the area of the 18th Group.

Own Situation:

In the area of the Arctic Coast, an enemy landing operation has been carried out on both sides of the Sonja Hill, east of the entrance to the Petsamo Fjord. A counter-attack against the landing has been started. Own artillery is being put into action. The assault of own motor minesweepers was discontinued because of rough sea. No supplies have been detected at the enemy until 0300, apparently due to weather reasons.

On 7 Oct. and 8 Oct., 16 sorties with 415 planes have been reported in the Petsamo Fjord; bombs were dropped and attacks made with aircraft armament.

On 9 Oct., 630 enemy planes were detected in 22 sorties carrying out continuous raids in the area of Petsamo with bombs and aircraft armament. In the forenoon, the enemy artillery activity was little while the own activity was strong. 30 enemy planes attacked the Batteries "Petsamo" and "Sensenhauer".

In the area of the Admiral West Norwegian Coast, besides the reported ships the steamer "Hogat" (1337 BRT) was damaged below the water-line in an air raid on 9 Oct. and towed in to Egersund. 9 planes were positively shot down during the raid; it is probable that further planes were shot down.

From 9 Oct. up the early morning of 10 Oct., single enemy planes have entered the area of the Sogne Fjord and Christiansand South.

26 ships were escorted to the North, and 17 ships to the South.

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III. Skager-Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:
Enemy Situation:

No particular observations were made.

Own Situation:Admiral Skager-Rak:

The patrol positions at the coast of West Jutland were occupied according to plans.

18 boats were put into action for mineclearance. One mine each was cleared in the northern exit of the Sound, in the Samsoe Belt and near Anholt. Among others, the cruiser "Koeln" and 3 Swedish ships were escorted.

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Western and Central Baltic Sea:

41 boats were put into action for mineclearance. One mine was cleared off the Flensburg Foerde.

Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea:

Riga was lying under the shelling of heavy enemy artillery. In the Northeast, the main defense line has been taken back up to 25 km off the town.

Heavy fighting and continuous air raids have been reported from the Sworbe Peninsula. The town and port of Memel, too, are lying under heavy enemy artillery fire.

The hospital ships STEUBEN and BERLIN were taken under heavy enemy artillery fire on the roads of Duenamuende, and have changed the anchorage. In the forenoon, 2 enemy planes have probably dropped mines west of Domesnes. One shipping route has been shifted.

Between Windau and Pillau, an attack of 19 enemy planes was unsuccessfully made on the 7th Gun Carrier Flotilla.

At 1005, 45 planes attacked a convoy entering the roads of Libau.

The hospital ship STEUBEN suffered little casualties.

On the evening of 9 Oct., Libau itself was raided by 60 enemy planes with about 200 high explosive bombs. The railroad station was heavily hit, one ammunition train exploded. The wire communication with Libau has been interrupted.

At 0225, a group of naval landing craft reported a torpedo track near the Cape Zerel.

From 0535 to 0600, the 7 Gun Carrier Flotilla with two heavy gun carriers and five artillery ferries has carried out a shelling of the coast of Osel Island and silenced the enemy batteries. The counter-action from the land was little.

During the night of 9 Oct., four PT boats have carried out a push from Wormsund into the sea area of Hangoe and entered Windau afterwards. Details are still being expected.

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The troop transports and convoys have been carried out according to plans and without any incidents.

For the supply to Memel, a speeded-up transport of a steamer with ammunition from Danzig has been ordered for 11 Oct.

The steamers FINLAND and CARL ZEISS will put to sea with two sea-going tugs from Swinemuende as block ships for Duenamuende.

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IV. Submarine Warfare:

It has additionally been reported on the loss of the submarine U "168" off Java (see War Diary 7 Oct.) that the boat was torpedoed by a Dutch submarine.

No particular reports have been received from the other operational areas.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Particular action reports are not at hand this day.

The enemy air activity was also only little in the entire Reich Territory. During the night of 10 Oct., between 20 and 30 Mosquito planes have carried out raids in the area of Duisburg - Oberhausen and Cologne.

15 fast bombers dropped high explosive bombs on railroad installations in the area of Aschaffenburg and Pforzheim, furthermore in Ulm and Immenstadt.

Mediterranean Theater:

The action of the enemy was kept on the usual level. Particular incidents have not been reported.

Eastern Area:

On 9 Oct., 664 own and 2780 enemy sorties were reported

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from the Eastern Front; ten planes got lost by our side, while 119 enemy planes were shot down.

It has been reported on the vivid enemy air activity in the area of the Eastern Baltic Sea.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean Sea and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

On the forenoon of 9 Oct., one cruiser of the "Trouville"-class has entered Gibraltar from the Mediterranean Sea and put to sea again in the afternoon heading to the Atlantic. Besides that, seven freighters and two corvettes have put to sea again on the evening of 9 Oct. heading to the Atlantic.

During the night of 9 Oct., and during the day patrol activity off the French and Italian Riviera was as usual. No encounters with the enemy have occurred.

On the afternoon of 9 Oct., Ventimiglia was shelled from the mainland and, by destroyers, from the sea. On 10 Oct., the coast and the rear area of Ventimiglia were lying again under the fire of a destroyer. The destroyer turned away for a short space of time under the shelling of the Naval Battery.

On the evening of 9 Oct., 15 LCT were sighted at four nautical miles south of Livorno.

Own Situation:

The escort and patrol duties off the coast of West Italy was hampered by the weather condition.

Early on 10 Oct., 120 tons of ammunition exploded in the harbor tunnel of Genoa probably because of a lightning. The quay facilities have partly been destroyed. Two barges and one tug were sunk, two naval landing craft and two barges were damaged.

2. Area of the Naval Group South:

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a. Adriatic Sea:

During the battle of PT boats on the evening of 8 Oct. off Maestre, the own harbor defense vessel which had been beached with battle damages and one motor coaster got lost.

Four motor minesweepers proceeding from Sibenice to Pola have turned back on the evening of 9 Oct. due to weather reasons and sunk a gangs' sailing vessel on the return passage to Sibenice.

An enemy vessel was taken in prize by a harbor defense vessel in the Pasmand Narrows. Five air raids were carried out on the harbor area of Zara during the day of 9 Oct. One harbor defense vessel and one combined operations boat were damaged. One auxiliary sailing vessel was destroyed.

No particular damage was caused during air raids made on Trieste and other ports.

On the evening of 10 Oct., the torpedo boat TA "40", two submarine chasers and the 3rd and 24th PT boat Flotillas with 4 boats each have put to sea from Pola for an operation against the Melada Island in order to destroy the enemy vessels and the radio station.

The Italian midget-submarine CB "16" has been over-due since 4 Oct. The reason for the loss is being seen in technical defects since the crew was considered to be reliable.

b. Aegean Sea:

On the evening of 9 Oct., Cape Kassandra has located several sea targets on the convoy route, probably destroyers.

On the afternoon of 9 Oct., the radar station of Kassandra was continuously taken under fire by a heavy cruiser and a destroyer without success.

During the night of 9 Oct. numerous location reports of cruisers or destroyers were made in the North Aegean Sea.

During the night of 8 Oct., the convoy GR "01" was attacked by enemy PT boats in the area of the Cape Sunion. The fire was returned. The attacking boats withdrew in westerly direction.

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One block ferry was shot afire and one tug is missing by our side,

A vivid action of enemy forces has also been reported in the South Aegean Sea.

Submarine reports are at hand from Candia and Rhodos. On the forenoon of 9 Oct., the torpedo boat TA "38" was attacked by five planes in the Bourtzi Passage; 3 guns have broken down.

Two of the attacking planes were shot down.

The tanker ELLI proceeding from Syra to Chalkis has been overdue since 16 Sept., and was probably raided by partisans.

The Commanding Admiral Aegean Sea estimates the general attitude of the enemy still immeasurable since offensive actions have not yet taken place despite the clear concentration of forces. The Commanding Admiral Aegean Sea intends to block the Gulf of Salonika with the available mine reserves by the coastal defense flotilla "Attika" for the inner mining, and by the motor ship ZEUS and the last torpedo boat TA "39" for the outer mining.

The remaining evacuation of Piraeus at sea by the steamers ANNA 1 and LOLA escorted by insufficient vessels which were out of war readiness has successfully been carried out according to plans and without having been disturbed by the enemy. The provided major action of the coastal batteries of Phleves and Sunion has not come into effect by that.

c. Situation on the Danube:

A total of three tugs sank at the kilometer points of 1812 and 1337, respectively. The large towing convoy has been taken over by the Northern Group of the Danube Flotilla, and is proceeding from Mohacs upstream.

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VIII. Situation in East Asia:

Particular reports are not at hand.

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Items of Political Importance:

No important reports have been received.

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Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy  
at 1115:

I. After a report of the Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff on the omission of the demolition of the Port of Memel, the Commander in Chief, Navy, yields to the opinion of the Naval Staff that the port of Libau should also stay undemolished, at least for the time being. It must be secured in any case that the Army Authorities do not issue the demolition order for Libau before having contacted first the Naval Authorities. The Naval Liaison Officer, General Staff of the Army is being interpolated.

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II. Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff:

a. Concerning the supply in the area of the Operations Staff, Northern Coast, the following directive has been received from the Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff of the Armed Forces:

"1. It is the responsibility of the Chief, Army Armament Department, and Commander in Chief of the Replacement Army to arm and equip the forces which are subordinated to the Operations Staff Northern Coast, inclusively the alarm units, and to arm the artillery positions.

2. As reserves, the Chief, Army Armament Department, and Commander in Chief of the Replacement Army will provide the following:

a. One ammunition issue for each existing infantry weapon;

b. Rations and fodder for 14 days.

3. The High Command, Army General Staff of the

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Army General Quartermaster will issue directives for the establishment of the supply base in order to weigh them against the requirements of the other war theaters.

4. The Chief, Army Armament Department, and Commander in Chief of the Replacement Army will continuously inform the High Command Army General Staff of the Army General Quartermaster on the state of the equipment and reserves, and will report to the Armed Forces High Command, Ops. Staff, Quartermaster Section as of the 15th of each month."

a. An ammunition supply of Memel will be carried out this night by two steamers.

b. More than 75 000 persons have altogether been transported by sea from Riga.

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III. The Chief of the Naval Armament Department reports on the transport routes by land and by sea for the sections of the submarine construction.

On this opportunity, the Commander in Chief, Navy remarks that Reich Minister Speer had talked on 9 Oct. in an emphatic and confident manner about the execution of the most necessary armament plans. At first, the production of fuel for fighter planes is of a decisive nature in order to be able to close again the torn-up roof over the Reich.

The Chief of the Naval Armament Department reports that steel concrete cupolas for heavy batteries in Norway cannot be completed in the course of this year. A desistance from the production would mean an important ease for the industry.

The Commander in Chief Navy decides that the desistance should be affirmed.

The Chief of the Naval Armament Department goes on to report that two armament specialists of the Navy (one commander (reserve) and one scientist) are supposed to be sent to Japan in order to collect information from the armament production there.

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IV. Special Weapons, Naval Staff:

The question of the Fortress Commander of Dunkirk turned in with regard to the assignment of midget-submarines for the reinforcement of the fortress defenses has to be answered negatively. Under the present circumstances, a transfer of these vessels is impossible. However, the question of the assignment of Linse-Torpedoes is being examined. The action will be possible if gasoline is available in the fortress.

The Commander in Chief, Navy deems the action of Linse-Torpedoes very appropriate. The Admiral Small Battle Weapons has laid down directives as to the action of Small Battle Weapons in the Mediterranean Sea. Effective results are to be expected by mass actions only. Therefore, the stocks must not be expended prematurely but must be first of all filled-up for mass actions. The prospects for success are deemed by the Admiral Small Battle Weapons more favorable in the Ligurian Sea than in the Adriatic Sea. For an assessment of the situation as to the operation with small battle weapons laid down by the German Naval Command Italy look up War Diary 9 Oct.

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In a restricted circle:

V. Chief, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

From a radio message which was read here and sent from the Group South to the Naval Liaison Officer, Army Group F and to the Naval Liaison Officer, Tank Army Chief Command 2 it can be seen that the closest cooperation between the Army and the Navy is required in the abandonment of the Dalmatian Coastal Position, in order to avoid that the defense of the remaining coastal strongpoints is left in the hands of insufficient Naval Forces without the aid of the Army. Copy of the relevant T/P message as per 1/Skl 3253/44 Gkdos. Chfs. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol XIV.

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VI. Army Situation:

Western Front:

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Especially fierce fighting was going on at the front of the 15th and 7th Army on 10 Oct. The weather condition which was unfavorable for the air force of the enemy permitted the execution of a number of movements by marching and by railroad also during daylight.

In the bridgehead of Breskens the enemy succeeded in making a penetration near Strooiburg. The enemy continued to reinforce his forces in the bridgehead of Hoofdplaat; according to a reliable source, these forces had to suffer serious losses.

In the area of Aachen, the enemy in general kept back during the day because of the missing aid of the air force.

Through a deduction of units from the area north of the Waal River the concentration of forces in the area of the 2nd British Army has been changed now to that effect that the main assault direction of the British offensive to be expected between the Rhine and Meuse Rivers will lie towards the East or Southeast, respectively. It might be possible that the operational command of the enemy forces desists at first from the concentrated attack into the North German Low Plain and aims at winning the area at the left-hand side of the Rhine River between Cologne and Emmerich as a minor solution.

In the western Vosges Mountains, the strong enemy attacks at the northern wing of the 19th Army were continued.

#### Italian Front:

The fighting activity of the enemy was concentrated in the area south of Bologna also in the course of yesterday. After fierce and heavy fights, our heroically battling grenadiers succeeded in beating back the attacks and in clearing all penetrations in the main.

#### Balkan:

Altogether four motorized marching units so far have left the area of Athens with the last supply troops and parts of the air force.

The ferry traffic from Corfu was continued.

In Macedonia, changing fights with Bulgarian troops who were

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superior as to the number were still going on. The enemy could push back our units.

In Serbia, the Russian advance movement south of the Danube River forces us to withdraw all troops still standing east of the Morava River (1st Mountain Division and 7th SS-Division "Prinz Eugen") behind this river. The withdrawal movements will be extremely difficult.

Near Beograd, little enemy pushes north of the Danube River were beaten back, and the own bridgehead was withdrawn.

Eastern Front:

Advancing across the lower Tisza River, Russian forces reached the railroad line from Budapest to Beograd at Topolya.

Between Szeged and Szolnok a small German group of forces succeeded by an elastic manner of fighting in pushing back against the Russians across the Tisza River. Advancing towards Budapest the Soviets reached the area of Keeskemet where they are fighting with Hungarian Cavalry.

In the area south of Debrecen, a heavy tank battle has arisen with three fast Russian Corps which were cut off from their rear communications, and with those Russian units advancing from the outside against the own front. In the main, all attacks and diverting attempts for the enemy forces cut off southwest of Debrecen were beaten back and, according to reports received so far, 81 tanks knocked out during these fights.

The withdrawal movements in Transsylvania and the Eastern Carpathian Mountains are generally taking place as planned. Minor attacks at the Beskids front were beaten back, and attempted sorties of an encircled Russian group of forces were prevented.

At the front of the Central Army Group the enemy started the expected strong attacks between the Vistula and Bug Rivers as well as from his bridgehead south of Rojan. While the deep penetrations at the front of the 9th Army could already be hemmed-in up to an important extent, the forward line of the 2nd Army had to be given up and a switch line had to be taken.

The Russian preparations for a major attack between Kalvarien and Schaken, in direction to Insterburg, are being continued.

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North of the Memel River, the German front was continuously engaged in extremely heavy fighting. Tauraga had to be given up. Farther to the west, the Russians advanced up to Heydekrug and, with that, crossed the road from Memel to Tilsit.

The Russians are attacking with strong forces from all sides against Memel. The own troops withdrew to a bridgehead-position in a circle of 7 km around the town.

Between Memel and Libau, the enemy seems to have reached the Baltic Sea on a broad front.

While our troops, 30 km south of Libau, were pushed back by about ten km, all attacks southeast of Libau could be beaten back in the former battle line of the precedent day.

The enemy follows closely our withdrawal movements towards Riga.

On the Osel Island, attacks against the Sworbe Peninsula were beaten back.

The Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division informs the Supreme Operations Staffs on the aforementioned change in the concentration of the 2nd British Army referring to the "Appreciation of the Enemy Situation" as established by the General Staff of the Army, Foreign Armies West. However, a conclusive assessment is not possible yet.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. During a discussion with the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea, the Naval Shore Commander, Baltic Isles has strongly pleaded for a shelling of the land on the Sworbe Peninsula by the 2nd Task Force on the morning of 11 or 12 Oct. At 1230 the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea reports to the Naval Command East and the Naval Staff as follows:

"1. The 2nd Task Force has been provided for the operation against the Sworbe Peninsula. Since the success depends on the surprise moment due to the lack of a fighter escort, a participation in the battle ashore will not be started until the last relief is required.

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2. The groups of heavy gun carriers and artillery ferries will again participate in the operation early on 11 Oct. at those points where at that time no effective possibilities are given either to the Task Force from the West or to the Torpedo Boats from the East.

3. The torpedo boats T'23" and "28" will be at readiness for the action against enemy concentrations at the coastal area south of Libau.

4. The plans for the operation on the Sworbe Peninsula might be crossed by putting the Task Force into action at Memel. There are only little prospects of relief actions if the battle situation becomes complicated.

5. The Naval Liaison Officer, General Staff of the Army seems to have a wrong conception of the operational collaboration between the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea and the Army Group. On an average, the contents of the teletypes are following 48 hours behind the conferences held here. An official journey for collecting information is urgently desired."

At the same time the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea reports the plan for the operation of the 2nd Task Force against the Sworbe Peninsula early on 12 Oct., subsequently, the Naval Command East wires at 1330 to the Admiral, Eastern Baltic: "The release of the 2nd Task Force for the Operation Sworbe is not be reckoned with for the time being."

b. From the assessment of the Situation given by the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters:

"After a critical situation in Memel during the afternoon of yesterday, the own front could be consolidated during the night. The planned operation of the 2nd Task Force had caused a good moral effect among the own troops. The Russians have broken through at the coast between Memel and Libau. Despite that, the Northern Army Group believes that in the main an improvement of the situation may be stated." The Naval Command East has been informed accordingly.

c. According to a report from the Naval Command East of 1755, the 2nd Task Force has carried out the assistance of the Army by shelling twice the land at Memel. The action of the Task Force against the Sworbe Peninsula, for example early

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on 13 Oct., as taken into consideration by the Naval Command East would be possible only if an assistance for the Army in the area of Memel is not required anymore.

d. The Naval Command East reports with regard to its own barrage plan the following intention of the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

"The establishment of barrages in the Irben Narrows will not be possible until the situation on the Osel Island has been cleared. The possibility of transporting the own troops from the Sworbe Peninsula must be kept up from all sides. If we are forced through the enemy mines to alter the routes, it may be possible that the plannings have to be changed accordingly. Therefore, it is intended first of all to reinforce "Krokodil South"."

II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. The Naval Command Norway reported on 9 Oct. to the 4th Destroyer Flotilla, with copy to the Naval Staff, Operations Division, that "Hermes" has become questionable due to the imminent start of "Nordlicht". In no case "Hermes" should be carried out before the TIRPITZ has been transferred.

The Naval Staff, Operations Division inquires the meaning of "Hermes" at the Naval Command Norway and asks for information on "Hermes" as well as on details as to the plan of transferring the TIRPITZ and, if possible, on "Nordlicht".

b. The Naval Command Norway is issued the following directive by the Naval Staff, Operations Division in connection with serious ship losses suffered on 26 and 27 Sept. in grid square AN 3161:

"It cannot be seen from the reports received on the loss of the submarine chaser UJ "1106" on 26 Sept. and submarine chaser UJ "1715", steamer CLAERE HUGO STINNES and steamer KNUTHE NELSON on 27 Sept. whether measures for the checking of the sea area have been taken or carried out within a period of 30 hours from the first ship loss to the later hits. The Naval Command Norway will find out whether the clarification of the reason for the loss of the submarine chaser UJ "1106" and the subsequently taken measures permitted to reckon on a sufficient security for the ships proceeding in that sea area - as far as the war experience goes thus far -, or whether the failure of the subordinated offices was decisive for the loss of three ships on 27 Sept.

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The result of the investigation will be reported as soon as possible."

A copy of a more detailed note and the corresponding order as per 1/Skl IE 30731/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol IIa.

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III. The High Command, Air receives the following information for the Naval Staff, Operations Division:

"No objections are existing against the use of D-gears if the Air Force is put into action with mines in the case of "impending danger North" or in the eastern Baltic Sea. It is provided, however, that the Navy has been contacted as to the operation in order to avoid an impediment of the own operations at sea, and that the approach flight is carried out in a way that a blind dropping of mines is impossible over the enemy area."

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IV. The Naval Staff, Operations Division for the present informs the Naval Command East on the correspondence with the General, Naval Affairs, Air Force concerning the operation of merchantmen belonging to the Air Force. Copy of the order 1/Skl II 36885/44 geh. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol X.

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Situation 11 Oct. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

22 planes were detected during action at the 15th Group and five planes at the 19th Group, three of which meteorological planes. Three British vessels were located in the rendezvous area. According to a report transmitted to Portsmouth one landing craft tank has capsized probably in the grid square BF 3331.



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2. Own Situation:

St. Nazaire:

Enemy positions near Rieux and northeast of Cordemais were attacked by own artillery and fired on by harbor defense vessels with observed effect. Assaults of an American company west of St. Omer and, in the strength of a platoon near Cordemais were beaten back.

La Rochelle:

After a search for victuals and weapons, St. Christophe and Chiron have again been evacuated.

Gironde North:

The firing practices on sea targets have been carried out as planned. The evacuation of Le Tremblade in the northern precincts of the fortress has been started.

Dunkirk:

Enemy surprise fires and several attacks of fighter bombers with concentration at the Southwest of the precincts of the fortress remained without particular effect. The own artillery fired on several enemy gun positions and groups with observed and good result.

No particular reports have been received from the other fortresses.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

A. Bay of Heligoland:

A strong enemy bomber formation was fired on by the Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery Detachments of Emden, Borkum and Norderney from 1615 to 1630.

The blocking of the Elbe and Weser Rivers has been lifted.

One mine was cleared off Wesermuende.

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B. Area of the Netherlands:

Northwest of Hook of Holland, four patrol vessels had an encounter with two groups of altogether ten enemy motor torpedo boats, among which two radar-fitted units, from 0327 to 0345. The enemy fired several torpedoes, and besides that rocket high trajectory shells. One enemy radar-fitted unit and two motor torpedo boats were sunk, others heavily damaged. Only little damage and casualties were caused on the own boats. For a brief action report of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North look up teletype 1245.

The fouling with mines of the Deurloo Fairway has been carried out.

The gap in the barrage on the new waterway to Rotterdam has been narrowed up to 80 yards by the sinking of the steamer BAUD. North of Amersfort, a dumb barge sank crosswise to the navigable channel probably due to sabotage. The fairway will presumably be practicable again at noon of 12 Oct.

On 11 Oct. the 10th Manning Division, and on 15 Oct. the 14th Manning Division will be drawn out of the battle front and transferred to Gouda or Amsterdam, respectively.

The Battery "Kernwerk" at Flushing, Breskens, Nieuwe Sluis, Cadzand and all heavy anti-aircraft artillery batteries near Flushing have taken enemy targets in the area of Hoofdplaat. The Battery Schelde-South was lying under an increase enemy artillery fire and under the attacks of fighter bombers. The other batteries, too, were attacked by enemy planes. Some guns have broken down. Furthermore, the dike northwest of Veere was attacked with bombs so that a collapse of the dike is to be reckoned with.

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Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

35 planes were detected during action in the area of the 18th Group.

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2. Own Situation:

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Area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast:

At 1350 on 9 Oct., the minesweeper M "322" was attacked in vain by a plane with an aerial torpedo near Rolvsøey.

On the afternoon of that day little exchange of fire was reported in the area of Petsamo.

At noon on 10 Oct., six enemy planes attacked and damaged a Norwegian fishing vessel near Havningsberg. Thirty enemy planes attacked Vadsoe and Bogoen with bombs and aircraft armament the same day. Parachute mines were dropped south of Vadsoe.

At 0710 on 11 Oct., a convoy returning from Petsamo was attacked by enemy planes. The steamer OLSA (4016 BRT) received a bomb hit and had to be beached. At 1118, seven planes attacked the town and port of Kirkenes with bombs and aircraft armament. At 1431, 18 planes attacked unsuccessfully an own convoy near Makkaner with aerial torpedoes. The attack was defended by own fighter planes.

During an air raid at noon in the Tana Fjord the steamer STOER was hit by a bomb and beached. The steamer GOTIA was sunk by a bomb hit, while the pier was destroyed by two direct hits. Four of the attacking planes were shot down by fighters. During a raid in the Boats Fjord carried out by enemy planes with bombs and aircraft armament the pier was set afire. Several small vessels sank.

At 2300 an own eastbound convoy was attacked by seven enemy motor torpedo boats near Kiberg. The mine sweeper M "303", with the Chief of the 22nd Minesweeping Flotilla aboard, Sank. The convoy entered undamagedly Kirkenes.

No enemy vessels were detected anymore at the landing point of the Sonja Hill.

Area of the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast:

On 10 Oct. a cargo of coals on the steamer JANTJE FRITZEN (6582 BRT) was set afire by spontaneous ignition. The steamer

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was beached at Kristiansand South. The fire has been extinguished.

The shipping route east of the Olskjaer Light has been blocked because of suspected mines.

The steamer TIEFLAND (1923 BRT) had to be towed to Bergen after having touched ground in the Hjelte Fjord.

Area of the Naval Shore Commander, Oslo Fjord:

13 mines have been cleared so far in the port of Oslo. The steamer BRETAGNE was unsuccessfully attacked by enemy planes with aircraft armament early on 10 Oct.

24 ships were escorted to the North, 20 ships to the South.

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III. Skager-Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

According to radio monitoring, the Russians intend to carry out a landing operation from the Osel Island at the northern coast of Courland.

A minor enemy landing was made in the early morning near Lou, on the Osel Island. The own defense forces have been put into action.

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2. Own Situation:

Admiral, Skager-Rak:

22 boats were put into action for mineclearance. One mine each was cleared near Anholt and in the northern exit of the Sound. At 2030 on 10 Oct. sabotage was committed on the steamer SCHARHOERN (2642 BRT) in Aarhus. The steamer is lying aground with the stern.

At noon of 11 Oct. the Norwegian steamer NINA (1371 BRT) ran on a mine in the northern exit of the Sound. It is being tried to tow-in the steamer.

Among others the cruiser KOELN was escorted.

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Western and Central Baltic Sea:

57 boats were put into action for mineclearance. One mine each was cleared in the Bay of Pomerania and the Bay of Mecklenburg, as well as in the Fehmarn Belt.

The block ship CARL ZEISS has sprung a leak off Stolpebank during the passage to Riga. The salvage works have been started.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

The 2nd Task Force has departed from Gdynia at 0200. Due to the fog, the action of shelling the coast in the area of Memel has been delayed. The first action took place at 1330 and was directed at four determined target areas. There existed no communication with the combat troops during this approach. After the establishment of the communication as from 1600 the operation was executed complying with request. According to a report of the artillery commander, the gunfire was generally well aimed and yielded an important relief. A request was turned in to continue the assistance as long as possible. At 2000 preparations of tank formations were taken under fire. At 2300 the unit withdrew to the West, after having finished the night firing; it has been planned to be in firing position again at 0800 on 12 Oct.

No enemy planes have shown up so far against the unit.

The following additional reports are at hand on the situation in the area of Memel: The enemy is standing at the coast between Bolangen and Pappensee. Several German refugees from this area have been received by defense forces.

The ammunition supply to Memel has also been started via the Haff, besides the transportation via the sea. During the night of 11 Oct. the arrival of 560 tons of ammunition is expected.

The Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery Detachment 217 has successfully been attacking enemy troops concentrations since 8 Oct. Ten tanks, one armored scout car and one Stalin-Orgel have been destroyed, three other tanks have been shot unable to move. Besides that four planes have been shot down.

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On 10 Oct. Libau was again raided by about 100 enemy planes. The own fighters shot down 21 planes, the anti-aircraft artillery two planes.

At 1320 on 10 Oct. the tanker HIDDENSEE was unsuccessfully attacked by an enemy submarine with two torpedoes, southwest of Windau.

At 2215 on 11 Oct. the 3rd Minesweeping Flotilla reported a surfaced submarine southwest of Windau.

Six armed fishing vessels have been put into action for the submarine hunt in the Irben Narrows.

Situation on the Osel Island: The gunfire at the coast north of the main defense line has been carried out by artillery ferries. The minesweeper M "18", five motor minesweepers and six armed fishing vessels have been put into action for the defense against landing operations off the eastern coast of the Sworbe Peninsula.

The total number of dead, wounded and missing Navy personnel on the Osel Island runs up to 1092 officers, noncommissioned officers and EM.

Situation at Riga: The Army is withdrawing to the position at the town's border. The demolition of the port facilities is being prepared. At 1600 on 10 Oct. the last convoy has departed from Riga. The convoys proceeding to Riga have been halted.

Six own submarines have taken position off the western Gulf of Finland. No particular reports have been received from them.

The convoys and troop transports were carried out as planned. During the period from 23 Sep. to 8 Oct., altogether 20,250 men, 22,013 wounded, 23,474 evacuated persons and 9,489 prisoners of war were transferred from Riga, i.e. a total of 75,226 persons. On 10 Oct., 3790 tons of supplies were still transported to Riga.

#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

In the Northern Waters, the submarine U "703" has remained without report since 6 Oct. The boat had put to sea on 16 Sep. for setting a weather buoy at the eastern coast of Iceland.

The submarine U "481" reported to have fired a missing Zaunkoenig torpedo at a tug off the Gulf of Finland. During an air raid on Libau on 10 Oct. one attacking plane was shot down in the port by an own submarine.

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No particular reports are at hand from the other theaters of war.

V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Sorties of medium strength and fighting action of fighter bombers and fighters was observed in the battle area of Holland, Western Front. Strong sorties have been reported from the area of the Wester Schelde River. Fortifications, positions of anti-aircraft artillery and dikes in the area of Flushing were attacked by strong bomber formations with bombs. At the battle front, 187 own fighters have been put into action for assistance of the combat on the ground.

Reich Territory:

Numerous small formations of fast bombers have entered the western Reich Territory from the North Sea up to the Lake of Constance, concentrating their activity at the area left of the Rhine River. Bombings and attacks with aircraft armament have especially been reported from the areas of Kaiserslautern, Saargumuend and Cologne. A strong formation of four-engined bombers with fighter escort entered the area of Koblenz, Wiesbaden and Trier. The hydrogenetic plant of Wesseling is among the reported objectives which were attacked; damage was caused to material and buildings.

Several hundred bombers with fighter escort approached from the South and attacked the area of Vienna. In the area of Brno, nine own fighters were destroyed on the ground in airfields by attacks with aircraft armament.

During the night of 11 Oct. about 50 fast bombers were reported in the western portion of the Reich Territory. Single high explosive bombs were dropped in the areas of Hannover, Wiesbaden and Mainz. Between 20 and 30 Mosquito planes have approached via Koblenz, Frankfurt-on-Main and Leipzig for a raid on Berlin.

Mediterranean Theater:

No particular and extraordinary actions have been reported.

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Eastern Area:

On 10 Oct., 495 own and 1640 enemy sorties were reported from the Eastern Front; two planes got lost while 14 enemy planes were shot down.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean Theater and in the Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

In the forenoon, an aircraft-carrier of the "Formidable"-Class with two destroyers was at sea for a short space of time east of Gibraltar. The carrier had lain in dock for a longer period.

At 1330, probably a convoy KMS "65" in a strength of 21 freighters and one tanker with two corvettes and one submarine passed the Strait of Gibraltar.

On the evening of 10 Oct. the own air reconnaissance reported one ship each at 55 nautical miles west of the Cape Corso and at 50 nautical miles south of Toulon, respectively. Otherwise, the usual activity of patrol vessels was observed off the Riviera Coast.

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Own Situation:

During the night of 10 Oct., the escort and patrol duties in the eastern part of the Gulf of Genoa were still hampered by the weather condition. Otherwise the execution of the tasks took place as planned.

Besides the vessels that had been reported damaged during the ammunition explosion in Genoa on 10 Oct., nine barges, two tugs and one mine-carrier were damaged. Little casualties were suffered.

The Naval Battery in the Magra Mouth has continued the harassing fire on the enemy main defense line on the evening of 10 Oct.



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The 1st Assault Boat Flotilla with one SMA and six MTM was put into action against destroyers off Imperia. After a breakdown of the engine the SMA sank east of Imperia. The crew has been rescued. The six MTM have entered San Remo without having had an encounter with the enemy.

2. Area of the Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

In the forenoon, Trieste was overflowed by several formations of four-engined planes. Approximately ten bombs fell on the former port area, 20 other bombs were dropped over Opicina. Little damages and losses were suffered.

Ten fighter bombers have raided the town and port of Parenzo and destroyed the mole. There is still the possibility to load small vessels.

During the night of 10 Oct., enemy motor torpedo boats have been reported off Rovigno.

The operation against the Melada Island was carried out as planned during the night of 10 Oct. The radio station has been destroyed by artillery gunfire. No vessels were sighted.

During the night of 8 Oct., a command operation of the British or of partisans was carried out from the Brac Island against the bases of PT boats at Cilina - Medici and Fistanici.

On the evening of 8 Oct., Cetniks attempted to advance on the main road from Ragusa to Gruka near Cilibi. Upon request from the Army, the Battery Cavtat took the eastern exit of Cilibi under a harassing fire. On the forenoon of 9 Oct., a sudden enemy artillery gunfire was directed against a column of trucks near Trstenik. The traffic on the roads north and south of Ragusa has been blocked by order of the Division.

On the afternoon of 9 Oct., Karlovac was taken under fire by heavy mortars. The position of the Naval anti-aircraft artillery remained undamaged.

During the night of 10 Oct. the provided barrage in the area of Trieste has been carried out as planned with one naval landing craft and one motor minesweeper.

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b. Aegean Sea:

After an air raid, one carrier, one cruiser and three destroyers were sighted in the Northern Aegean Sea at 0720. (Tr.N.: Obviously this sentence should be begun with "Nach Luftaufklaerung - according to air reconnaissance" instead of "Nach Luftangriff - after an air raid"). The concentration of enemy naval forces is also going on the area of the Dodecanese Islands. Enemy air raids were carried out in the Gulf of Corinth and off Chalkis. Little casualties were suffered by our side.

A breakthrough of three Greek auxiliary sailing vessels with weapons and equipment of first priority from Candia has failed. The vessels have been taken in prize or sunk, respectively, by an enemy submarine. Treason is possible.

The Commanding Admiral, Aegean intends to carry out a minelaying operation in the area of Cassandra by the vessel ZEUS during the night of 12 Oct.

The Naval Shore Commander, Athens is proceeding by land to Salonika.

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c. Situation in the Danube Area:

The motor ship BAYERN sank at the kilometer point 1854 due to a mine hit, another steamer with refugees and prisoners of war under serious casualties at the kilometer point 1888, and one mine-clearing vessel of the Danube Flotilla at the kilometer point 1772. Two mines each were cleared at the kilometer points 1449 and 1778.

The entire Danube Flotilla has tactically been subordinated to the Army Group F, as well as two gun carriers and three naval ferry barges.

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VII. Situation in East Asia:

According to a report from the Japanese Headquarters,

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Japanese submarines have attacked on 3 Oct. a group of enemy aircraft-carriers in the Molucca Sea and sunk one aircraft-carrier. On 9 Oct., one enemy destroyer was sunk at the Marcus Islands, one cruiser and another destroyer were damaged. The attack against the Marcus Islands was carried out by a unit consisting of one battle ship, two cruisers and several destroyers.

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Items of Political Importance.

According to reports from London, the Polish Prime Minister Mikolajczyk has departed on 11 Oct. from London for Moscow. It is said that Tito is also expected to arrive at Moscow.

According to the Tass News Agency, the Bulgarian Government has acknowledged the preliminary armistice conditions of the three Allied Major Powers. According to Radio Sofia, all Bulgarian troops will be withdrawn from the Greek Territories.

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Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy

at 1115:

I. Subject: Situation in the East: The shipyard at Libau has been forced to close down because of the walkout of the Latvian shipyard workers. The war readiness of the 9th Defense Division is endangered. The Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea has turned in a request for the transfer of German shipyard workers since the requests at the engineer units and the Todt Organization remained unsuccessful.

II. Subject: Situation in the West: The Commanding General of the 265th Infantry Division, General Junck, has been appointed Fortress Commander, St. Nazaire. The former Fortress Commander has been subordinated to him as local defense officer.

III. Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

a. The Naval Staff agrees to the proposal concerning the successive order of the barrage plans "Krokodil" (see War Diary 11 Oct.)

b. The Commander of the 2nd Task Force has been issued an order to check on the operation in the sea area west of the Sworbe Peninsula against the peninsula.

c. It is pointed at the extract from the War Log of the torpedo boat T "30" wherein the extraordinary skill, boldness and large number of Russian motor torpedo boats in the Gulf of Finland has been stressed.

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IV. Naval Staff, Quartermaster General:

a. The Reichsfuehrer SS has issued a directive ordering the use of any possible means in the fight against enemy fighter bombers.

A relevant order has been issued for the Navy.

b. Report on the equipment of "Q"-ships.

c. The following flotillas are to be additionally subordinated to the Naval Command, East for the submarine hunt:

The 11th and 13th Special Duties Flotilla, furthermore the 1st Submarine Chaser Flotilla from the newly organized unit of boats belonging to the air force and the 3rd Submarine Chaser Flotilla from new KPK constructions (until Dec.)

The matter is being speeded-up with high pressure.

Commander in Chief, Navy: "Well".

In a restricted circle:

V. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, Enemy

Situation Branch:

In the supply traffic between England and Russia which has been started again since August 1944 after an interruption of four months, two couples of convoys have passed so far in a distance of four weeks. The PQ-convoys left from England around the middle of the month, and the QP-convoys from Murmansk towards the end of the month- two days after the arrival of a PQ\_convoy. Under maintenance of the so far existing traffic schedule, the departure of PQ (34) from England would have to be expected in the middle of October, and the departure of QP (31) from Murmansk with the end of October.

According to a report from a contact-man of the Reich Security Main Office, Tito has asked the Russians for an immediate assistance with arms. It has been agreed to make a push with the 13th Army Corps in direction to Laibach - Zagreb - Fiume. Tito

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strongly rejects a landing of the hated Anglo-Americans at the former Yugoslavian Coast.

According to a report from the Air Attache of the German Embassy at Budapest, advanced negotiations on the withdrawal of Croatia from the war are allegedly being carried on between the Croats and Anglo-Saxons.

VI. Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

The Group South has informed the Naval Staff of a radio directive issued to the Admiral, Adriatic and the Naval Liaison Officers with the Army Group F and the Tank Army Command 2 as a result of a meeting held yesterday with the Chief of Staff, Tank Army Command at the Commanding General, Armed Forces, South East with regard to the evacuation of the Dalmatian Coast. The Group again points out that the strongpoints are to be chosen and to be determined by the Army, and that they are to be established under leading participation of the Army. The Navy will assist only by responsible advice regarding the own facilities and possibilities (and deficiencies) which are available for the establishment of the strongpoints. The final decision as to this matter lies in the hands of the Army. The possibilities for the naval warfare are to be taken under consideration as secondary matter only.

Copy of the relevant radiogram as per 1/Skl. 3552/44 Gkdos. Chefs. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol XIV.

VII. Army Situation:

Western Front:

Further heavy fights were going on at the main concentration points of the defensive battle on 11 Oct., during which it could not be avoided that the enemy gained local success. The general situation grew worse as a result of tensions which had arisen at the 15th and 7th Army.

Own counter-attacks against the enemy forces that had landed in the Schelde Bridgehead were not successful.

The land communication to Walcheren Island which had been broken

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through west of Woensdrecht by the 1st Canadian Army could be restored by a counter-attack in the evening.

It can be taken from numerous indications and reports that the enemy will aim at clearing the Schelde River and Antwerp by all means, in order to come as soon as possible into the position to use this port.

Under fierce and deadly fights the Americans succeeded in further closing-up the encirclement around Aachen.

The enemy attacks were concentrated yesterday at the front south of Aachen where a complete defensive success could be reached under heavy losses on both sides.

The battle southeast of Remiremont is going on.

Italian Front:

South of Bologna, the enemy continued his heavy attacks on a wide front in the section north of Monznno up to Sassoleone with newly brought-up forces, assisted by heaviest fire of artillery and mortars as well as by a continuous action of planes (21 raids of ground attack planes on one division combat sector.)

The mass of the attacks was beaten back by the fiercely fighting troops.

Balkan:

Bulgarian and Russian armies are advancing towards the Morava River, between Kriva Palanka and the Danube River. The danger is impending that all our forces on the Southern Balkan will be cut off from all lines of retreat.

Eastern Front:

The battle in Hungary is going on. Since the Russians had to withdraw forces from the Tisza Front towards Debrecen, no tension was caused yesterday in the situation at the Tisza River. The Russians succeeded in occupying Maria Theresiopel on the railroad Budapest - Beograd.

In the encirclement southwest of Debrecen, the enemy made several attacks against this place with tanks which could be beaten

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back. The bulk of the cut-off enemy forces tried to break through in direction to Nagyvarad. Only own insufficient forces can be put into action against this attempt.

In the section of Kolozvar, the enemy started an attack on a wide front and gained deep penetrations through random avoiding movements of Hungarian divisions.

The withdrawal movements in Transsylvania are taking place as planned.

The combat activity at the Beskids Front was relatively little.

At the front Warsaw - Nowogrodek (Narev), the enemy continued his major attack. While our troops achieved a decisive success in repulsing the enemy, the bridgehead of Rozan at the front of the 2nd Army was more and more extended and important penetrations gained by the enemy.

Finally the enemy started an attack also at Wilkovice and gained a penetration the clearance of which is still going on.

North of the Memel River the enemy continued his attempts to break through with far superior forces and a strong assistance of tanks against the fiercely defending German formations. The enemy attacks were concentrated west of the road Tauraga - Tilsit. Heavy fights of tanks are going on along the road Tilsit - Heydekrug. Enemy forces advancing west beyond Heydekrug reached the Russ River in a so far unknown strength.

In the course of 11 Oct. the enemy made continuous attacks with tanks on the Fortress of Memel which were for the most part either beaten back or cut off under heavy and fierce fights. A large number of tanks was knocked out.

South of Libau the enemy succeeded in advancing some kilometers along the coast to the North while he could gain merely little ground southeast of Libau.

East of Riga the enemy started the expected major attack with about twelve divisions and numerous tank formations; the attack was for the main part beaten back so far.

Heavy fights are partly still going on.



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On the Osel Island the enemy made further continuous attacks against the isthmus of the Sworbe Peninsula which were beaten back under heavy losses for the enemy. An attempt to land at the west coast with amphibian tanks in strength of a company was defeated.

Finland:

In the South the Finns pursued closely.

At the front of the Arctic Ocean a critical situation has arisen by Russian outflanking attacks from both sides in the area of Petsamo. Our own forces withdrew to the Petsamo Position and back from the Rybachi Peninsula.

The Commander in Chief, Navy will proceed with the Admiral on special duty to the Fuehrer Headquarters.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. The High Command, Army, Army General Staff wires to the Naval Staff, with copy to the Naval Command, East:

"1. The Chief of the Army General Staff, presently considers the area of Memel - Libau as most important and plans the operational rejoining of the Central Army Group and Northern Army Group. Therefore, it is of a decisive importance that the bridgehead of Memel remains in our hands and Libau does not get lost.

2. The Chief of the Army General Staff asks

a. for a further strongest support of the main defense line of Memel by heavy vessels;

b. for action against the Russian Army wing advancing from the South along the coast towards Libau in order to delay the advance;

c. for a further firm support of the main defense line on the Sworbe Peninsula by light naval forces."

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The Naval Staff, Operations Division informs the Naval Command by telephone in advance and by teletype that the aforementioned assessment of the Chief, Army General Staff fully corresponds to the opinion of the Naval Staff. The operation of the Naval forces for relieving the army in the area of Memel is at present of decisive importance. Paragraph 2. of the basic communication is decisive for the urgency.

At 1700 the Naval Command, East informs the Naval Staff by a copy of the following directive issued to the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

"The 2nd Task Force will continue to operate in the area of Memel. A release for other tasks is not to be expected up to further notice."

Besides that, the Fleet is informed by the Naval Command, East and asked to state whether the HIPPER or the SCHEER could join in the action during a stop required for the replenishment of ammunition.

The Fleet reports with regard to this at 2400:

1. The HIPPER and the ADMIRAL SCHEER can be put into action.
2. The HIPPER has been called back from practices east of the Bornholm Island to Gdynia. The time of readiness for action will be reported by the Training Unit, Fleet presumably at once after the arrival towards 0400 on 13 Oct.
3. Effective as of 0600 on 13 Oct. the ADMIRAL SCHEER will be at a six-hours-readiness for the transfer from Swinemuende to Gdynia.
4. The Commander of the 2nd Task Force has been proposed as operational leader."

At 2400 the Naval Command, East informs the Naval Staff by a copy of the following order issued to the 2nd Task Force:

1. It is to be reported when the Task Force at the earliest will be ready again for sailing after replenishment of fuel and ammunition.
2. The HIPPER and the SCHEER have been issued

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orders for speeding-up the equipment for the task of the 2nd Task Force. The ships will be equipped with all records required. The Commander is to be informed that the HIPPER is proceeding to Gdynia and that the SCHEER is lying at Swinemunde (6-hours-readiness).

3. Effective as of 17 Oct. the destroyer Z "43" will be assigned in the state of war readiness to the 6th Destroyer Flotilla."

The assignment of the destroyer Z "43" to the 6th Destroyer Flotilla, after establishment of the state of war readiness, had previously been ordered by the Naval Staff, copy of the order 1.Skl,I op 30833/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. d. From the assessment of the situation as given by the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters: "The front at Memel has been well defended, the action of the 2nd Task Force has resulted in an important relief, the continuation of the operation is requested. The Russian breakthrough to the coast between Memel and Libau is being widened. The front on the Sworbe Peninsula has mainly been held. Here, too, the assistance by further gunfire from the sea is requested."

b. On account of a relevant request the Naval Staff decides as follows:

"1. For the artillery action on the Haff Waters and in the vicinity of the coasts the vessels F "113", "206", "208" and "246" as well as the EDWARD, the MIME, the FASOLD and the TRAUTE are operationally subordinated to the Naval Command, East in order to clear the situation in the area of Memel.

2. The vessels are to be re-transferred to the School until 25 Oct. at the latest, otherwise the assignment will have to be newly requested."

c. On account of a request from the Naval Staff the aircraft tender H.A. WEDEL has been placed by the General, Naval Affairs, Air Force at the disposal of the 2nd Task Force for the assistance of the ship-based planes operating in the Eastern Baltic Sea. For details look up the order 1. Skl. IL 30989/44 Gkdos. Copy to be found in War Diary, Part C., Vol. III.

d. Concerning the order of the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division on the action of the Special Duties Flotillas for the submarine hunt, the Naval Staff, Operations Division points out

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to the Naval Command, East, the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Baltic, the Admiral Landing-Craft and Bases, the 9th Coast Patrol Force and the 1st Special Duties Division that this is only a temporary emergency measure until other forces are available. The tasks of the Special Duties Flotillas are so numerous that the utilization for the submarine hunt means a poor practice which, therefore, is not to be justified in the long run.

e. Concerning the net defenses the Naval Command, East reports:

"1. The net defenses at the Zealand Island (in one row) and in the northern Sound, outside the Swedish Territorial Waters have been repaired.

2. It is intended to desist from the establishment of a second net row at the Zealand Island and to block the southern exit of the Sound with the net material becoming available; this net defense is supposed to be laid out approximately between Bredgund (outside the Swedish Territorial Waters), the Drogden Light and Amager. A gap in the net defense has been provided at the Drogden Light. By this, the Drogden Channel and Flint Channel would be blocked against breaking-through submarines."

The Naval Staff agrees to the proposal.

II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. The Chief, Supply and Transport, Army (Chief of Shipping and Transport Branch, Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division) informs the Naval Staff by sending a copy of the following teletype directed to the Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff:

"Subject: "Nordlicht"-Meeting in Oslo on 12 Oct. 1944. Through the order of the Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff of 6 Oct. 1944 difficulties have arisen in the disposition of the tonnage. After a thorough discussion of all offices concerned the issuance of the following order is requested from the Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff:

1. Nothing will be changed in the order stating that the Navy is responsible for the transport of human beings, and the

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Reich Commissioner of Maritime Shipping for the transport of material.

2. As far as the number of troop transports available for the Navy for transporting human beings is not sufficient, the Reich Commissioner of Maritime Shipping will provide as far as possible the tonnage suitable for this purpose.

3. The Reich Commissioner of Maritime Shipping will centrally dispose of the entire tonnage for the supply and evacuation transport. The Quartermaster General, Scandinavia will turn in the transport requisitions for both Army Chief Commands and state at the same time the urgency in summary.

4. The Quartermaster General, Scandinavia will also decide in cooperation with the Reich Commissar, Norway as to which industrial material is to be shipped. With this he will be responsible to take care that, as far as possible, the most important industrial goods have priority over the less important other goods.

5. The Reich Commissioner of Maritime Shipping is authorized, during the operation "Nordlicht", to dispose as well of the tonnage of the Transport Fleet "Speer" in Norway."

b. On account of a relevant request from the Naval Command, Norway the Naval Staff decides:

"1. In compliance with the request the M.S. KAISER is operationally subordinated to the Naval Command, Norway effective immediately.

2. In order to place the KAISER again at the disposal of the Mining and Barrage Trials Command as soon as possible, a relief will be made by the LOTHRINGEN as soon as the LOTHRINGEN has finished her dockyard period (according to F.d.Minsch.Gkdos. 1245, dated 13 Sept., this will be in the end of October). The relief will directly be arranged by the Naval Command, Norway with the Commander, Minelayers. The accomplishment will be reported."

c. The Bureau of Naval Administration, Naval Personnel Division has established a composite breakdown of the personnel strength of the Navy in the area of the Naval Command, Norway as of 1 Oct. 1944. With the exception of the boats of the submarine force, the vessels afloat are included in the figures:

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Naval Command, Norway and Naval Shore	
Commander, Oslo Fjord:	9 721
Admiral, West Norwegian Coast:	17 162
Admiral, North Norwegian Coast:	14 549
Admiral, Arctic Coast:	26 511
(of these, Naval Shore Commander, Kirkenes:	7 869
Naval Shore Commander, Hammerfest:	2 199
 Total, Naval Command, Norway:	 67 943

Of this total, 2302 are officers, 432 officials, 12175 navigating officers, and 53 034 men.

III. Subject: Southeastern Area:

a. The Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff has acknowledged the request for a stronger occupational force on the islands of Krk and Cherso (northern part) as turned in by the Group South and the Admiral, Adriatic Sea. Due to the lack of forces, the accomplishment is not possible for the time being.

IV. The Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff has issued an order concerning the consolidation of the Ems - Rhine Position and extended the order concerning the consolidation of the West Position.

The elaboration of the order has been accomplished with the directive 1/Skl. I op 30767/44 Gkdos. Copy to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II a.

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Situation 12 Oct. 1944:

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

38 planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, and 27 planes at the 19th Group. Two locations were reported in the rendezvous area.

Own Situation:

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1. Atlantic Coast Area:

A location target, probably a destroyer was detected beginning at 0553 from grid square BF 6427 to grid square BF 6178 and confirmed by radar interception.

The Commanding General, Armed Forces, West has disapproved the request of the Fortification Commander, La Rochelle for evacuating Oberon since the flanks would be opened by this for the Rochelle and Gironde Fortresses. However, it is up to the discretion of the Fortification Commander to move forces and equipment within the fortress area on account of the assessment of the situation. The Group West deems appropriate the transfer of the batteries "Schwalbe", "Quelle" and "Mammu"; against that, the batteries "Luchs" and "Iltis", the anti-aircraft artillery batteries and the occupational force of the Island should be left at their present position for the defense of the southeastern section of the Island.

The usual fighting activity has been reported from the fortresses. The supply from land is going on satisfactorily in all fortresses. There is a scarcity of sugar, smoking tobacco and partly of fat, food made from dough (Tr.N.: noodles, spaghetti, macaroni etc.) and vegetables.

2. Channel Sea Area:

A supply convoy with two fishing smacks has been carried out between Guernsey and Jersey.

At 1130, four landing ship tank were sighted from the Channel Islands in the grid square BF 3552 on north course, and at 1220 two Liberty Steamers on south course. Destroyers were standing on north waiting position.

The usual fighting activity has been reported from Dunkirk.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

1. North Sea:

Bay of Heligoland:

An enemy air raid was made at noon on Bremen by about

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250 bombers. The entire industry of the southeastern suburbs has heavily been hit. The Special Command of the Navy, Sub-Lieutenant Kirchner, located at the factory of F. W. Borgward, Bremen-Sebaldsbrueck, reported total damage. It cannot be surveyed whether a reconstruction will be possible. Towards 2345 an air raid was made on Hamburg; no damage was caused to Navy Offices.

The enemy formations returning at noon from the area of Bremen were attacked by naval anti-aircraft artillery between the Elbe and Ems Rivers as well as from Heligoland.

Off Juist, 82 coastal mines "A" were laid in the mine barrage KZA.

Area of Holland:

Due to the stormy weather no ship movements took place during the night of 11 Oct.

Owing to an attack on the dike northwest of Veere on 11 Oct., a new burst in the dam has been caused. Water has not broken in yet.

According to a report of the Naval Command, North of 1030, two guns are at limited readiness for land firing in the main work of the battery at Flushing, one gun at limited readiness for land firing in Flushing West, three guns at readiness for land firing in Flushing South.

Flushing South was attacked with bombs from 0800 to 0900; two of the attacking planes were shot down, the control position was destroyed.

A tug sank near Zijpe owing to an attack of fighter bombers.

Off Terschelling, 84 coastal mines "A" have been laid in the mine barrage K 2. The Battle Flotilla 215 has arrived in Groningen with 60 Linse-Torpedoes.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Forty planes were detected during action in the area



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of the 18th Group. Radio monitoring has detected 22 motor torpedo boats in the Varanger Fjord from 1856, 11 Oct., to 0806, 12 Oct.

Area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast:

On 11 Oct. an attack on an eastbound convoy was made near Kiberg after having been detected by enemy reconnaissance. The Commanding Admiral, Fleet and approximately 25 men of the minesweeper M "303" were rescued. For a brief action report of the Commander, Convoy look up teletype No. 1330. Another brief action report of the Chief, 1st Coastal Defenses Unit to be found in teletype No. 2340.

At 1147 on 11 Oct. a submarine fired a missing torpedo on a harbor defense vessel in the West Fjord; it is possible that a false observation was made.

From 0829 to 1519 a westbound convoy was four times attacked by enemy planes and three times by submarines between Makkaur and Nordkyn. The submarine chaser UJ "1220" and the steamer LUMME (1730 BRT) got lost, one plane was shot down.

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III. Skager Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Admiral, Skager Rak:

18 boats were put into action for mineclearing. The Norwegian steamer NINA has entered Helsingoer under own power.

The transfer of the 269th Infantry Division by sea transport from Oslo to Aarhus will be carried out under the catchword "Hansa". The 1st Echelon Command will leave Oslo on the evening of 15 Oct.; the 6th and last Echelon Command is supposed to leave Oslo on the evening of 25 Oct.

Central and Western Baltic Sea:

58 boats and one mine-exploding vessel were put into action for mineclearing. One mine was cleared in the Bay of Danzig, two mines in the Bay of Kiel.

At 1158 a boiler explosion took place on the minesweeper M "3619"

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in the vicinity of Bruesterort after the vessel had previously been hit by a torpedo or a drift-mine. Further details are still being expected.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

Situation on the Osel Island:

Armed fishing vessels have been put into action against the enemy landing operation in the Lou Bay.

At the west coast of the Sworbe Peninsula a landing of small enemy forces was carried out closely behind the main defense line.

At 0453 the landing attempt of a strong battalion at the east coast of the Sworbe Peninsula was defeated. The Naval Artillery Detachment 531 participated in this action in a decisive manner. Motor minesweepers and naval landing craft were put into action in the battle.

Three PT boats and one group of armed fishing vessels have been put into action on defense positions off the west coast of the Sworbe Peninsula, one group of armed fishing vessels off Montu, and one group of armed fishing vessels, four artillery ferries and 3 PT boats at the northern coast of Courland.

Two naval landing craft have run aground and sprung a leak near Zerel.

Situation at Riga:

The demolition measures have been started. The port and the entrance of the port of Dvina have been mined. The transfer of the Navy to the west bank has been carried out.

Situation at Memel/Libau:

The coast north of Memel up to 22 nautical miles south of Libau is occupied by the enemy.

The 2nd Task Force was again put into action from 0830 for shelling the coast.

West of Memel the torpedo boat T "21" reported the sighting of a periscope at 0600.

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The gunfire of the unit was finished at 1658. The return passage to Gdynia was started.

According to a report of the Sector Commandant Memel the assistance by the 2nd Task Force was very valuable. A major enemy attack on Memel is not being expected until 14 Oct.

The 1st Group of the 24th Special Duties Flotilla has opened the fire on observed enemy targets ashore south of Libau at 0805. Three tanks were destroyed. At 1112, enemy targets were again taken under fire upon the directives of the Army. The auxiliary war vessel BISHORST was put into action for laying the gunfire on the road leading to Pappensee.

An enemy air raid on Libau with about 150 planes has additionally been reported as of 1900 to 2000, 10 Oct. Neither ships nor the port were damaged.

At 1048 on 12 Oct. an own northbound convoy was unsuccessfully attacked northwest of Memel by 14 enemy planes. During a new attack of four planes at 1248 the hospital ship BRAKE received a bomb hit in the grid square AO 9322. One enemy plane was shot down. A periscope was sighted in the same grid square.

At 0037 on 13 Oct. the noise of a submarine was detected west of Windau in the grid square AO 6487 by the patrol vessel V "313".

All transports and convoys were carried out as planned and without incidents. Transports of 225 tons of supplies to Memel, and 462 tons to Libau were carried out; via the Haff, 150 tons of ammunition are being transported daily to Memel.

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#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

In the Northern Waters, six submarines will temporarily be put into action as remote escort during the transfer of the battleship TIRPITZ on 15 Oct.

In the Gulf of Finland, the submarine U "745" fired a double-miss on a towed convoy at about 15 nautical miles northwest of Baltic Port. No particular reports are at hand otherwise.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

1. West Area:

In the area of Belgium-Holland, about 450 bombers have attacked fortifications at Flushing - Walcheren. A vivid activity of fighter bombers and fighters was observed in the area of Arnhem - Nijmegen.

2. Reich Territory:

In the forenoon, 150 four-engined planes with fighter escort, led by Mosquito planes, carried out raids in the area of Dortmund.

Between 600 and 700 four-engined planes with fighter escort have approached for a raid on Bremen - Osnabrueck.

One hundred Marauder planes carried out a raid in the area of Remagen.

Between 500 and 400 fast bombers were active in small groups in the areas of Bocholt - Duisburg and from Frankfurt-on-Main up to Ulm - Lake of Constance; among other targets airfields were raided. For details on the damages caused in Bremen and Osnabrueck see the Situation of the Day. One Rhine Bridge was hit near Remagen; the traffic has been blocked.

57 own fighters were put into action against the major sortie of enemy planes in Northwest Germany. A report on the result is still being expected.

In the southern part of the Western Front, too, 57 own fighters were put into action having reported to have shot down 7 enemy planes so far.

During the night of 12 Oct., 50 single sorties were reported in the western portion of the Reich.

Between 80 and 100 fast bombers have raided Hamburg.

3. Mediterranean Sea:

The usual activity of the enemy was to be observed on 11 Oct. Own planes were on reconnaissance duty on 12 Oct.

4. Eastern Area:

At the Eastern Front, 244 own and 327 enemy sorties

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were reported on 11 Oct.; five of our planes got lost while 19 enemy planes were shot down.

At Memel, 30 own fighters shot down two enemy planes on 12 Oct.

In the area of Kirkenes, 102 enemy planes were shot down by our own fighters and 17 by anti-aircraft artillery on 10, 11 and 12 Oct.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean Theater and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

During the afternoon of 11 Oct. six Agate-boats, 15 ML boats and two corvettes have arrived at Gibraltar from the Atlantic.

At noon of 11 Oct., twelve minesweepers with two destroyers as escort were sighted during mineclearing works near San Remo.

On the evening of 11 Oct., four groups of ships with altogether 17 vessels were standing in the sea area 20 nautical miles west of Toulon up to 13 nautical miles southwest of St. Tropez.

According to photograph reconnaissance the following vessels were lying in Marseille at 2145 on 11 Oct.: probably four cruisers, seven destroyers, two small war vessels, one medium transport, 19 freighters and three coastal freighters; in Toulon: probably three battleships, two heavy and nine light cruisers, 19 destroyers, two escort vessels, 30 motor torpedo boats, four transports, two tankers and 38 merchantmen. In both ports probably the photographs included the wrecks.

Own Situation:

On the afternoon of 11 Oct., enemy destroyers were caused to withdraw by the gunfire of the battery at Imperia.

At 1410 on 12 Oct., the radar station of Bordighera was taken under fire from the sea.

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During the night of 11 Oct., the escort and patrol duties were carried out as planned.

The Naval Battery at the Magra Mouth has continued the harassing fire on the enemy main defense line.

2. Area of the Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

According to photograph reconnaissance the following vessels were lying in Ancona at 0726: three destroyers, 15 small war vessels, ten artillery motor torpedo boats, probably ten landing craft tank, probably three landing craft infantry, 46 auxiliary landing boats, 15 skoots, two tankers, nine freighters, and other vessels. In the forenoon, one destroyer and one motor torpedo boat were sighted off Ancona.

During the night of 11 Oct., the Unit "TA 40" with two submarine chasers, the steamer PROMETHEUS and G "234" proceeding from Pola to Trieste was attacked by enemy motor torpedo boats. The steamer PROMETHEUS reports to have shot afire one enemy motor torpedo boat; another one probably sank. Numerous hits were observed on two other motor torpedo boats. The casualties and damages suffered by our side are little.

During the night of 11 Oct., three naval landing craft, one auxiliary sailing vessel and one infantry boat were attacked by eight enemy motor torpedo boats west of the Puntadura Island. According to a report of the Port Commander of Zara the three naval landing craft were sunk, the auxiliary sailing vessel was driven ashore and the infantry boat has entered Brevilacqua.

Different ports and bases were attacked by enemy fighter bombers on 11 and 12 Oct.

Important damages were not reported.

The shipping on the Po River and in the Channels yielded an outstanding top-performance on 11 Oct. by transporting 473 tons of supplies and 2450 tons of evacuation and industrial goods.

During the night of 11 Oct., a plot with explosives was carried out against the PT boat base at Eden, near Ragusa.

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The moles of Daila and St. Lorenzo were blown-up by the Port Command of Trieste.

b. Aegean Sea:

The Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff had declared the Leros Island as fortress. The appointment of the Fortress Commander will be made by the Commanding General, Armed Forces, South East.

According to air reconnaissance, six major warships, probably destroyers, were standing at 0450 on north course in the Gulf of Salonika.

A group of assault boats was repeatedly attacked by fighter bombers near Chalkis on 11 Oct. Five boats got entirely lost, three other ones are not ready for action.

During a further attack by fighter bombers the auxiliary sailing vessel KALIDON was destroyed in the Euboea Channel. The Siebelferry "293" was destroyed by the hit of a rocket off the entrance to Volos. F "123" was heavily damaged by an attack of fighters. The auxiliary sailing vessel SEERAEUBER had to be beached. The casualties suffered in all these attacks are serious.

In compliance with a directive issued by the Commander of the strongpoint of Candia, the Port Commander has sunk on 10 Oct. the vessels in the port of Candia as planned. The net defenses have been fixed to the float-buoys so that the net floats about one yard underneath the water level. The mines have been laid according to orders.

c. Situation in the Danube Area:

The barge towed convoy has arrived off Budapest. No particular reports have been received otherwise.

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VII. East Asia:

Particular reports are not at hand.

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Items of Political Importance:

Particular reports are not at hand.

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Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1100:

I. In a telephone conversation, the Chief, Naval Staff and the Commanding Admiral, Naval Command, East have come to the clear stand that the HIPPER and the SCHEER should not be put into operation proceeding in a unit, since the training of the crews is insufficient for this. The Commander of the 2nd Task Force will embark whenever the occasion arises.

II. Subject: Situation in the North:

In the area of Petsamo, Russian landings have probably taken place during the evening hours of 12 Oct. A report of the Naval Shore Commander, Kirkenes on this matter has been received as of 0210. According to that report the artillery Group Finland reported at 0030:

"The port of Liinahamari is in the hands of the enemy. The demolitions have been carried out for the most part. After having destroyed the guns, 21 cm, the Battery Liinahamari will fight its way through to the West. At present, no reports are being received anymore from the Battery Ristiniemi. The Batteries Sensenhauer and Petsamo are in German hands. The Naval Batteries are holding their positions. The 19th Army Corps tries to clear the situation since there are only small enemy forces expected."

If this assumption is right then it seems to be strange that the enemy could gain such an important success.

At 2216 on 12 Oct., an operational group consisting of a gunboat and two minesweepers came into a fight with six Russian motor torpedo boats north of Jacobselv; the Russian boats were damaged and forced to withdraw. The ammunition supply for the Battery Sensenhauer on naval landing craft with an escort of motor minesweepers has been stopped off Jacobselv. Further motor minesweepers have put to sea for attacking the landing operations.



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III. Subject: Situation in the West:

A radio message from the Fortress Commander, Gironde North shows that the fortress has been without mail since eleven weeks.

The supply of the fortresses will be sufficient as from 10 Oct. for 60 days in Lorient, for 45 days in St. Nazaire, for 70 days in La Rochelle, for 80 days in Gironde-North, and as from 1 Oct. for 50 days in Gironde-South.

IV. Subject: Situation in the South East:

The Commanding General, Army Group E has expressed the highest praise to the Commanding Admiral, Aegean on account of the nearly complete rescue of the shipwrecked from the steamers ZAR FERDINAND and BERTA for the commander, the crews and all concerned of the Navy.

Furthermore, the Army Group E has reported on 12 Oct. to the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southeast in the Report of the Day that the Navy and the Air Force are continuing the evacuation movements in a sacrificing manner despite the permanent enemy threat at sea and in the air. During these operations, the Navy alone escorting troops convoys has shot down in one case 5 fighter bombers out of 16 attacking, and in another attack two planes. Through the operation with special weapons of the Navy serious losses can be expected for the enemy forces operating in the Aegean Sea.

V. Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

The Training Unit, Fleet reports that the HIPPER is lying in Gdynia ready for action, with the exception of the power station No. 1, after the supplies have been replenished. The clearance of the fault in the power station No. 1 can be accomplished within 48 hours under a sufficient supply of material for the condenser.

The SCHEER is lying in a six-hours-readiness in Swinemuende, and will move to the roads of Gdynia on the noon of 15 Oct.

The Executive Commander and the Gunnery Officer are on leave and cannot be back on board until the evening of 13 Oct. Both cruisers are preparing for operation.

VI. Quartermaster General:

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The Finnish ships belonging to the Transport Flotilla "Speer" in Northern Norway put to sea again.

VII. Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division:

The stock of gasoline in Dunkirk is sufficient for the operation there with Linse-torpedoes. It is intended to transfer two groups with 24 boats into the fortress. The other three groups with 36 boats have to take care of the flank protection during the transfer.

The Chief, Naval Staff agrees and orders that the Commander in Chief, Navy be informed.

In a restricted circle:

VIII. Chief of Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, 1st

Echelon Command:

The number of motor torpedo boats among the Russian Arctic Ocean Vessels was estimated at 40 boats in July of this year, and has now increased up to at least 60.

Admiral, Small Battle Units:

Against these motor torpedo boats the action of twelve Biber-torpedoes is possible which could be transferred by three submarines.

Further report of the Chief of Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, 1st Echelon Command:

A U.S.A.-unit has defeated and taken into possession a German meteorological station on Greenland. It is not clear whether "Edelweiss" 1 or 2 is concerned.

The Japanese reported a large attack of 1000 American carrier-borne planes on Formosa on 12 Oct.; the attack caused serious losses among the attacking planes. More than 100 enemy planes are said to have been shot down.

According to the assessment of the enemy situation from the Army

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General Staff, Foreign Armies West it may be expected that the supply difficulties of the enemies at the Western Front caused by long supply routes, and the particularly great importance of an early clearance of the approach to Antwerp will lead to an enforced execution of the local operations that have now been started in order to reach this aim. The strong occupation of Marseille and Toulon shows that apparently a great part of the U.S.A.-supplies and possibly also transfers of troops are being led at present via these ports.

The report on the Aerial Warfare Situation in East Asia as of 1 Oct. made-up on account of a report from the Naval Attache Tokyo has been distributed by the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff among the Supreme Operations Staffs of the Navy. Copy as per l. Skl. 31063/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

IX. Army Situation:

Western Front:

Our own counter-measures taken on 12 Oct. were strongly handicapped by the large action of the enemy air forces carried out owing to the favorable weather condition. Own attacks could be carried out only early in the morning and late in the evening. In the Schelde Bridgehead, enemy attacks were beaten back by flame-throwing tanks.

The fights for the approaches of Walcheren Island (isthmus) are going on.

At the front of the 7th Army fierce fighting is taking place in the area of Aachen. Under serious losses, our own attacks gained only little ground. The enemy defended himself extremely strongly.

Italian Front:

The strong and fierce fights at the known concentration points are going on.

In the central section of the South Front, the enemy attack was supported by 450 ground-attack planes and about 800 bombers.

The continuous bringing up of reinforcements as well as the increased artillery action and extremely vivid activity of planes let expect that the major attacks will also be resumed at the Adriatic Front.

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Balkan:

The withdrawal movement from the area of Athens is taking place without being disturbed by the enemy. The rear guards were on 11 Oct. southeast of Athens.

The evacuation of Corfu has been completed. The 37th Russian Army is advancing via Kriva Palanka towards Skoplje. Our own forces are resisting.

Leskovac got lost through an attack of superior enemy forces assisted by tanks, the enemy is advancing towards Nis. North of Nis, Soviet groups of forces reached the Morava River at several points. No reports have been received on the whereabouts of our own group of forces.

The 1st Mountain Division has moved into position from the area of Kucevo in direction to Petrovac for a push into the flank of the Russian corps advancing towards the Morava River (Pozarevac).

The enemy is bringing up further forces into the bridgehead north of Beograd; our own counter-attack remained unsuccessful.

In the battle area of the Dalmatian Coast, the important strong-point of Livno (road from Split to Zagreb) was surrendered with all heavy weapons to partisans through the treason of Croatian officers. The German occupational force could only partly fight its way through.

Eastern Front:

The battle in the area of Debrecen was continued with undiminished violence. The number of 67 knocked-out enemy tanks gives evidence of the fierceness of the fights. With that, only in this battle area 275 enemy tanks have been destroyed since 8 Oct. While the attempts of the enemy failed to break through the front from the southwest with a strong support of tanks and to push through to Debrecen, the enemy forces that had been encircled the preceding day succeeded to crack the weak encircling front to the south and to take Nagyvarad in cooperation with a tank corps which had newly been thrown into the battle from the South.

The situation at Kolozsvar has grown worse.

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At the Beskids Front the enemy continued his attacks on a wide front with concentration at the Cziroka Valley Pass and in the area southwest of Dukla. In general the numerous attacks were beaten back.

The battle at the Narev River is going on. After a heavy drum fire the enemy went to attack between the Vistula and Bug Rivers. While the greater part of the attacks was defeated in our own gunfire or beaten back in counter-attacks, respectively, the enemy succeeded in gaining a deep penetration at 30 km north of Warsaw. Our own counter-attack threw back the enemy to the east.

In the battle area of Rozan the enemy again broke through the defensive front which had not yet been consolidated, pushed back our own fiercely fighting troops to the north, and took Rozan. The losses are also serious by the enemy side.

West of Novogrod strong enemy attacks made from the former penetration point were beaten back.

On both sides of Vilkaviskis smaller enemy advances were beaten back. A major attack is still to be expected here.

Very heavy fights developed again at the front of the 3rd Tank Army. With infantry forces of two Russian armies and one Tank Corps the enemy vainly attempted also yesterday to force the breakthrough to Tilsit. Only 30 km north of Tilsit the enemy succeeded in gaining several deep penetrations. In a counter-attack large parts which had broken through were cut off from their rear communications. Enemy attacks that were made against the bridgehead of Huss on both sides of the roads leading-in from Heydekrug failed.

Off the Fortress of Memel, the enemy attacking activity ceased. Attacks of tanks were beaten back. The gunfire of vessels of the Navy resulted in an effective relief. At the front of the Northern Army Group the pressure of the enemy increased in the area of Libau, concentrating at the coast and in the vicinity of Skuodas and Vainode.

In the area of Riga, the withdrawal movement of the 16th Army took place as planned. Enemy attacks directed against the occupied intermediate line were beaten back. On the Sworbe Peninsula (Osel Island) the enemy landing operation could be fully defended.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. According to the assessment of the situation from the Fuehrer Headquarters, the 12th October was a calm day at the front of Memel; this is assumed to be attributable to the gunfire from the sea.

The Admiral on special duty transmitted from the Fuehrer Headquarters:

"1. By order of the Chief, Army General Staff the Naval Liaison Officer reported to the Commander in Chief, Navy:

a. The breakthrough of the Northern Army Group from Courland to East Prussia has been provided for 15 Oct. Under the present distribution of forces the result is questionable.

b. In the case of a failure, the Chief of the Army General Staff intends to make the following proposal to the Fuehrer on 16 Oct.:

Sea transport of three tank divisions from Libau to Gdynia, Danzig, or Pillau. Sea transport of two infantry divisions from Courland, eventually from Windau, to Memel, subsequently transport of two tank divisions from Memel into the Reich either by sea transport or by transfer to the Nehrung, and from there transfer over the Haff in order to save fuel.

2. The Commander in Chief, Navy has requested from the Chief, General Staff that measures be taken for securing a sufficient anti-aircraft and fighter defense, and that the loading capacity be precautionarily improved by the installation of side quays.

3. The Commander in Chief, Navy has ordered that the problems concerning the sea transport be immediately examined and a report be made accordingly.

4. It is particularly important that the operational intentions are kept restricted to a most limited circle."

The Naval Command, East has been informed accordingly by the Naval Staff.

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The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff has reported with regard to this:

"1. The transfer of three tank divisions and two infantry divisions provided as top priority will be accomplishable with 39 254 BRT within 16 days on the six transports that are at the disposal of the Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff.

2. Under the engagement of another six transports from the Commanding Admiral, Submarines the transfer can be accomplished within 8 days.

3. For the subsequent transfer of two tank division from Memel to Danzig six troop transports will be sufficient with which the move can be carried out in one passage. The duration of the transfer movements as per 1. to 3. depends on the smooth bringing-up of the units to be embarked.

4. A strong enemy action by air, submarines and artillery gunfire is to be expected; therefore, losses have to be put up with which might render questionable an accomplishment in due time. The strongest defense by anti-aircraft artillery and fighter planes for the ports of embarkation and disembarkation as well as for the convoys will be necessary. An assessment will be transmitted to the Commander in Chief, Navy at the Fuehrer Headquarters."

b. The Naval Command, East submitted the following report from the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

The Sworbe Peninsula is still to be defended for several days; according to a conversation with the Army Group, the 2nd Task Force is not to be put into action until a relief is required during the evacuation.

The Naval Command, East informs the Naval Staff by a copy of a directive issued to the 2nd Task Force; according to this directive the Task Force is to put to sea at Memel together with the PRINZ EUGEN after having refilled the oil and ammunition reserves, and to aim at a start of the operation on the morning of 14 Oct. The LUETZOW is to follow as soon as she is ready.

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e. The Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea reports with regard to the plan of the Naval Command, East to engage the Commander, Submarine Chasers in the eastern Baltic Sea, that the new command post which requires an own organization for its supplies would bring about an important aggravation for the naval warfare as to the communications, and that the submarine chasing should be the responsibility of the defense Division. A transfer of forces to other concentration points can be ordered without difficulty by the Naval Command, East.

This view is correct.

d. The Naval Command, East has ordered that the Sector Commander, Memel is subordinated to the Coastal Defense Commander, Center as long as the bridgehead of Memel belongs to the Central Army Group.

e. Pointing out the situation as to the war readiness of the mine-exploding vessels in the area of the Naval Command, East the 8th Defense Division has asked for the assignment of two mine-exploding vessels which are urgently required for the transport task in the Baltic Sea Entrances.

The Naval Staff orders that the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North send two mine-exploding vessels to the 8th Defense Division, one of which a large one. The mine-exploding vessels are required for a special task coming-up on 15 Oct.

II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. The Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command has ordered that the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southeast give up immediately one Combined Operations Battalion in a strength of at least two companies with equipment for use in the area of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway. The transport from Fiume up to Jutland is to be carried out by rail. The battalion has been provided for participation in the operation "Nordlicht".

III. Area of the Naval Command, North:

a. With regard to the inquiry of the Naval Staff asking which forces the Naval Command, North could give up if required to the Naval Command, East (see War Diary 7 Oct.), the Naval Command, North reports that the 18th Patrol Flotilla would be



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taken into consideration in the case that the transfer is inevitably necessary. An immediate transfer would endanger the completion of the towed convoys from the area of Holland which so far were carried out almost without losses. The army supply for Holland, too, which has not been started yet via the sea would be affected by a deduction of defense forces. Besides that, the deduction would be made at the expense of the defensive power of the patrol positions.

The Naval Staff decides that the Naval Command, North (Commanding Admiral, Defenses North) is to transfer operationally the 18th or another Patrol Flotilla before 20 Oct. The repeated appearance of Russian submarines in the central Baltic Sea and the losses which have been suffered necessitate that the flotilla is given-up and disadvantages arising by that in the operational area of the Naval Command, North are put up with.

b. The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff has agreed upon the proposal as to the organization for the Admiral, Bay of Heligoland, the Naval Shore Commander, East Friesland, North Friesland and Elbe/Weser. The newly planned assignment of the Naval Artillery Detachment 112 has been altered, on request of the Naval Command, North, into assignment of the Naval Artillery Detachment 124. The Naval Artillery Detachment 136 from Italy has been provided for Cuxhaven, Wangeroog and the coasts lying behind these islands. A new assignment of the Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery Detachment 262 has been disapproved.

IV. Subject: Southeastern Area:

The Group South informs the Naval Staff on directives that were issued by the Group to the Admiral, Adriatic Sea for the case that the advanced strongpoints in Dalmatia should be abandoned as soon as the withdrawal movement of the Army has reached the new main defense line.

Copy of the relevant teletype as per l. Skl. 3269/44 Gkdos. Chfs. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.

V. The Army General Staff, High Command of the Army has issued instructions for the Fortress Commanders, dated 29 Sept. Copy for the Naval Staff as per l. Skl 36777/44 geh. to be found in War Diary, Part B, Vol. V.

VI. The Radio Intercept Report No. 41/44 contains a composition of the enemy communications picked-up by radio decoding and radio monitoring from 2 Oct. to 8 Oct.

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I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

22 planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, five planes at the 19th Group. Three British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

Own Situation:

Area of the Atlantic Coast:

Harbor Defense Vessels on the Loire Position were vainly taken under fire by enemy artillery.

Situation Atlantic Fortresses:

The usual fighting activity has been reported from both sides from Lorient, St. Nazaire and La Rochelle.

Gironde-North reported the continuation of the evacuation of Tremblade as well as the continuation of the own supply operation. Since the enemy did not fulfil the agreement, our own artillery went into action.

In the fortress of Gironde-South the own mine-barrage off the Vensac Position has been laid.

A new intermediate position has been consolidated at 5.5 km off the main defense line.

Channel Sea Area:

Off the Channel Islands, five freighters and one convoy destroyer were sighted northwest of Guernsey at 0752 heading to St. Malo; one freighter, one LST and one auxiliary carrier north of Alderney at 0745 on north course; twelve "Liberty"-steamers, four LST, and LSJ and one large tanker northwest of Cherbourg at 0905 also on north course; and twelve LST and one auxiliary carrier northwest of Cherbourg at 1320 on south course. Dunkirk reported three LST, one destroyer, one passenger steamer, one freighter and five small vessels on west course north of the fortress.

The enemy artillery gunfire on the fortress continued during the

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whole day. In the afternoon, enemy fighter bomber attacks were made with bombs and aircraft armament. Enemy Army Groups were attacked with observed result by our own artillery and heavy infantry weapons.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

Bay of Heligoland:

Borkum reported mine-dropping during the night of 12 Oct.

On the evening of 12 Oct. entering and returning enemy planes were attacked by Naval anti-aircraft artillery in the sections of Emden, Wilhelmshaven and Brunsbuettel.

One mine each was cleared off the Jade and Elbe Rivers.

During noon-time 32 enemy low-flying planes advanced up to the area of Heligoland.

In the afternoon three enemy low-flying planes appeared on the Schillig Roads and were attacked by the ships lying there.

Holland Area:

At 0730, one destroyer, four freighters and three cruisers were sighted on east course west of Ostende. Other vessels were observed under the horizon.

On 12 Oct., continuous enemy raids by fighter bombers and artillery gunfire were directed against the batteries in Flanders and the port of Breskens.

The Naval Command, North Sea informed the Naval Staff by sending a copy of the following directive issued to the Admiral, Netherlands, the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North and the 1st Defense Division:

1. The supply communication at land to Walcheren has been interrupted due to the development in the situation at the land front of the Army High Command 15. Therefore, the supply of Walcheren is on one hand only possible via the inland waterways and the Eastern Schelde River, and with shallow draught vessels

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via the sea - Eastern Schelde. On the other hand, an unfavorable development in the situation at the landfront in the area of the Netherlands may also cut off the supply via the inland waterways so that the supply of Walcheren would be possible only via the sea and the Eastern Schelde into the Veere Gat, or from the air.

2. The indicated supply possibilities on the waterway require an increased defense of the Eastern Schelde towards the sea in order to prevent that the enemy takes hold of our own communications from the sea.

3. Conflusion:

a. The provided alarm foulings in the West Gat and Veere Gat become void as they would cut off our own supply route.

b. The outlying barrage "SWK 11" which was laid on 23 April does not grant anymore the required protection. An additional fouling east of the barrage "SWK 11" in the West Gat and Room-pot up to 3°32' east would importantly increase the protection of the Eastern Schelde, all the more as the fouled areas are lying under artillery protection from Walcheren and Schouwen. At first, the fouling in the Roompot Waters is to be carried out as soon as possible with the mine stock being presently available there in a number of about 100 mines. A requisition for the mines required for the fouling of the West Gat is speedily to be turned in.

4. It is to be found out at the Commander, Armed Forces, Norway what kind of defenses can be put into action by the Army on North Beverland and up to what extent a swamping is intended or can be carried out, respectively.

Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

45 planes, eleven of which Iceland planes, were detected during action in the area of the 18th Group.

The Naval Command, Norway submitted a report of an Airforce Signals Regiment stating that the high speed traffic Oslo - Denmark 3 had been thoroughly looked into and continuously reported by the enemy to the Center Stations in England in a reconnaissance action of several hours during the last ten days. Therefore, an air raid is to be expected.

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Own Situation:

Area of the Arctic Coast:

It was reported on 11 Oct. that the Sonja Hill is cleared of the enemy. At 0305 on 12 Oct., one out of two large landing vessels was sunk by the Artillery Group Finland.

At 2215 on 12 Oct., the enemy entered Llinahamari with eight boats. The port fell into enemy hands at 0030. Further details have been reported.

The barrage "Naki 3" in the Kard Fjord has been laid. At 2100 on 13 Oct., K "3" has sunk two motor torpedo boats in a fight with six or eight enemy motor torpedo boats northeast of Ekkerøey.

The westbound convoy that had been attacked on the forenoon of 12 Oct. east of Nordkyn was the first evacuation transport from Kirkenes. The tonnage for the evacuation is being brought up fluently. The loading is carried out as planned. During a fight with motor torpedo boats near Kyberg on the evening of 11 Oct., one motor torpedo boat positively, and another one probably was destroyed by the 21st Motor Minesweeping Flotilla.

On 11 Oct. and 12 Oct., 140 enemy planes entered the area of Vardoe, and 200 the area of Kirkenes. 16 planes were reported in the area of Banak.

On the forenoon of 13 Oct., the minesweeper M "326" was vainly attacked by a plane with an aerial torpedo.

At 1049, a Boston-plane over Alta probably looked into the berth.

Area of the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast:

A vivid enemy flying activity was reported on 12 Oct. and 13 Oct. over the coastal area of the North Fjord, Lister and in the area of the Oslo Fjord.

Twenty-six ships were escorted to the North, 22 ships to the South.

The Naval Command, Norway, putting up with a remarkable weakening of the areas of the West and North Norwegian Coast, has transferred

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all transport and artillery naval landing craft, the motor combined operations boats, the entire 5th Motor Minesweeping Flotilla and the 56th Minesweeping Flotilla, as far as they are at war readiness and not appointed for alarm barrages, and all vessels of the harbor defense groups which are ready for action to the Arctic Area for taking part in the operation "Nordlicht". Besides that, the mine-clearance ships MRS "25" and "26" as well as the weather ships BUSCH and HESSEN have been placed at the disposal of the Admiral, Arctic Coast.

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III. Skager Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

The enemy landing operation at the east coast of the Sworbe Peninsula on 12 Oct. was carried out in strength of a regiment.

The enemy lost through the action of the Naval Artillery Detachment 531 approximately 200 prisoners of war, two 4 cm anti-tank guns and numerous small arms, furthermore approximately 150 killed. The second landing wave of the enemy was defeated by our naval forces, in the first place by PT boats. One landing vessel and one motor torpedo boat were destroyed; another motor torpedo boat was probably destroyed. A second attempt to land in the area of Ansekuela - Vintri at 1830 was discontinued.

Own Situation:

Admiral, Skager Rak:

Fourteen boats were put into action for mineclearance. Two mines were cleared in the northern exit of the Sound, two mines in the Samsvey Belt, and five mines at Anholt.

On the evening of 12 Oct., three enemy reconnaissance planes flew over the Skager Rak.

At 2115, an own convoy was unsuccessfully attacked with bombs by a single plane between Frederikstad and Frederikshavn.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

At 0227 the minesweeper M "3619" reported a detonation north

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of Rixhoeft. One survivor of the German steamer TAUNUS was rescued.

The steamer CATANIA (2148 BRT) ran aground northeast of Leba.

At 0030 the Danish steamer HILMA LAU (2430 BRT) was sunk, according to the statement of survivors, by a submarine with two torpedo hits, 25 nautical miles east southeast of Kristiansoe.

49 boats were put into action for mineclearance. One mine was cleared in the Bay of Danzig.

In the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal, a steam tug was damaged or sunk, respectively, by a mine hit at 0645 at the kilometer point 52, and a steam trawler at 0652 at the kilometer point 5205. The Canal is navigable for ships up to 3000 BRT and a draught of 18 feet.

The block ship CARL ZEISS has been towed into Memel with a strong list.

Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea:

Concerning the situation on the Osel Island: The losses of the Naval Artillery Detachment 531 suffered during the defense of the enemy landing on the Sworbe Peninsula mounted up to 13 killed and 22 wounded.

The 2nd PT boat Training Flotilla was engaged in defending the second landing wave. The motor minesweepers and armed fishing vessels which were put into action remained without encounter with the enemy.

On the afternoon of 12 Oct., two enemy air raids on the Montu Harbor remained unsuccessful. A push of three of our own PT boats, too, during the night of 12 Oct. remained without success.

On the evening of 13 Oct., a group of armed fishing vessels belonging to the 14th Defense Flotilla was issued an order to receive stragglers of the Naval Artillery Detachment 532 in the vicinity of the Kihelkonna Bay.

The defense positions east of the Sworbe Peninsula are being occupied only at night because of the danger from the air.

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Concerning the Situation at Riga:

During the night of 12 Oct., the main defense line was withdrawn to the Dvina River. The eastern part of Riga is being evacuated. The execution of the demolition measures in the port so far took place as planned. The port was cleared of all vessels with daybreak.

The port commander of Riga has left Riga for Libau with 35 vessels and the remaining 138 men of navy personnel.

Concerning the Situation at Memel and Libau:

At 0823, the bridge and road of Pappensee were taken under fire by the artillery ferry AF "33" and the auxiliary war ship BISHORST. At 1138, the enemy main defense line was taken under fire. The artillery ferry AF "33" suffered little splinter damage by a 15 cm - battery.

In the fight for Memel the naval anti-aircraft artillery so far has destroyed 25 tanks and knocked out three other ones.

Two artillery ferry barges have been transferred to Schwarzort for the defense of the Haff.

The 2nd Task Force has submitted a brief report on the action on 11 Oct. and 12 Oct. Copy as per l. Skl 31040/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III. According to this report, the action was slow again in the beginning also on 12 Oct. due to insufficient plannings and preparatory time as well as to the fact that the Army was not informed on the concerns of the Navy. However, continuous improvements yielded a smooth and very good cooperation at noon as far as the action of the artillery and radio communication was concerned. At 1630 the gunfire was discontinued due to fuel difficulties of the torpedo boats, and because it seemed unsuitable out of tactical reasons to remain in firing position during twilight. Altogether 20 target areas were fired at on 11 Oct. and 12 Oct. The PRINZ EUGEN fired 673 rounds with 20.3 cm shells, the LUETZOW 400 rounds with 28 cm shells and 245 rounds with 15 cm shells, and the destroyers Z "25" and Z "35" 100 rounds with 15 cm shells. The firing tasks were accomplished between 15 000 and 30 000 m partly with a few rounds. According to observation the fire was entirely well-aimed.



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Towards 1100 on 12 Oct. an unsuccessful attack with aerial torpedoes was made by five Boston planes and two fighters.

The PRINZ EUGEN reported to have shot down one plane. The destroyer Z "25" reported a screw damage and bunker leakage caused by the fire of aircraft armament or probably by a grazing torpedo, respectively.

Our own fighter escort was with the unit only from 1435 to 1545 on 12 Oct. Our own shipboard planes formed a close escort.

The operation was extremely valuable for the increase of the fighting strength of the task force. The moral and attitude of the crews were excellent.

The departure of the PRINZ EUGEN from Gdynia for a new operation at Memel has been planned for 1400. The escort will be carried out by own destroyers and three torpedo boats. The LUETZOW will follow with one destroyer and one torpedo boat as soon as she is ready. The unit was unsuccessfully taken under fire at Nimmersat by a 12 cm enemy battery. The convoys and transports were carried out as planned and without incidents. A supply of 225 tons of ammunition was transported to Memel.

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#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

In the Northern Waters, the submarine U "313" reported a submarine chaser with a torpedo boat and an armed steam trawler up to 15 nautical miles off the coast, as well as planes carrying out missions by day in the Kola Bay. The Commander, Submarines intends to continue the guarding of the Kola Bay for the time being.

The departure of four submarines from Narvik and three submarines from Hammerfest has been provided for 14 Oct. for the escort during the transfer of the TIRPITZ. Subsequently, the boats will occupy the patrol line against the PQ-convoy that is expected on about 20 Oct.

The submarine U "365" has put to sea from Tromsoe in order to transfer a weather group to the southern tip of Spitsbergen.

The submarine U "1165" has fired a Zaunkoenig Torpedo on an armed escorting vessel north of Packerort, off the Gulf of Finland, and missed the target.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

A strong activity of enemy fighter bombers has been reported in the battle area of Holland.

Numerous twin-engined and four-engined enemy planes entered the areas of Utrecht, Arnhem and Venloo.

For the assistance of the fights on the ground, 94 own fighters have been put into action which reported to have shot down three enemy planes so far.

Reich Territory:

In the west of the entire Reich Territory, advancing up to the areas of Stettin - Leipzig - Prague - Regensburg - Passau - Freiburg, approximately 1450 planes were reported flying singly or in small and large formations, respectively. The raids were concentrated in the area left of the Rhine River. Numerous attacks with aircraft armament and single bomb raids were reported in the entire area covered by sorties.

From the South, a formation of about 500 bombers with a strong fighter escort advanced up to Upper Silesia for making raids on the hydrogenic plant of Heydebek, on Belchhammer - Oder River Valley, as well as on Vienna - Graz - Aspera. For details see Situation of the Day.

During the night of 13 Oct. single enemy planes were detected in the southwestern area of Germany, and 30 planes in the area of Cologne.

Mediterranean Theater:

A formation of 550 four-engined enemy planes with a strong fighter escort made a raid in the areas of Ferrara - Bologna - Ravenna.

Otherwise, the enemy activity was as usual.

Eastern Area:

At the Eastern Front, 340 own and 410 enemy sorties were counted; four of our own planes got lost while 19 enemy planes were shot down.

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During the night of 13 Oct. bombers entered East Prussia; detailed reports have not been received.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

No reports are at hand from the Gibraltar Area.

On the forenoon of 12 Oct., eleven minesweepers escorted by two destroyers were escorted during work in the area of Mentone - Imperia. Besides the radar station of Bordighera, also the rear area of Bordighera and Ventimiglia was taken under fire by destroyers.

During the night of 12 Oct., according to air reconnaissance three groups of ships, one of which consisting of 6-8 vessels, were detected in the sea area southeast of Toulon probably proceeding with supplies. No encounter took place with the usual guard off the Riviera Coast during the night of 12 Oct. South of Livorno, a number of small vessels was on southwest course early in the morning.

Radio monitoring detected a strong and partly operative radio traffic in the eastern Mediterranean originating from Alexandria. The following Naval Command Posts were found out as addresses: Nettuno, Bari, Taranto and six unidentified.

Own Situation:

The escort and patrol duty was carried out as planned. The demolition measures in the Magra Mouth have been carried out. On 12 Oct. a harassing fire was directed during the day by the Naval Battery Magra Mouth on the enemy main defense line, and at noon a fire for effect was carried out for cutting off the enemy attacks.

2. Area of the Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

By order of the Army Group E the evacuation and

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demolition of Saseno has been carried out. The port of Valona has been mined and also demolished as planned. Four harbor defense vessels, two tugs, one motor coaster and one infantry boat will be transferred from Corfu to the North. The town and port of Saranda are encircled by partisans. According to a report from the encircled troops, among which the port commander, a number of infantry and patrol boats has fallen into the hands of the enemy. On 9 Oct. an auxiliary sailing vessel was sunk by seven enemy gun-boats in Porto Cassione (Veglia). On 10 Oct. another auxiliary sailing vessel was taken in prize by gun-boats at the same place.

One enemy gun-boat and one motor gun-boat each were sunk near the Puntadura Island during the naval battle during the night of 11 Oct. It is probably that another motor gun-boat was sunk. Towards 0125 on 13 Oct. one motor coaster belonging to a convoy proceeding to Venice got lost through the torpedo attack of a motor gun boat or through a mine. Subsequently an unsuccessful bomb attack was made on the convoy.

Four boats of the 7th PT boat Flotilla entered Split early on 13 Oct. During a push into the Central Dalmatian coastal area no enemy vessels were sighted. A breakthrough the narrows of Solta - Brazza was not possible because of a strong searchlight.

Enemy planes made a raid on the port and town of Sibenik on 12 Oct., and on the shipyard of Split on 13 Oct.

b. Aegean Sea:

A carrier unit was again sighted south southwest of Leros early on 12 Oct. A unit of minesweepers continued its works in the blocked zone between Levitha and Amorgos. One submarine each was sighted near Lemnos and near Levitha on the morning of 12 Oct. and 13 Oct.

At noon on 12 Oct., nine enemy planes attacked ship targets in the port of Volos. The steamer ANNA 1 (4200 BRT), the freight-train ship LAUDON (380 BRT), the NORDPOL (280 BRT), the light PT boat LS "10", one submarine chaser, one ferry, three armed fishing vessels, one coast protection vessel and several small vessels (auxiliary sailing vessel) got lost.

No reports have been received yet on the execution of the mine-laying operation at Kassandra Huk by the ZEUS and the torpedo boat TA "18".

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The Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea reports the following transport performance of the Navy during the evacuation of the islands and the transfer to the main land from 23 Aug. to 13 Oct:

26135 men, 323 guns, 11 tanks, 2070 horses, 712 motor vehicles, 1386 other vehicles and 29297 tons of equipment and war material. Of these figures the following got lost by enemy action: Approximately 200 men, 46 guns, 7 tanks, 145 motor vehicles, 33 other vehicles and 11 100 tons of equipment which means almost 1/3 of all war material.

The Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea considers the northern Aegean Sea to be free from enemy forces at present. Apparently, the enemy is gathering in the area of Poros - Athens. According to foreign radio reports 300 parachutists allegedly have landed on the afternoon of 12 Oct. on the airfield Megara near Corinth. According to British radio reports the Greeks allegedly have occupied Athens and Piraeus.

c. Danube Area Situation:

Particular reports are not at hand.

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VII. Situation East Asia:

The Japanese Press stresses the seriousness of the strategic situation. The present offensive of the Americans is said to be directed against the Philippine Islands. The attack on the Riu-Kiu Islands is considered as an immediate assault against the inner fortification belt of Japan.

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Items of Political Importance:

The Press Reports coming from Moscow are striving for showing a successful course of the discussions. The Associated Press maintains that there really exists hope to solve the Polish Question, a matter which is considered by Churchill as the pre-condition for the continuance of the alliance between the three major powers.

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Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1115:

I. Apparently the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West has proposed that the Naval Group West be disbanded under regard of the changed situation, and that the remaining responsibilities be carried out by the Naval Liaison Staff.

The Chief, Naval Staff remarks with regard to this matter that the Commander in Chief, Navy wanted to leave the Admiral Krancke as Group Commander. The matter has to be reported to the Commander in Chief, Navy.

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II. If the operation of the 2nd Task Force is continued, the ammunition supply will become a problem since the reserves for the heavy artillery are only small. The Quartermaster General has already ordered to haul back all 20.3 cm ammunition from Norway. In no case the ammunition expenditure can be continued in the extent reached so far. The following directive to the Naval Command, East with copy to the Fleet, the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea, and the Naval Liaison Officer with the Army General Staff and Northern Army Group, is provided by the Naval Staff:

"1. Under the present operation of the Task Force for the assistance of the Army, only as much ammunition is to be expended as to secure that a stock of altogether  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ammunition issue (a-board and in reserve together) remains still available for other operational tasks.

2. The ammunition which is still available under these circumstances for the present assistance of the Army must be disposed of in a way that the Army is as sufficiently supported as possible in carrying out the most important operations that are imminent.

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The Naval Command, East will contact the Army Group or the Army General Staff, respectively, in order to clarify when and where the action of the Task Force will probably be of greatest importance for the Army."

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III. The Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division gives an intermediate report on the preparations for the operation planned against a battle ship in the Wajenga Bay. The code-name is "Caesar". For the execution Biber-torpedoes instead of Marder-torpedoes are to be provided, one of which will be taken aboard while two other ones will be towed. Towing trials have been successful up to a speed of nine knots.

The Chief, Naval Staff points out that speeded-up preparations are required due to the weather condition and the approaching winter.

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In a restricted circle:

IV. Army Situation:

Western Front:

Our own attacks were strongly impaired also on 13 Oct. by the heavy action of the enemy air forces.

In the area of the Schelde Mouth, strong enemy pressure in the bridgehead of Hoofdplaat as well as against the own front at the isthmus of Walcheren.

Our own bridgeheads between the lower Rhine and the Waal River will be given up in order to win reserves. Under an increasing material action the great battle in the area of Aachen continued. More and more the fights are taking the character of position-battles causing heavy losses.

In the western Vosges Mountains the Americans and the French continued their attacks. Despite the defense of the mass of the attacks the enemy gained further ground.

Italian Front:

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The attacks at the west coast yielded only little ground for the enemy. In the area south and southwest of Bologna the defensive battle is going on. The action of our own artillery was importantly limited by the strong operation with more than 1000 enemy ground-attack planes as well as by a large ammunition expenditure of the enemy artillery.

Attacks made with the support of tanks on both sides of the Via Emilia were beaten back in heavy fights.

Balkan:

On the Candia Island, the bridgehead of Candia was evacuated and the garrison taken back to the inner fortress.

The evacuation of the area of Athens is being continued without interruption.

The enemy pressure against the Morava Front which is being consolidated is continuously increasing. The main railways and highways to the South have been cut off by the enemy.

Strong enemy columns are advancing from the South towards Beograd after having crossed the Morava River.

Beograd is lying under gunfire from the North. Up the Danube River the enemy continues to be silent.

Eastern Front:

The fights for the bridgeheads along the Tisza River are going on with alternating success.

The great battle in the area of Debrecen - Nagyvarad is still going on. Very strong enemy attacks were mainly beaten back. An own attack on Nagyvarad did not come through since it had to be discontinued because of the withdrawal of Hungarian units.

At the Beskids Front, the German Corps were standing the whole day in a heavy defensive battle. At some points the enemy gained deep penetrations which could only needily be cut off under the engagement of the last reserves.

According to reliable sources, the enemy is preparing a major offensive in the Vistula Bridgehead heading towards Czestochowa - Cracow.



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The heavy defensive fights between the Vistula and Bug Rivers, as well as in the bridgehead west of Rozan went on with increasing fierceness. Despite heavy enemy artillery fire and the effect of continuous attacks with ground-attack planes, all enemy breakthrough attempts could again be prevented, also today, in a heroic defense and with the last force.

No major fights took place at the East Prussian border.

Own attacks at the front of the fortress of Memel resulted in improvements of the positions. The naval forces relieved importantly the heavily fighting troops by taking enemy targets under fire.

At the front of the Northern Army Group enemy attacks were beaten back at numerous points, especially at the coast south of Libau.

Finland:

In the Murmansk Section, the enemy attacks were further concentrated at the Arctic Highway near Luostari. The road has been blocked owing to enemy breakthroughs. It is intended to clear the road.

Enemy landings were made in the Petsamo Bay and Pourovuono Bay.

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V. Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

a. The Fleet has agreed to the proposal that the 1st Task Force be disbanded after the transfer of the TIRPITZ. The TIRPITZ will be subordinated to the Training Unit, Fleet as to discipline and supplies.

The Chief, Naval Staff agrees.

b. The Armed Forces High Command has agreed that wounded from the fortresses in Western France are transferred on provisional hospital ship even in the case that these ships are not acknowledged by the British as hospital ships.

A relevant information of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West and the Naval Group West is forwarded by teletype 1/Skl I West 31174/44 Gkdos. Copy to be found in War Diary, manual "Invasion 14/10."

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. The Naval Command, East reports:

"It may be taken from a radio message of the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea that

1. The Army Group would appreciate the assistance by the 2nd Task Force in an attack beginning on or about 15 Oct. in direction to the south. The attack will be concentrated at Krottingen and Jarbenai.

2. The Army Group would appreciate the assistance by the torpedo boats T "23" and T "28" in a push from the north to the Pappen Lake.

3. An action of torpedo boats at the Sworbe Peninsula would not pay because of the firing range which depends on the water depths, and that the fight will be carried out by artillery ferries and heavy gun carriers as it was handled so far.

Additional note to 1. of the Naval Command, East:

The 2nd Task Force will further be put into action in the area of Memel, in compliance with a request from the Army which was received by this headquarters."

Subsequently the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea and the 2nd Task Force are issued a relevant order by the Naval Command, East for preparing the operation which presumably will not be carried out until 17 Oct.

b. The Commander in Chief, Navy points out that the situation might require a continuous relief or a temporary reinforcement of the task force being put into action for the assistance of the Army.

Therefore, the Naval Command, East and the Fleet are issued a directive by the Naval Staff to secure that the LUETZOW, the SCHEER, the PRINZ EUGEN and the HIPPER are ready for these tasks at all times.

Since the ammunition situation is limiting the action of the heavy cruiser PRINZ EUGEN and those of the LUETZOW-type for the assistance of the Army by firing at the coasts, the Fleet is issued

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a directive to check whether other ships of the Training Unit could take over the task. In the first place, the HANSA and the NUERNBERG are taken into consideration. The Fleet and the Naval Command, East will contact each other and report their intentions.

c. At 1300 the Chief of the Air Forces General Staff reports through the Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Liaison Staff:

"A very strong fighter escort has been in action so far over the task force "Thiele". The 6th Air Force is not in a position anymore to continue the fighter escort in this extent since otherwise the fuel stocks will be used up until tomorrow night. A new supply of fuel for planes will not arrive before some days have passed.

The general situation has become tense through the imminent major offensive of the enemy against East Prussia.

Therefore, the 6th Air Force has cut down the fighter escort over the 2nd Task Force to a minimum, in agreement with the Operations Branch, Air Forces (two to four planes).

For the time being no improvement of the situation is to be reckoned with."

The Operations Division, Naval Staff informs the Naval Command, East, the Admiral Eastern Baltic and the 2nd Task Force accordingly.

d. On request, the Naval Staff has allocated to the Naval Command, East:

aa. 500 EMC-mines and 500 RB-mines, 34 LMB/S-mines with DMI, 81 LMB-mines III with M 1 for the eastern Baltic Sea.

bb. 1700 EMC-mines and 500 EMR-mines for the Skager-Rak.

Since the material becoming available from the mine production has already fully been disposed of up to the second half of November and has to be delivered also to other war theaters, the supply can only be carried out in certain periods beginning as of the middle of November.

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II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. At 1235, the Naval Command, Norway reported:

"The transfer of the TIRPITZ has been provided for 1100 on 15 Oct. Catchword: "Comet"."

b. At 1345, the Naval Command, Norway answered an inquiry of the Operations Division, Naval Staff of 9 Nov. as follows:

"1. "Hermes" means the planned operation as per MOK Norw. 01197 F eins Gdkos., dated 6 Oct.

2. The transfer of the TIRPITZ has been planned for 15 Oct. Together with the TIRPITZ, the heavy anti-aircraft artillery batteries "Nympe" and "Thetis" will be transferred at the same time. The dismantling and the transfer of the batteries, smoke preparations etc. are underway. No date can be given yet for the establishment and readiness for action."

Ad 1.: Operation 4th Destroyer Flotilla in the area of the Varanger Fjord.

A relevant information concerning "Comet" has been transmitted to the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, the Army General Staff, High Command of the Army, and the Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Liaison Staff, High Command of the Air Forces, Operations Staff. See order 1/Skl I Nord 3277/44 Gkdos. Chfs. Copy to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II a.

c. The 1st Task Force reported:

"1. Transfer of the TIRPITZ to Sandesundet has been provided for 15 Oct. Departure from Kvaenangen Fjord at 1100.

2. Route: Prescribed ways Sternsund - Silda - Fleet route south of Arnoey - Groetsund - western route Tromsoe.

3. Escort during the passage by minesweepers, motor minesweepers, anti-aircraft artillery cruiser, and artillery ferry barges.

4. Remote escort by submarines at 40 nautical miles

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around Loppa, as well as by air reconnaissance carried out by the 5th Air Command with concentration west of Tromsø and in a distance of 100 nautical miles around Loppa. The 4th Destroyer Flotilla will be prepared in the Tver Fjord south of Silda.

5. The bow of the ship has been strengthened as much that a marching speed of six to eight knots is expected.

6. The berth in the Sandesundet will be at four heavy mooring buoys on shallow water."

d. The Quartermaster Division, Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command has issued a directive concerning the transport tonnage for "Nordlicht" in compliance with the proposal of the Chief, Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster General. Copy as per 1/Skl 3275/44 Gkdos. Chfs. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol II a.

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III. Subject: Area of the Naval Command, North:

From a teletype exchange between the Commander, PT Boats and the Naval Command, North, of which copies were forwarded to the Naval Staff, it can be taken that the Commander, PT Boats considers the barrage in the Wielingen Gat to be not sufficient anymore. The view of the Naval Command, North on the importance and urgency of the Schelde barrage and on the plannings agrees with the considerations of the Commander, PT Boats.

The execution of further planning had been delayed so far by the weather condition. The engagement of the Air Force, too, has been provided by the Naval Command, North. The Operations Division, Naval Staff itself will direct the attention of the Operations Staff, Air Force to the importance of the Air Force operation which possibly might become necessary in the Schelde Area.

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IV. Subject: West Area:

A disagreement between the Naval Shore Commander, Channel Islands and the Fortification Commander, Channel Islands is to be seen in a radiogram, that was read here, sent by the former

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to the Group West. The Naval Shore Commander is afraid that the Fortification Commander fails to recognize the real situation, and that he does not sufficiently spread the stocks on hand instead of building up a reserve. The hope of the Fortification Commander that England would have the International Red Cross carry out the supply of the civil population is justifiedly not met either by the Naval Shore Commander.

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VI. On 3 Oct. the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command has transmitted a copy of a letter of the Head of the Party Chancellery to the Chief, Armed Forces High Command, accompanied by an order of the Fuehrer on the organization of a German Home Guard, dated 25 Sept. 1944, with the request to take notice.

On 8 Oct. the transmittal of execution instructions laid down by the Head of the Party Chancellery on 27 Sept. was made by the Organization Division, Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, and on 9 Oct. a relevant directive of the Army General Staff followed.

The Organization and Mobilization Branch, Quartermaster General, Naval Staff is dealing with the matter as far as the Navy is concerned.

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Situation 14 Oct. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

33 planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, only six planes at the 19th Group. Two British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

At 1100, five destroyers were sighted in the Channel in the grid square BF 3552 on north course, northwest of Cherbourg.

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2. Own Situation:

Area of the Atlantic Coast:

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During the night of 13 Oct., two submarine chasers were on patrol position in the eastern and western entrance of Lorient.

The following Naval Units were newly organized in Lorient:

- a. The company "Erzfeld" from personnel of the torpedo command;
- b. the companies "Wiethège", "Fahrenkamp", "Scherkamp" and "Hardt" from personnel of the submarine flotillas;
- c. the companies "Buchholtz", "Huber" and "Otto", and the platoon "Stricker" from personnel of the defense unit;
- d. the companies 6/704, 7/704, 7/806, 5/807 and 11/817 from personnel of the 4th Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery Brigade;
- e. eleven alarm companies from personnel of the Navy Dockyard.

Otherwise, only local fights without particular incidents were reported from the fortresses.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

A. Bay of Heligoland, North Holland:

During the night of 13 Oct. the escort and minesweeping duties were carried out as planned.

During the night of 14 Oct. the patrol positions were not occupied owing to the stormy weather. The convoy traffic was stopped.

B. South Holland:

The break of the dike at Veere has become wider. The planned part-blocking of the port entrance of Flushing has been postponed due to weather reasons.

Our own batteries at the southern bank of the Schelde River have

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repeatedly directed a harassing gunfire on the area of Hoofdplaat - Driewegen during the night of 13 Oct. and on the forenoon of 14 Oct. Three barges were damaged in a raid of fighter bombers on Veere. The lock remained intact.

The radar station of Cadzand has been blown-up.

The Small Battle Weapons Flotilla 215 with 60 "Linse"-torpedoes is proceeding to Rotterdam.

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Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

26 planes were detected during action in the area of the 18th Group. One British vessel each was located shortly after midnight, during the night of 15 Oct., at 100 nautical miles west of Lister and 40 nautical miles west of Floroe, respectively.

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2. Own Situation:

Area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast:

It has been additionally reported that a second plane was shot down during the attack on the steamer LUMME and the submarine chaser UJ "1220" on 12 Oct. Casualties on our side: two dead, 46 missing, eight wounded.

On the forenoon of 13 Oct., a little enemy air activity was observed in the area of Kirkenes, Vardoe and Banak. A raid was made on Vadsoe.

During the night of 13 Oct., the crews of the Naval Batteries Sensenhauer and Petsamo were transferred to Kirkenes.

At 1036 on 14 Oct. the westbound convoy "k3" was attacked by five enemy torpedo-planes in the exit of the Porsanger Fjord. The steamer SUEDEMEER (8133 BRT) with a cargo of naval goods sank after having been hit by two torpedoes. One hundred and sixty-three survivors have been rescued. Two of the attacking planes were shot down.



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Area of the Admiral, North Norwegian Coast:

20 Mosquito- and Spitfire-planes attacked the coast guard of Svinoe and the patrol vessel VP "5720" at 1103. Casualties were suffered on the latter. Mine-droppings were observed in the Stabbene Channel.

At 1135 an own northbound convoy was attacked by a submarine in the Salt Fjord. The steamer STANDARD (2186 BRT) was sunk. The submarine hunt has been started.

33 ships were escorted to the North, 16 to the South.

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III. Skager Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

On the morning of 13 Oct. an attempt of the Russians to cross the Dvina River with assault boats was frustrated. Under the impression of his failures on 12 Oct., the enemy did not repeat major attacks against the Sworbe Peninsula on 13 Oct.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral, Skager Rak:

Due to weather reasons the mineclearance duty was limited. One mine was cleared off the northern exit of the Sound.

On 12 Oct., the patrol vessel VS "1533" ran aground off Blaavandshuk. The crew has been rescued.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

At 1600 on 13 Oct., seven shipwrecked of the motor tanker TERRA were rescued north of Leba. According to the statement of the rescued, the tanker sank towards 0315 north of Rixhoeft after two detonations, probably hits from torpedoes.

The steamer CATANIA that had run aground northeast of Leba is floating again. 48 boats and one mine-exploding vessel were put into action for mineclearance works.

The convoys proceeded without incidents.

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Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

Situation on the Osel Island:

On 13 Oct., the enemy restricted his action to several attacks with low-flying planes against Montu and Zeral. On the evening of 14 Oct. the following vessels will be put into action as patrol off the Sworbe Peninsula: three groups of armed fishing vessels, five motor minesweepers, six artillery ferries. Two tugs, 21 naval landing craft, two patrol vessels, one mine-exploding vessel and one minesweeper have been transferred to the Sworbe Peninsula. The groups of armed fishing vessels were continuously attacked from the air from 0822 to 0856. Three boats were damaged and suffered little casualties: two of the attacking planes were shot down.

The escort in the Irben Narrows was carried out by the mine-exploding vessel AMERLAND and one patrol vessel.

According to a report of the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea, the defense of the landing operation on the Sworbe Peninsula was ashore mainly, and at sea exclusively a merit of the Navy. The Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea urgently requests the mentioning in the Armed Forces High Command Communique of the units of the 9th Defense Division and Marine Forces who have been in action for weeks. Despite the temporarily unfavorable weather condition and strongest air attacks of the enemy, all units have shown an outstanding steadiness. With the utmost heroism the naval forces are eager to fight in order to support the Army. The land forces, too, have proved well everywhere, according to a report of today from the Commanding General, Northern Army Group. Serious losses have been suffered. Unfortunately it is not possible to mention the results of the submarines due to camouflage reasons.

Situation at Riga:

Riga has been evacuated after the port facilities and bridges have been destroyed as planned. The town is afire.

Situation at Memel, Libau:

The coast near the Pappen Lake was again taken under fire in the morning by the artillery ferry AF "33" and the

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auxiliary warship BISHORST. The fire was returned by the enemy with 8.8 cm-guns, 4 cm-guns and mortars. At 0300, the torpedo boats T "23" and T "28" efficiently cooperated with the Army in the ground battle. According to an Army Report the enemy has asked for assistance by air forces and submarines.

The 2nd Task Force with the PRINZ EUGEN, the destroyer Z "35" and the torpedo boats T "13", T "19" and T "23" was in position off Memel at 0720. Because of difficulties which arose in the beginning in the communications the fire was not started before 0930. Since there was no advanced observer ashore, the firing was delayed in the beginning. Map firing had to be carried out temporarily. At 1500, the LUETZOW with the destroyer Z "36" and the torpedo boats T "16" and T "20" joined the unit and was put into action, too. The fire was returned by the enemy battery "Nimmersatt" with covering impact. Enemy planes building a serious obstacle and partly interrupting the gunfire were forced away by fighters.

A Russian radio message picked-up by radio monitoring proves that the enemy takes an increasing interest in the Task Force so that a strong action of air forces will have to be expected. The air shadower reported that the unit had withdrawn after 1600 when the firing was finished. The Army urgently requests a repetition of the operation on 15 Oct.

At 1751, the torpedo boat T "16" positively located a submarine in the grid square AO 9373.

At 1032, a convoy was attacked by a submarine in the grid square AO 9389 with a torpedo missing the target. At 0958, the light gun-carrier ORION was attacked by a submarine in the grid square AO 9386 with two torpedoes.

The sea area between 56°10' North and 55°20' North, as well as between 20°00' East and 20°50' East has been declared as submarine hunt area.

The minesweeper M "4254" has been damaged when putting to sea from Memel. The blockship CARL ZEISS sank off Memel.

On 13 and 14 Oct. Memel was lying under heavy air raids. The Town Major's Office and the Central Observer Post were damaged.

The continuation of the operation off Memel by the PRINZ EUGEN has been provided for 15 Oct., 0730. The LUETZOW will be released to Gdynia.

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The troop transports and convoys were carried out as planned. For details see the "Situation of the Day". On 13 Oct., 1325 tons of supplies were transported to Memel.

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IV. Submarine Warfare:

In the Northern Waters, the submarine U "636" reported the execution of the weather task at the Hope Island.

In the Gulf of Finland, the submarine U "745" reported a torpedo failure during the attack on four escort vessels. The submarine U "481" fired a missing three-fan on a towed convoy since the target strongly sheered off. No particular reports were received otherwise.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

In the area of Holland a medium activity of fighter bombers and, during the early afternoon, the entering of between 60 and 80 Marauder planes into the area of Arnhem - Apeldoorn was reported.

At the western front 123 own fighters were put into action. It has not yet been reported how many planes were shot down.

Reich Territory:

In the entire area of West Germany, from the North Sea Coast up to the Lake of Constance, a total of 700 fast bombers, fighter bombers and fighters were active during the day against communication targets with aircraft armament attacks and some bomb droppings.

In the forenoon, 500 four-engined bombers approached for raids on Duisburg, Oberhausen, Rheinhausen and Dinslaken. A strong bomber formation of about 1000 bombers with a strong fighter escort raided Cologne, Wesseling and Kaiserslautern. About 400 bombers with a strong fighter escort entered the industrial area of Upper Silesia from the South and raided Blechhammer,

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Odertal, as well as Vienna and Marburg-on-the-Drau. For details about the damages caused at all attacked places see the "Situation of the Day."

Our own fighter defense was not put into action during the sorties in the Reich Territory. In upper Silesia, ten of the attacking planes were shot down by the anti-aircraft artillery.

During the night of 14 Oct., remote night fighters were reported in the area of Holland. In the Reich Territory, raids of small Mosquito formations were made on Hamburg, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and Berlin. One formation of between 150 and 200 four-engined planes attacked Brunswick, while another formation of between 600 and 700 four-engined bombers raided Duisburg. For details about the damages see the "Situation of the Day." No report is at hand on the action of our own night planes.

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Mediterranean Area:

On 13 Oct., a strong flying activity with about 1140 enemy planes was observed in the entire area of Upper Italy. In the area of Genoa planes were in action and attacked communication targets. The anti-aircraft artillery shot down three planes. The other actions are not worth to be mentioned.

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Eastern Front:

At the Eastern Front, 611 own and 4135 enemy sorties were reported on 13 Oct.; 13 of our planes got lost while 45 enemy planes were shot down.

In the course of 14 Oct. a vivid fighting activity prevailed in the area of Memel. The 2nd Task Force was unsuccessfully attacked. In the battle area of the 6th Air Force, our own fighters reported to have shot down 35 enemy planes on 14 Oct., the bulk of which were over Memel. On the air activity in the area of the 5th Air Force has been reported.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command Italy:

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Enemy Situation:

On the afternoon of 12 Oct. a convoy consisting of two transports, 50 freighters and seven tankers with six corvettes passed the Strait of Gibraltar heading west. Towards noon of 13 Oct., 17 freighters and two tankers with one destroyer and three corvettes proceeded through the Strait of Gibraltar to the east.

On the same day an auxiliary cruiser entered Gibraltar from the Mediterranean Sea, while another auxiliary cruiser with troops aboard and one destroyer left through the Strait of Gibraltar to the Atlantic. Radio monitoring detected the continuation of the operative radio traffic in the central and eastern Mediterranean Sea. In the evening, the cruisers BLACK PRINCE and AURORA, as well as other vessels were observed in the radio communication area of Alexandria. According to second phase interpretation of the photograph reconnaissance of 11 Oct. the three battle ships detected in Toulon were the sunk STRASBOURG, DUNKERQUE, and the LORRAINE or the sunk battle ship PROVENCE of the same type. Among the twelve detected cruisers, seven were sunk. Thus the port of Toulon does not show anything deserving attention.

According to an assessment by the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, it seems possible on account of the radio picture in the eastern Mediterranean Area that preparations for special operations are being made, however, no indication as to the nature of the operations is given.

It is assumed that there is a connection with the occupation of the Greek Mainland and Aegean Islands which is being carried out from Italy and the area of the Levant, possibly also with a further transfer of troops from Italy to the Albany Area.

No concrete clue is existing in the naval situation for an imminent enemy operation in the section from Venice up to the west coast of the Istria Peninsula which was reported by different contact men and which might be expected on account of certain indications as seen by the Operations Staff of the Air Force.

Of the forenoon and afternoon of 13 Oct. two groups of boats were sighted standing on and off the coast in the area of Nice-Imperia, probably clearing mines with the escort of destroyers. In the evening, Ventimiglia and the rear land were taken under fire.

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Own Situation:

The group of boats that had been detected by radar southwest of Chiavari during the night of 12 Oct. was taken under fire by a naval battery.

The escort and patrol duty at the west coast of Italy and in the eastern part of the Genoa Bay was hampered by the weather. The PT boat guard in the Bay of Rapallo has been discontinued. The naval battery in the Magra Mouth has continued the harassing fire on the enemy main defense line on the afternoon of 13 Oct.

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2. Area of the Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

The remaining crews in a strength of three officers and 41 men belonging to the naval landing craft that had been sunk off Puntadura Island during the night of 12 Oct. were transferred to Zara.

On the afternoon of 13 Oct., three planes belonging to the enemy formations flying back from Southeast Germany were shot down by army coastal batteries and the naval artillery detachment 540 as well as by the personnel of the Naval Communications Officer, Sibenik.

During the night of 13 Oct., a convoy was unsuccessfully attacked by planes between Trieste and Venice. One motor minesweeper was lightly damaged.

Six combined operations boats proceeding from Sibenik to Zara had an encounter with the enemy in the Paskan Canal. Details are still being expected. The destroyer TA "44" has been commissioned for the 1st Escort Flotilla at Fiume.

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b. Aegean Sea:

The northern Aegean Sea has been reported free from enemy forces. Two cruisers and two destroyers on north-westerly course were reported from Milos Island. According to

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a British broadcast report, Corfu is in the hands of the Allies. The light British cruiser COLOMBO has fired on targets in Greece.

The demolition of the port of Piraeus has been carried out. The airfield of Baros on the Lemnos Island, has been destroyed by a demolition party of the Port Command. A barrage between the west and middle finger of Chalcidice has been provided by a net-laying party for the night of 14 Oct., besides that, an own barrage is to be established by the minelayer ZEUS and the torpedo boat TA "39", in the Gulf of Salonika for protecting the railroad in the Tempe Valley against the gunfire of naval forces, as well as a reinforcement of the own barrage in the Gulf of Salonika with cutting floats by the Coastal Defense Flotilla Attika.

The evacuation of Chalkis has been ordered by the 68th Army Corps after the army units have been withdrawn.

The steamer LOLA has arrived as planned at Salonika. With that, the responsibility of the Army Group E as to the transport of troops has been fulfilled. As long as possible the evacuation of equipment will be continued. The transport from the Dodecanese will be started in the night of 14 Oct.

The Quartermaster General, Naval Staff has agreed upon the intention of the Commanding Admiral, Aegean to send the Naval Shore Commander, Northern Greece with the Staff to the homeland after the last responsibilities have been carried out.

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c. Danube Area Situation:

The Danube River is still blocked from Bratislava up to Estergom. All tugs lying in Beograd - Semlin and the berthing places have been blown-up. Little casualties were suffered on the gun carrier AT "917" during an air raid at the Tisza Mouth. No particular reports are at hand otherwise.

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VII. Situation in East Asia:

Particular reports are not at hand.

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Items of Political Importance:

Some sensation arose from a broadcast speech of de Gaulle to the French people wherein the precarious situation of France was shown-up and freely pointed out the fact that the Allies are following their own interests and their own politics. It would be an illusion to believe that France would be granted a quick and strong support by the Allies.

For the first time Roosevelt designated on the Press Conference the de Gaulle Government as a government existing de facto in France.

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The Commander in Chief, Navy has returned from the Fuehrer Headquarters to his command post. Protocol on the discussions held on 13 and 14 Oct. as per 1/Sk1 I b 3292/44 Gkdos. Chfs. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. VII.

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Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy  
at 1100:

I. The Naval Air and Airforce Liaison Section, Operations

Division, Naval Staff reports:

"In connection with the transfer of further fighter forces from the West Area into the Reich Territory, the Operations Staff of the German Air Force submitted the following fundamental assessments of the situation as to the action of the fighter forces:

1. The situation is characterized as follows:

a. in the East: Strong enemy pressure of Beograd and South Hungary, concentrated advance movement in direction to Budapest, completion of preparations for major offensive at the Narev Front and breakthrough up to the Baltic Sea Coast in Latvia.

b. in the South: Strong pressure and slow gaining of ground by the enemy in direction to Bologna; further transfers of forces to the Adriatic Coast where an outflanking landing might be made.

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c. in the West: For the time being the increased enemy attacks are still restricted to narrow front sections (Antwerp, Nijmegen, Aachen); start of an American offensive at the Vosges Mountains Front. Behind the front, especially in the North, initial assembly for a major offensive which is to be expected in the near future in direction to West Germany.

2. Under this condition in the situation on the ground, the aerial warfare of the enemy - especially that one of the Anglo-Americans - must particularly be taken into account. Since the enemy army has not yet started a major offensive, especially in the West, the enemy air force has been in a great action for days against the Reich, and has succeeded with heavy blows in gaining serious breakthroughs into the German Armament Industry (tanks, motors, aircraft armament works), into the Communications and the fuel production. The continuation, if not the increase of this conduct of attack is to be reckoned with, also against the interior Reich Territory. Therefore, it is imperative to hinder the enemy decisively from carrying out these attacks and to add so serious losses to the enemy that he is forced to desist from the planned destruction of the armament industry and communications system.

3. Out of this situation the following conclusion is to be drawn for the German Air Force: Unconditionally and absolutely to aim at a concentration in the defense of the Reich.

4. Under the present situation the High Command, Air has even to provide a further weakening of the Front Air Forces, as far as fighters are concerned, in order to reinforce the defense of the Reich.

5. On the other hand, an important reinforcement of the fighter forces is to be expected in the near future by an extensive freshening-up and new organization of fighter formations, and with that it will again become possible to provide a reinforcement of the fighter forces at the fronts for the immediate assistance of the Army and Navy.

6. Justified demands of the Army and Navy must also be subordinated to the idea of building a concentration of forces as per paragraph 3. At present, only smaller results are achievable with the fighter forces available at the fronts, here especially again in the West, than would be reached under the

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concentration of all forces in the defense of the Reich. But these results, especially in the present phase of the war, will bring benefit in a particularly high extent to all parts of the Armed Forces and the total warfare."

The Supreme Operations Staff of the Navy have been informed by the Operations Division, Naval Staff.

The Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff has carried out an information concerning the assessment of the enemy situation given by the Operations Staff of the German Air Force on 13 Oct. Copy as per 1/Skl 31188/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part D, Vol. 8 a.

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II. The Commander in Chief, Navy has agreed on the directive issued to the Naval Command, East as to the restriction of the ammunition expenditure by the 2nd Task Force. However, the restrictions must eventually be lifted if the Northern Army Group starts a breakthrough to the South.

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III. Subject: Situation in the North:

The transports back from the Arctic Coast are lying under strong enemy action.

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In a restricted circle:

IV. The Chief of the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff reports details on the occupation of Rumania by the Russians.

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V. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The battle for the entrance to the port of Antwerp is going on. In the bridgehead of Breskens the enemy succeeded in combining his troops by an attack from the North and South.

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During the continuous heavy fights our own battle strength has partly fallen to one third of the former fighting force.

The fights for the isthmus of Woensdrecht are going on with increasing fierceness. The enemy has altered his tactics by making strong counter-attacks.

West of the Meuse River, northwest of Venlo, fierce fights have arisen, and penetrations could not be prevented.

Attacks alternated with counter-attacks in the fierce struggle for Aachen. The battle here is changing into a wearing-out war of position in which every yard of ground is being fought for.

In the western Vosges Mountains the strong enemy pressure continued.

#### Italian Front:

While the fights along the road from Florence to Bologna and west thereof calmed down, the enemy continued his strong attacks in direction to Imola. In the main they were beaten back.

In the mountainous area west of Rimini the defensive battle is also going on. Despite the defense of numerous attacks the enemy succeeded in gaining penetrations south of the Via Emilia which were cut off. The fights were heavy and serious.

#### Balkan:

The evacuation of the Aegean Islands is being continued despite a continuous activity of the enemy by sea and air.

On Candia Island, the town of Rethymno was evacuated.

Athens was occupied by British and Greek forces without our own formations becoming engaged in combat with the enemy.

The situation in the northeastern area of the Balkan is continuously growing worse. Fierce fighting has arisen for the town of Nis. Farther to the north our formations are battling back to the Morava River, the main crossings of which have partly been occupied by the Russians. One Russian Corps is standing at the southern outskirts of Beograd fighting against our own weak troops. The Russians are being supported by strong forces of the Servian rebels under Tito.

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Opposite Semlin, the enemy is preparing a crossing of the Danube River. Owing to different indications the disloyalty of Hungary must be reckoned with in the very near future.

Eastern Front:

While the situation at the front of the Tisza River remained unchanged under a local attacking activity from both sides and in alternating fights for the possession or annihilation of the bridgeheads on the west bank of the river, the battle in the area of Debrecen - Nagyvarad continued with undiminished fierceness. In Transsylvania the withdrawal movements of the German Army Group were carried out on the entire front without any pressure of the enemy worth to be mentioned.

In the Carpathian Mountains our corps were standing also yesterday in very heavy defensive fights against undiminished strong attacks west of the Cziroka Valley Pass and west of the Dukla Pass.

In the Russian fall-offensive having been going on for days and having reached now also the bridgehead north of Serock, our forces could gain a splendid defensive success most fiercely fighting against an enemy who was far superior as to the number and materiel.

Between Warsaw and Scharfenwiese the enemy could not enforce the intended breakthrough into the depth, despite drum fire and strongest support by tanks and planes. Only north of Serock the enemy succeeded in gaining a deeper penetration which could be cut off and narrowed down some kilometers west of the former main defense line.

West of Schaken the enemy surprisingly attacked our bridgehead across the Ost River (East Prussian Border) and crushed into it.

At the Memel Front the enemy kept quiet.

As had been expected, the enemy started yesterday a major attack against Memel after very strong air attacks on the main defense line and the rear area and an extremely heavy fire of all weapons. In general the front could be held and the broken-in enemy beaten back in heavy and alternating fights. Despite the engagement of nine Grenadier Divisions and two Tank Corps the intended breakthrough to Memel was not reached by the enemy, owing to the extraordinary steadiness and the unbreakable force of attack of our

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own troops fighting here. The fights in the bridgehead were efficiently supported by units of the Navy. South of Libau, enemy attacks going on during the entire day were beaten back in heavy and alternating fights. Heavy fights have also arisen 50 km east-southeast of Libau. Here the enemy is concentrating his forces for a breakthrough to Libau.

In the area of Riga numerous attempts to cross the Dvina River were frustrated and several landing boats sunk. Only at Duena-muende the enemy succeeded in establishing a bridgehead.

On the Osel Island an enemy attack in a strength of approximately two battalions was defended in fierce fighting.

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VI. Chief, Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division,

Naval Staff:

a. The time required for the repair of transports which are damaged during the execution of the present tasks is critical.

The Commander in Chief, Navy orders that special measures be taken by the Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament.

b. Memel is being supplied with 700 tons of ammunition daily. The Holland supply on the canals runs up to 700 tons daily.

c. The development of the sabotage cases in Denmark is critical. During the last month, 25000 BRT of shipping tonnage have broken down.

The Commander in Chief, Navy orders that the Armed Forces High Command be pointed to the fact that this condition must not be tolerated.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. The Fleet reports that the state of training of the

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NUERNBERG does not admit yet an engagement, and suggests the engagement of the LEIPZIG or the HANSA instead. The considerations taken because of the lower speed and sinking security of both ships may be put aside under the securing of a relevant protection by anti-aircraft artillery and fighter planes.

The Naval Command, East deems the LEIPZIG indispensable for the barraging tasks in the Skager Rak and intends to desist for the time being from an engagement of the HANSA since the aerial and submarine situation presents the greatest risk. The Naval Command, East is of the opinion that the tasks better be accomplished by destroyers and torpedo boats in the eastern Baltic Sea.

b. The Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff informs the Naval Staff by a copy of the following teletype sent to the Naval Command, East:

"1. The Chief, Army General Staff considers the demand for the assistance in the land battle and in the attack of the Northern Army Group on 17 Oct. to be focal points for the operation of the Task Force.

2. The action in the area of Memel on 16 Oct. will not be necessary as long as the enemy does not start again a major offensive. An advice on this matter will be given once more on the evening of 15 Oct.

3. The assistance in the attack on 17 Oct. depends on the course of the operation.

4. The Army General Staff will issue relevant directives to the Northern Army Group for the preparations and the information of the local offices."

c. At 1255, the Naval Command, East informs the Naval Staff among other subjects on a directive issued to the Commander, 2nd Task Force and the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

"1. It is intended to put into action the LUETZOW and the HIPPER on 17 Oct. for the assistance of the Army south of Libau. The tactical command will be in the hands of the Commander, 2nd Task Force.

2. The Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea will make all preparations. The Commander, 2nd Task Force will take care that the

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Army Ordinance Gazette with relevant papers are fetched from Libau in due time."

The HIPPER and the SCHEER are operationally subordinated to the Naval Command, East, effective immediately.

According to a statement of the Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff, the firing on targets ashore by the 2nd Task Force in the area of Memel has decisively supported the consolidation of the land front. The Naval Command, East informs the 2nd Task Force that the operation in the area of Memel on 16 Oct. will presumably not be required. In the case, however, that the Army demands the firing on targets ashore on account of the new situation, it is intended to put the 2nd Task Force with the HIPPER into action south of Libau as of 17 Oct., and the LUETZOW in the area of Memel as of 16 Oct. The defense forces of the 6th Destroyer Flotilla and 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla will be disposed of by the Commander, 2nd Task Force. The SCHEER has been provided as reserve for the operation. Ammunition (20.3 cm) is on the way. The first transports will probably arrive at Gdynia on 17 Oct. The PRINZ EUGEN will be lying in a twelve-hours-readiness until ammunition has been taken over; following that the readiness will be reduced to three hours. The Report Center of the Naval Command, East will secure the fighter escort for 17 Oct.

d. The stand of the Operations Division, Naval Staff on the deficient suitability of the SCHLESSEN and the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN for coastal firing has been transmitted to the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters and the Operations Staff (Navy), Armed Forces High Command, with copy to the Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff and the Chief of Operations Branch, High Command, Air, Operations Staff (Navy). Copy of the teletype 1/Skl I op 31259/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III. In conclusion it is stated:

"The ships are not suitable for the task of assisting the Army by coastal firing in the area of Memel because of their age, their deficient steadiness, their insufficient armament and their inadequate state of training, all the less as in this task an important counter-action by enemy planes and submarines is soon to be reckoned with."

The suggestion to put the ships now into action was originated

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by the Fuehrer who directed the attention of the Reichsmarschall to the necessity of a fighter escort for the valuable Task Force and, with that, thought of the engagement of less valuable vessels.

e. With regard to the importance of the Sworbe Peninsula for the naval warfare the Naval Staff transmits the following to the Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff:

"1. The possession of the Sworbe Peninsula and the coast of North Courland is the prerequisite for keeping open the Irben Narrows for our own naval warfare. With that, it is the prerequisite for

a. the assistance in army operations at the eastern coast of Courland by the coastal firing of light naval forces,

b. the offensive operation of naval forces east of the Irben Narrows, in order to hinder the enemy as far as possible from using the gained operational bases (mine operation, PT boat pushes),

c. the successful cutting-off of the Irben Narrows by guarded mine barrages,

d. the maintenance of the sea transports from and to the Bay of Riga (unimportant after Riga has been abandoned).

2. After the abandonment of the Sworbe Peninsula a strong consolidation (establishment of heavy coastal batteries) by the enemy is soon to be expected. Therefore, the Irben Narrows would practically be blocked for our own naval forces, under consideration of the effect of the enemy aerial superiority; with that, the enemy would have the possibility

a. to move absolutely unhindered in the Bay of Riga, and to consolidate undisturbedly his bases,

b. to use operationally the advanced bases (Ahrensburg, Moonsund, Riga), since a breakthrough of the enemy on the Irben Narrows could not be prevented. Therefore, our own ship traffic and exercise areas in the eastern Baltic Sea would be endangered, apart from the endangering of the submarines that has existed so far by surface forces, especially by motor torpedo boats.

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3. It is pointed at l/Skl I Nord 2396/44 Chefs. of 10 Aug. (assessment of the importance of the Baltic Islands for the warfare in the Baltic Sea.)" In the evening, the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea reports the following assessment of the situation concerning the Sworbe Peninsula:

"1. The occupation of the Sworbe Peninsula is not the prerequisite for a Russian landing at North Courland; a direct jumping-off from Ahrensburg is possible and probably also intended. The fighting against the landing at North Courland and a simultaneous supplying of the Sworbe Peninsula would overstrain our own forces.

2. The possession of the Sworbe Peninsula does not mean the control of the Irben Narrows. Even after the establishment of heavy enemy batteries, a passage would still be possible for motor torpedo boats, motor minesweepers and artillery ferries. The strait is controlled from the south by our artillery. Minelaying will not be possible before the evacuation has been carried out.

3. The supply and patrol duty is presently engaging three steamers, two minesweepers, all naval landing craft and motor minesweepers, the artillery ferries and three groups of armed fishing vessels. They all are urgently required for escorting, submarine chasing, supporting the Army, patrol duty, offensive operations and transports.

4. The period of unfavorable weather which is becoming longer now might cut off the occupational force of 14 000 men.

5. The consideration of the advantages and disadvantages points towards an evacuation."

Both assessments that did not match each other have crossed as to the time.

f. At 2122 the 2nd Task Force reported by a radiogram:

"The LEIPZIG collided with the PRINZ EUGEN at 2.5 nautical miles east of the Hela Peninsula. The LEIPZIG has been heavily damaged amidships, between the mast and the funnel on the port side; the boiler sections 2 and 3 have been torn up and are filled with water; the section 11 and boiler section 1 are leaking, however, can be kept clear for the time being with own bilge-pumps. Tugs

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and pump ships are to be sent. The PRINZ EUGEN suffered damages in the forward part of the ship. Additional Note of the Training Unit: "Six tugs and one pump have been sent to the scene of accident. The dock of Gdynia has been provided for the PRINZ EUGEN, the dock of Danzig for the LEIPZIG."

This extremely superfluous breakdown of the PRINZ EUGEN means a serious interruption. It remains to be examined whether the repair of the LEIPZIG will pay now regarding the required capacity for the repair works.

g. On request of the Naval Command, East the Patrol Flotilla on special duty will be designated 9th Patrol Flotilla, and the Motor Minesweeper Flotilla on special duty will get the designation 17th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla. Both flotillas are subordinated to the 9th Defense Division.

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II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. At 0035 the Naval Command, Norway orders to carry out the operation "Komet" even in the case that there is no air monitoring available. At 0100 the Naval Command, Norway reports that the Commanding General, German Air Force, Norway had promised the provided reconnaissance action for "Komet".

At 1415 the 1st Task Force reported: "The TIRPITZ with the Commander of the Coastal Defense Unit put to sea at 1200."

b. Subject: Nordlicht.

aa. The Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command orders:

"1. Four ferry ships from the Danish Area are urgently needed for carrying out the movements "Nordlicht", in order to be able to cross ferry points in Northern Norway.

2, The Chief, Supply and Transport, Skagerak will select four suitable ferry ships and procure their seizure at the Reich Commissar, Denmark through the Commander, Armed Forces, Denmark.

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The ferry ships are to be placed right away at the disposal of the Chief, Supply and Transport, Norway and sent to Northern Norway.

3. The disadvantages affecting the Danish ferry traffic will have to be put up with, since the execution of "Nordlicht" has priority.

Additional Note for the Foreign Office:

It is requested that the measure be supported."

bb. The Naval Staff informs the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters and the Operations Staff (Navy), Armed Forces High Command:

"1. The Naval Command, Norway has ordered the following assignment of forces to the Arctic Area for the reinforcement of the escort of the "Nordlicht"-transports, thereby putting up with a considerable weakening of the areas of the West- and North Norwegian Coast.

a. From the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast: Three motor minesweepers, three transport naval landing craft, one motor barge, five harbor defense vessels.

b. From the Admiral, North Norwegian Coast: Four motor minesweepers, six auxiliary minesweepers, three artillery naval landing craft, six transport naval landing craft, two motor barges.

c. Besides that, the following vessels were provided from the Arctic Coast: The mineclearing ships MRS "25" and MRS "26", the weather ships (steam trawlers) BUSCH and HESSEN.

The Admiral, Arctic Coast has been issued an order to concentrate the forces as far as possible to the East.

2. The following forces were assigned to the Naval Command, Norway by the Naval Staff:

a. The forces belonging so far to the Commanding General, Defenses West: The 4th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla (ten motor minesweepers), the 15th Patrol Flotilla

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(three submarine chasers, two steam trawlers, twelve armed fishing vessels), the 8th Artillery Flotilla (five artillery naval landing craft.

Additional Note:

The boats, however, are almost entirely in need of repairs after the increased engagement in the Channel since the beginning of the Invasion, and after the transport operation of the 15th Army across the Schelde River; at present they are still lying in the North Sea ports. The reconstruction will probably take still several weeks.

b. From the new production: The 16th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla, seven boats of which will be commissioned and transferred in October, and five in November. The assignment has been provided as follows: approximately six naval landing craft beginning as of October.

3. A reinforcement of the defense forces in Norway at the expense of other areas is not possible because of the urgent tasks to be accomplished there."

cc. The Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command wired on 13 Oct.:

"The Commander, Armed Forces, Norway reports: In order to concentrate the traffic at the ferry points from the Rognan Fjord to the Els Fjord in the area of the General Command, XXXIII. Army Corps, Trondheim, twelve naval landing craft are required so that the capacity can be increased to three battalions. The Chief, Supply and Transport, Norway is not in a position to provide the ferries."

The Naval Staff informs the Naval Command, Norway by issuing the directive to clarify the matter in cooperation with the Commander, Armed Forces, Norway and to report the result.

The Operations Staff (Navy), Armed Forces High Command is informed on the order issued to the Naval Command, Norway with the remark:

"An assignment of further naval landing craft to the Naval Command, Norway is not possible at present as there are large requirements in landing vessels in the Baltic Area as well as in Holland. It is intended to draw the assignment from the new production."

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III. Subject: West Area:

The Fortress Commander, Dunkirk has requested the Group West on 12 Oct. to check whether the supply of the urgently needed ammunition would be possible with a large flying boat.

The Operations Staff, High Command, Air reports on an inquiry from the Operations Division, Naval Staff that, as the examination has yielded, the engagement of the seaplane BV "222" for the ammunition supply of Dunkirk is not possible as far as the aviation is concerned. The Group West is informed accordingly.

According to an information from the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, 15 "V2" rockets have been fired on Antwerp on 14 Oct.

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IV. Subject: Southeastern Area:

The Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters reported at 1900:

"This night the Hungarian General Staff has submitted a letter to the Chief, German General Staff in which we are threatened with the withdrawal of the Hungarian Units from the front because the German obligations are not being complied with. General Wenk has submitted a counter-ultimatum of the German General Staff in Budapest this morning. Meanwhile, the Hungarian Reich Administrator has informed the Ambassador Rahn that he is negotiating armistice terms and that he would give up the useless fight. The release of the German counter-action has been ordered this noon. Parts of the Hungarian Armed Forces have spontaneously uttered this forenoon their determination to continue fighting. It has to be waited for the further development. An order has been issued for relieving and disarming the Hungarian Division south of Warsaw."

At the same time the Group South transmitted a report from the Danube Flotilla of 1630, according to which the armistice offer of Hungary to Russia has been announced by broadcast. The Danube Bridges in Budapest are occupied by Hungarian forces. The Hungarian Danube River Guards are lying at increased readiness.

The Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff informs the Supreme Operations Staffs of the Navy as follows:

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"According to Hungarian broadcast reports of 1400, 15 Oct., the Hungarian Reich Administrator has asked for an armistice on the following grounds: situation of the war, breaking of the alliance obligations by the side of Germany, occupation of Hungary by intrigue against the authoritative government despite the protest of the Hungarian Reich Administrator, and inadequate assistance.

The Hungarian General Staff has ordered the armed forces to continue fighting until the armistice negotiations have come to a closure. Our own measures have been started."

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Situation 15 Oct. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

27 planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, 17 planes at the 19th Group.

An extremely strong radio traffic was carried out by British vessels from 1250 to 1500 on 14 Oct. and repeated on the line Halifax - England. Seven operative radio messages were transmitted.

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2. Own Situation:

A local fighting activity has been reported from the besieged fortresses. St. Nazaire reported that the airfield of Escoublac would probably be approachable again on 23 Oct.

Minquiers, south of the Jersey Island, was scouted by a harbor defense vessel within the fortifications of the Channel Islands.

Two harbor defense vessels were on courier duty between Jersey and Guernsey. A supply convoy consisting of two artillery ferries and one motor coaster proceeded from Alderney to Guernsey.

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III. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

A. Bay of Heligoland:

The air activity of the enemy was very vivid. The anti-aircraft artillery sections in the Bay of Heligoland repeatedly took part in the attacks against the enemy planes.

During the transfer from Wangeroog to the Ems River, four light gun-carriers were attacked by seven enemy planes. One of the attacking planes was shot down. The light gun-carrier LAT "13" sank in the Easter Schelde River after having been attacked with aircraft armament.

Towards noon, between 15 and 20 fast bombers attacked Heligoland with three rows of bombs, reaching no important result. One sound locator has broken down. Houses were damaged on the lower land. Two out of four enemy planes further approaching were shot down. Besides that, probably one Mosquito plane was shot down.

35 Beaufighter planes attacked three harbor defense vessels off Borkum Island and the light-vessel "F" off the Elbe Mouth in the afternoon. The light-vessel and two harbor defense vessels sank. One of the attacking planes was shot down. A continuous heavy air raid in waves was made on Wilhelmshaven from 1932 to 2002 during which several thousands of high explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped. The area of the town, the port and the dockyard area were hit. The anti-aircraft artillery defense was handicapped by foil-droppings. The communications system broke down up to a far reaching extent. The dockyard and port facilities were disturbed up to a far reaching extent. One submarine and one harbor defense vessel sank. For further details on the damages see the "Situation of the Day."

Due to suspected mines, the Elbe River has been blocked from Hamburg to Oste Bank, the Weser River from Hoheweg to the light-vessel "R", and the inner Jade River.

Two mines were cleared off the Elbe Mouth.

B. Area of Holland:

During the night of 14 Oct., the escort and patrol duties for the most part could not be carried out due to weather reasons.

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The 1st Detachment of the 1st Flotilla Manning Regiment has been withdrawn from the battle area of Arnhem and transferred to Steewijk.

On the evening of 15 Oct., different locations were made between Ijmuiden and Hoek of Holland. The patrol positions off Ijmuiden and Hoek of Holland had several encounters with enemy motor torpedo boats which withdrew under a smoke screen. At midnight an own convoy reported enemy motor torpedo boats southwest of Ijmuiden.

Our own batteries in the area of the Schelde Mouth were put into action against targets ashore. The batteries on the southern bank of the Schelde River were lying under enemy harassing fire. The last two 12 cm-batteries in Nieuwe Sluis have broken down due to faults.

Owing to the flooding of the land, out of eleven army batteries of the 70th Infantry Division on Walcheren Island six have been transferred to South Beverland, three to Duiveland, and two into the area of East Capella.

Two vessels of the Todt Organization sank and two other ones were set afire during the attack of fighter bombers on the lock facilities of Veere on 14 Oct. The passage through the Channel is unhindered.

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Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

43 planes were detected during action at the 18th Group. At 0650 our own air reconnaissance detected an aircraft carrier in the grid square AF 5612 (northwest of Trondheim). Four large vessels in line ahead were recognized on north course. Of these, the second vessel positively was an aircraft-carrier, and the third one probably. At 1525, the stranded steamer DUBURG and the patrol vessel V "5716" were attacked by 15 carrier-borne planes in Frohavet. Casualties were caused on the patrol vessel. In the forenoon, 15 carrier-borne planes attacked the Naval Signal Station of Halten, the Coastwise Shipping Control Office and Buhohmraasa.

The Naval Command, Norway believes that the carrier unit has been

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put into action for disturbing the shipping routes, or that it is building a wing protection for the simultaneously sailing PQ-convoy.

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2. Own Situation:

Area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast:

A strong enemy gunfire was lying on the area of Petsamo on the afternoon of 13 Oct. The losses were unimportant. The batteries Sensenhauer and Petsamo had been destroyed before the crews took off.

Since the advance forces of the enemy have reached the road Petsamo - Tarmet, the alarm barrage in the Petsamo Fjord has been laid off Trifona.

At 1039, the gunboat K "3" was unsuccessfully attacked by a Boston plane with aircraft armament in the western exit of the Rolvsvey Sound.

On the transfer of the TIRPITZ a report will be made on 16 Oct.

The convoy traffic between Bodo and Hammerfest has been blocked because of the threat of carriers.

The weather operation "Edelweiss 2" reported to be stuck in the ice at 1820 in 75°25' North, 17°35' East. Two enemy carrier-planes were detected.

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Area of the Admiral, North Norwegian Coast:

During the attack on the Naval Signal Station of Buh-olmraasa the quarters burned down. One enemy plane was shot down during the attack on the wreck of the steamer DUBURG and the patrol vessel V "5716". The convoy traffic between Trondheim and Loedingen has been blocked until dusk owing to the threat of carriers.

In the area of the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast a vivid enemy reconnaissance activity was reported during the night of 14 Oct.

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in the coastal area of Bergen - Kristiansan South.

Thirty ships were escorted to the North, 17 ships to the South.

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III. Skager Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

No particular reports.

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2. Own Situation:

Admiral, Skager Rak:

15 boats were put into action for mineclearing works.

A troop transport detachment proceeding from Oslo to Aarhus was unsuccessfully attacked by enemy planes with bombs northeast of Skagen. On the evening of 14 Oct. single enemy planes entered the Kattegat. The southern exit of the Great and little Belt has been blocked because of suspected mines.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

47 boats were put into action for mineclearing works. Two mines were cleared in the Bay of Pomerania.

At 1235 an own submarine reported a torpedo track on the middle bank of the grid square AO 9146.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

Subject: Situation on the Osel Island:

At 1245 on 14 Oct., naval landing craft (MFP)\* were attacked by planes with aerial torpedoes and aircraft armament northwest of Ovisi. No losses were caused. One boat of the 31st Minesweeping Flotilla was attacked in vain by 18 enemy planes. The boat shot down one enemy plane near Steinort. One boat of the 14th Defense Flotilla was attacked by planes near the Cape Zerel.

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Casualties were caused. Beginning as of 1130 on 15 Oct. three groups of six naval landing craft (MFP)\* each were transferred to Zerel, at 1230 the minesweepers M "7", two steamers, two tugs and six naval landing craft (MFP)\* to Montu. Four artillery ferries and five motor minesweepers advanced into the sea area east of the Sworbe Peninsula.

In the afternoon, an attack of about two enemy battalions on the Sworbe Peninsula was beaten back. Increased movements have been observed in the enemy rear area. Superfluous equipment, vehicles and horses of our own are being evacuated.

Subject: Situation Libau/Memel:

The own main defense line was efficiently relieved by the action of the heavy gun carrier SOEMBA north of the Pappen Lake. A report on the action of the 2nd Battle Group will be made on 16 Oct.

It has been reported on the collision between the PRINZ EUGEN and the LEIPZIG near Hela. Between ten and fifteen dead were reported on the LEIPZIG. The HIPPER has been reported to be at war readiness in Gdynia as of 2000 on 16 Oct. The ADMIRAL SCHEER has departed from Swinemunde for Gdynia at noon of 15 Oct.

The convoys and transports were carried out without incidents. On 13 and 14 Oct., the following transfers from Montu to Windau were made on 20 Naval landing craft (MFP)\*: 81 vehicles, 232 men, 120 wounded, and from the Sworbe Peninsula 744 horses. 18 guns and 2521 tons of supplies were transported to Libau, 500 Panzerfaust weapons to Memel.

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IV. Submarine Warfare:

According to a brief report of the submarine U "248", two torpedo detonations were heard in the grid square AE 8493' after an attack on a tanker of 10 000 BRT. It is possible that the tanker was hit, however, no sinking has been observed.

Boats ready for action have been put into action against the carrier unit in the grid square AB 50. Six boats have departed from Narvik, one boat from Hammerfest. The seven submarines that were put into action for the escort of the TIRPITZ will proceed to the grid square AB 64 after having completed their task.

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At noon, the submarine U "315" leaving Hammerfest was unsuccessfully attacked with aircraft armament and bombs by Catilina.

In the Gulf of Finland, the submarine U "481" has sunk three sailing vessels by anti-aircraft gunfire and ramming at about 10 nautical miles north of Odensholm. At 1200, the submarine U "1165" reported five midget vessels at 250° northeasterly of Pakkerort.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

A special plane of our own reconnaissance forces carried out photograph reconnaissance of some Channel Ports on the afternoon of 13 Oct. The following observations were made:

In Zeebrugge, the canal lock is destroyed. The lock is blocked by a sunk ship, the quay is destroyed by demolition, the port entrance is blocked by a sunk ship.

In Blankenberghe, no blocking of the port was detected; the port entrance is blocked, the quay is demolished.

In Flushing, the port facilities are partly destroyed by bomb hits. In Breskens, the port facilities are also destroyed by bomb hits.

In Ostende, the following vessels were lying: five LST, four of which unloading, five freighters at the quay, 21 LCT of different size, six artillery motor torpedo boats and four minelaying vessels. The lock and the quay wall are partly destroyed by demolition, the shelter for motor torpedo boats seems to be undamaged.

On 15 Oct., the enemy was active with about 220 fighter bombers and fighters concentrating in the area of Nijmegen - Arnhem.

During the night of 15 Oct. a little activity of remote night-fighters was reported from the area of Belgium - Holland.

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Reich Territory:

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96 of our own fighters were put into action for the assistance of the army in the front area of Northwest Germany without suffering any losses. A report on the result has not been received.

40 4-engined bombers were put into action for attacking Heligoland, 70 Beaufighter planes for carrying out raids in the Elbe Mouth and in the area of Heligoland against ship targets. Details have been reported.

In the forenoon, approximately 1000 - 1100 bombers with a strong fighter escort attacked mainly communications targets in the area of Cologne. Strong fighter formations were in the North and in the South for screening. The entire area of the city of Cologne was heavily raided.

The dam construction of the Sorpe Dam was hit by several high explosive bombs. The dam did not break, the power plant was not hit. Further damages were reported from Duesseldorf and from the Air force Station at Cologne - Ostheim.

Several hundred fighter bombers and fighters, as well as fast bombers in small groups were active in the entire area of Western Germany from the North Sea down to the Lake of Constance. The raids were concentrated at the areas of Muenchen - Gladbach, Frankfurt-on-Main, Stuttgart, Freiburg and Hannover. An ammunition train exploded on a station in the vicinity of Hannover. One passenger train and all station buildings were destroyed. The number of dead and wounded is high. Another ammunition train burned out in Babenhausen.

During the night of 15 Oct., approximately 800 enemy planes raided Wilhelmshaven in several waves. Furthermore, Emden and Jever were attacked. Fifty Mosquito bombers raided Hamburg.

Approximately 60 four-engined enemy planes were put into action for dropping mines in the Baltic Sea Entrances, carrying out also the supply of agents in the Danish area.

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Mediterranean Theater:

In the Italian front area, two enemy planes were shot down by anti-aircraft artillery on 14 Oct. No sorties of importance were reported otherwise. Our own planes were on reconnaissance duty on 15 Oct.

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Eastern Area:

At the Eastern Front, 649 own and 3196 enemy sorties were counted on 14 Oct. Eight losses were suffered by our side, while 39 enemy planes were shot down. In the area of Memel, 96 of our own fighters were in action shooting down 34 enemy planes without suffering any losses themselves. Own planes were on reconnaissance duty in the northern Gulf of Bothnia and in the area of the Baltic Islands.

It has been reported on the vivid enemy air activity in the Norwegian Area, and on the detecting of the carrier unit. During the night of 15 Oct. about 25 enemy planes were put into action, probably for submarine chasing and reconnaissance in the coastal area of Christiansand South, in the Skager Rak and in the Oslo Fjord.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

On the forenoon of 14 Oct., a floating dock was towed into Gibraltar from the Mediterranean Sea. On the evening of 14 Oct., our own air reconnaissance detected approximately 15 ships in the area south of St. Tropez up to 20 nautical miles west of Marseille. On the forenoon of 15 Oct., the usual guard of destroyers was detected off the Riviera Coast. In the opinion of the German Naval Command, Italy, the sea area of San Remo - Imperia is being swept outside our own barrages by the enemy according to plans. The mines are being marked with smoke buoys by an artillery observation plane during the shelling of the land. There is no indication for a planned clearance of the barrages in order to carry out an outflanking landing operations.

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Own Situation:

On the forenoon of 14 Oct., a harassing fire was laid by enemy land batteries on Ventimiglia and the rear land; in the afternoon, destroyers fired on Bordighera.

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During the night of 14 Oct. the escort and patrol duty were carried out as planned. No encounter took place with the enemy groups of boats that were detected south of Rapallo and east of Savona, standing on and off within the barrages.

The German Naval Command, Italy reported that the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southwest had requested the following after having discussed the matter at the Army General Staff, High Command, Army under the approval of the German Naval Command:

"The Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southwest intends to deduct by and by approximately 1600 - 2000 combat men from the Fortifications Brigade 135 as reserve for the front division and to exchange them against marine soldiers. About 500 marine soldiers have already been put into action in this way. In the further course the Fortifications Brigade 135 is supposed to be re-organized as a Marine-Infantry Brigade under leaving an army cadre of about 600-1000 men, whereby the transfer of the non-commissioned officers and E.M. of the Army into the Marine Forces as well as the appointment of the remaining Army Officers to the Marine Forces would have to be considered."

The matter is being dealt with by the Quartermaster General, Naval Staff and will be submitted to the Commander in Chief, Navy for decision.

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2. Area of the Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

The air reconnaissance detected altogether eleven ships on the evening of 14 Oct. in the sea area west and southwest of Lissa Island. Three escort vessels, four small war vessels, ten motor torpedo boats, 23 LCT, 45 auxiliary landing boats, two tankers and nine freighters were detected by photograph reconnaissance in Ancona on the evening of 15 Oct.

During the night of 13 Oct. our own positions in the area of Omis - Krilo were taken under fire from the land and from the sea. Our own artillery fired on identified enemy targets.



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On the forenoon of 14 Oct. our own artillery fired repeatedly on the port of Zuri Island. Three enemy gunboats have left the port in northwesterly direction.

On the evening of 15 Oct., three boats of the 3rd PT boat Flotilla have put to sea from Pola in order to attack enemy targets in the area of Ancona - Grottamare.

A northbound convoy proceeding from Sibenik to Zara, and another convoy proceeding from Zara to Sibenik will be screened by four PT boats from Sibenik during the night of 15 Oct.

On the afternoon of 14 Oct., the battery of Corsini North was attacked by enemy fighter bombers without essential result. One lighter and one skoot were sunk by an attack of fighter bombers in Po di Goro. At noon of 13 Oct., one block ship and one passenger steamer were sunk in a bomb raid on Chioggia.

The enemy pressure in the area of Ragusa is being continued.

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b. Aegean Sea:

Transport planes detected again an enemy carrier unit in the southern and northern Aegean Sea on the evening of 14 Oct. and on the morning of 15 Oct.

The Commanding Admiral, Aegean expects at any time a push of surface forces into the Gulf of Salonika in order to disturb the last withdrawal movements. The port of Piraeus has been destroyed as planned. The batteries on Aegina and Pheva Island have been made unserviceable. In Northern Greece, the port of Chalkis has been evacuated and demolished as planned. The last evacuation of Lemnos has been provided for 16 Oct. In Albania, the evacuation of Valona has been carried out as planned.

The ZEUS, the torpedo boat TA "39" and a group of netlaying vessels have entered Salonika after having carried out the planned mine tasks. The Commander of the 12th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla with two motor minesweepers and the torpedo boat TA "30" has put to sea in order to evacuate a great number of seriously and slightly wounded from Salonika to Volos. The first convoy from the Dodecanese has departed from Porto Lago for Salonika.

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According to a report of the Commanding Admiral, Aegean, the Army Group E intends to move to Sarajevo as the only railroad communication to the homeland is interrupted and the withdrawal movements are merely possible yet by a land march in northwesterly direction through Bosnia and Croatia. The Navy must join in these movements. For the return march, the Ground Organization of the Air Force Commands in Greece as well as the Navy have been attached to the Army.

The responsibilities of the naval warfare will be completed by

- a. closing the gaps in the barrages at Trikiri - Cassandra Huk and in the inner Gulf of Salonika. With that, the mine reserves in Salonika will have been utilized against the enemy as entirely as those in Piraeus.
- b. finishing the evacuation of Lemnos on 16 Oct. with the aid of small vessels.
- c. breaking through of two small vessels each from Leros Island to the mainland on different routes, loaded with material and equipment of top priority.
- d. bringing through the GRADISCA once more to Salonika.
- e. destroying and blocking the ports of Volos and Salonika with the remainder of the shipping tonnage and net reserve.

The air transports to the homeland are limited to single individuals who are unfit to march or urgently needed in the homeland. The selection depends on the decision of the Commanding Admiral, Aegean. The remaining personnel marching together with the Army will be placed again at the disposal of the Navy after having passed the Reich Border. Four Naval Defense Battalions have been organized at present. The organization of further ten to twelve battalions is underway. The superfluous Naval Offices in the area of Salonika are continuously being disbanded. The Staff, Commanding Admiral, Aegean is continuously being reduced; the Commanding Admiral intends to carry out the remaining tasks with a very small staff in Salonika.

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c. Situation in the Danube Area:

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No new minelayings or losses caused by mines were detected on the Danube. One mine was cleared on the Drau River near Esseg. One naval landing craft and one river minesweeper were taken under fire from the Croatian bank at the kilometer point 1276 on 14 Oct.

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VII. Situation in East Asia:

Particular reports are not at hand.

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Items of Political Importance.

According to a Reuter Report from Sofia, Bulgarian troops are still in Greece and Thrace since there has no evacuation order been issued yet by the Russian High Command.

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Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy

at 1145:

I. Subject: Aerial Situation.

Wilhelmshaven was heavily raided by enemy planes from 1932 to 2002 on 15 Oct. For preliminary reports on the damages see teletype No. 0300 and 0505. The submarine U "777" sank.

The importantly increased enemy air activity in the Bay of Heligoland is being considered as an indication for an operation in this area.

II. Subject: Situation in the East:

a. A report of a detailed brief assessment compiled by the 2nd Task Force on 14 and 15 Oct. is made. Copy as per l/Skl. 31272/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

b. During the collision of the PRINZ EUGEN and the LEIPZIG at 2000 on 15 Oct., the section IX and X have been swamped. Due to the lack of bilge-pumps the water penetrates into the forward part of the ship. Up to 0630, 1720 cbm of water have soaked in. The floating ability is allegedly not imperiled. Both ships have not yet been separated from each other. The damages on the PRINZ EUGEN are said to be not serious.

If the repair of the LEIPZIG should require an important capacity, as is to be expected, the Commander in Chief, Navy does not want the repair works be started.

The first transport detachment of the 269th Infantry Division proceeding from Oslo to Aarhus was unsuccessfully attacked by enemy planes. Details have not become known yet.

III. Subject: Situation in the North:

a. The weather ship EDELWEISS II has been detected in the

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ice by enemy reconnaissance planes. It is not known whether the weather detachment was already disembarked.

b. The 1st Task Force reported on 15 Oct. with regard to the transfer of the TIRPITZ:

"The ship left the Kvaenangen Fjord at 1207; the manoevrability of the ship is to be called good after reinforcements have been attached and the jutting parts below the waterline have been cut off. The bow is not immoderately strained under a speed of eight knots. The building of eddies is little. At 1400, the ship was taken over by the escort. The northern tip of Silda was passed at 1940, the southern tip of Arnvey at 0030. Entering of the Groet Sound at 0332. Anchoring in the northern entrance of the Sandesundet at 0636. The transfer to the new berth is provided to be carried out at 1100, two hours before high water. Endangered routes have been passed during dark. The wind came from southerly directions three to four, cloudy perfect sight throughout. The transfer was accomplished by own power, without the aid of tugs. The passage was not detected by the enemy air reconnaissance. No enemy was sighted. The choice of the day and time for the transfer passage was favorable."

IV. Subject: Situation in the West:

The Commander in Chief, Navy orders to examine once more the possibility of putting Biber torpedoes into action off the Channel Port, for example off Ostende, which was deemed unaccomplishable so far.

V. Chief of Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

a. Prescribed escort has been ordered for the merchant shipping in the eastern Baltic Sea, Bay of Danzig, and prescribed route on the coastal passage in the central Baltic Sea, east of the Route 51 (Swinemuende - Arkona). The Naval Command, East is not in a position to extend the prescribed escort to the coastal passage in the central Baltic Sea due to the lack of forces. An escort by submarine chasing forces of the 1st Special Duties Division has been planned north of the coastal route.

b. According to an information from the Group South, the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southeast has reported to the

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Armed Forces High Command that 49 out of 66 coastal batteries established between Durazzo and Zara could provisionally be made mobile and put into action in the new main defense line. Ten other ones could probably be withdrawn or transferred to Istria via the sea, respectively. The remaining seven batteries (one in Ragusa, four in Cattaro, two in Durazzo) are left without effect and require themselves a protection at the expense of the new battle front. The Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southeast requests an approval of the Fuehrer be obtained for the demolition of the seven batteries, since the Navy does not either make claims on the naval bases because the naval warfare in the Adriatic Sea will cease after the Army has been evacuated.

The Group adds to the latter point:

"On an inquiry from the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southeast the Group South approved of the proposal merely from the point of view that the discontinuing of the possibilities to carry out offensive operations at sea is of a minor importance due to the development in the land situation and also its reactions towards the area of Greece - Aegean Sea."

c. Report on the assessment of the situation as given by the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea with regard to the Sworbe Peninsula, and stand-point of the Operations Division, Naval Staff. (see War Diary 15 Oct., Special Items I, e).

The point of view of the Naval Command, East has not become known yet. The Chief of Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff points at the considerable expenses which are involved in the defense of the Sworbe Peninsula.

d. Information on a report from the Naval Command, East concerning the defensive readiness of the naval fortifications and bases of the home area war zone against attacks from the land. Copy as per 1/Skl. 31235/44 Gkdos. to be found in file "1/Skl. I Nord." The Quartermaster General, Naval Staff is further dealing with the matter.

VI. Chief of Operations Division, Naval Staff:

There are still two acknowledged German hospital ships in the Mediterranean Sea. It is being deemed right to withdraw these ships through the Strait of Gibraltar for a transfer to Western France or Norway depending on the situation, as soon as they are not required anymore.

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The Commander in Chief, Navy agrees.

VII. Special Weapons Division, Naval Staff:

At 1930 on 15 Oct., the Naval Special Operations Unit 60 started an operation against the road bridge of Nijmegen with two Marder Torpedoes and six torpedo-mines. Two Linse Torpedoes towed the weapons up to 9 km to the operational area, 3 km west of Tolkamer, and returned to their starting point at 2130. Assistance by artillery will be given from 2130 to 0100. The firing has been set at midnight. A report on the result is still being expected. The arrival of Marder Torpedoes at the bridge may take place from 2230.

Conference restricted to a limited circle:

VIII. Chief of Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

The Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea wired at 0248 to the Naval Command, East, the 2nd Task Force, the Report Center of the Naval Command, East, the Army General Staff and the Naval Staffs as follows:

"1. The assistance of the advance movement of the Army Group by the 2nd Task Force has priority to the action at Memel. This might decide the success of the entire operations. Start not before 17 Oct.

2. General Henke will carry out outflanking landing operations and the assistance by torpedo boats and artillery ferries as of 17 Oct.

3. The land front south of Libau is very successfully being supported daily by torpedo boats, artillery ferries and heavy gun carriers.

4. An action as shown under 2. and 3. will not be possible if 8,8 cm and 10,5 cm ammunition is not supplied immediately. The last round has been expended, and the ammunition will last only until 16 Oct."

The ammunition situation is not absolutely clear. The Commander in Chief, Navy orders that the operation be unlimitedly carried out; he agrees on the following directive of the Naval Staff to the Naval Command East:

"Half an issue of ammunition will additionally be released from the reserve of altogether  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ammunition issues that have to be

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retained as per basic communication, paragraph 1. for the operation of the 2nd Task Force provided for 18 Oct. as assistance for the Army operations. Thus still one issue each will remain per ship as a reserve for future operational tasks."

IX. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

Report is made on the situation in Greece, Albania, France, Rumania and Hungary. Horthy has made an announcement concerning the armistice offer, while the Chief of the General Staff, Voeroes, called for continuing the fights. In the evening the situation in Budapest was cleared in favor of a continuation of the war. At 2110 the transmitter of Budapest talked of a disgraceful treason by the Reich Administrator. The Leader of the "Arrow Cross" Movement announced that the city in the hands of a new pro-German government. Szalasy has become Reich Administrator and issued a war order to the nation-in-arms.

X. Army Situation:

Western Front:

On 15 Oct. the enemy started a new attack with strong forces assisted by numerous tanks against the eastern flank of the bridgehead at Breskens that had been pushed back during the previous fights.

The right wing of the 15th Army defended strong attacks of the enemy under holding the narrow passage north of the railroad leading to the Walcheren Island: West of the Meuse River the fights in the area northeast of Helmond are going on.

The second battle for Aachen went on in undecreased fierceness also on 15 Oct., the thirteenth day of the battle. The garrison of Aachen could be reinforced. Our own local penetrations gained ground.

The alternative and fierce fights in the Roetgen Forest are going on. The fighting activity in the western Vosges Mountains calmed down after the serious losses of the enemy during the last days.

Italian Front:

A heavy harassing fire was lying for the first time on Bologna. With the exception of a small penetration, the enemy could be beaten back west of the road from Florence to Bologna.

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The strong enemy pressure along the road to Imola and in the area southeast of Cesena continued.

Balkan:

The withdrawal of all formations into the reduced nucleus fortification of Crete has been completed.

The Piraeus was evacuated after all important objects had been destroyed. The evacuation movement is taking place as planned.

Valona was abandoned.

The strong enemy pressure against the extended bridgehead of Nis is still going on.

The situation in Beograd is tense; the Russians have entered there with 20 tanks, the population is revolting. The 1st Mountain Division and two Brandenburg Regiments are approaching for relieving the tension in Beograd.

Eastern Front:

The heavy fights for a decision in the battle area south of Debrecen are going on. New attempts to encircle the III. Tank Corps failed. The action of the 24th Tank Division which has become urgently necessary is being delayed by continuous attacks of the Anglo-American Air Force on the transport movements of the division.

At the Beskids Front the German positions resisted the strong enemy pressure. At the front of the Central Army Group, the 9th and 2nd Army also yesterday reached a full defensive success despite local losses of ground. The troops having stood for days continuously in a large battle could prevent a breakthrough in fierce fights.

A major offensive on East Prussia towards Gumbinnen from the area of Kalvarien - Schaken seems to be imminent.

At the front of the Fortress Memel local fights took place for improvement of the positions.

Off the front of the Northern Army Group the enemy situation in the main is unchanged. Numerous enemy pushes at different points

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were beaten back. At Riga the enemy followed our withdrawal movements only hesitatingly after a sharp pursuit in the beginning.

Northern Front:

Our own attack for clearing the "Eismeer" Road south of Luostari did not come through. The enemy broke through with strong forces up to road from Petsamo to Kirkenes and, by that, cut off the XIX. Mountain Army Corps from its last rear ward communications for the time being. During the night the northern road could be cleared again in fierce fights. The losses on our side are serious.

Southern Front:

The withdrawal movements to the bridgehead position of Rovaniemi and the withdrawal up to the vicinity of Tanhua are being carried out as planned.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

- a. The PRINZ EUGEN reported the following damages:

"The stern has been destroyed 3 meters below the upper deck up to the keel. Intake of water up to the main deck, section 3 inclusively. Otherwise no damage. No casualties."

In the evening the Naval Staff wired to the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, to the Operations Branch (Navy), Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, the Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff and the Chief of Operations Branch (Navy), Operations Staff, High Command, Air concerning the collision between the LEIPZIG and the PRINZ EUGEN:

"1. The sections 9 and 10 of the LEIPZIG full of water. Due to the lack of sufficient bilge-pumps the water is breaking through into the forward part of the ship. Up to 0630, 1720 cbm of water have been taken in. The floating ability seems not to be endangered. At 1430 both ships were free.

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2. The LEIPZIG is proceeding to Gdynia with the aid of tugs and will be lightered there. Subsequently the ship will be transferred to Danzig for docking.

3. The PRINZ EUGEN will dock at Gdynia on 16 Oct. The ship did not suffer important damages."

b. At noon, the Naval Command, East issued an operational order to the 2nd Battle Group consisting of the HIPPER, the LUETZOW, the 6th Destroyer Flotilla and the 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla for the assistance of the army movements south of Libau by firing at targets ashore as from 17 Oct. Effective as of 1000, 17 Oct. the Task Force will be operationally subordinated for this task to the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea.

The Operations Division, Naval Staff informed the Naval Command, East at 1600 by telephone that, according to a report from the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea, the operation has been postponed to 18 Oct.

At 2030, the Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff wired as follows:

"Under a postponement of the offensive operation of the Northern Army Group, which has been ordered for the time being as of 18 Oct., the area of Memel will continue to remain the concentrative point for the action of the 2nd Task Force."

c. The Naval Staff directs the following request concerning the fighter escort in the Baltic Sea Entrances to the Operations Staff, High Command, Air, with copy to the Naval Command, East:

"A fighter escort is urgently requested for the transfer of one division from Oslo to Denmark (Aarhus - Aalborg). The transport of the first detachment has been started on 15 Oct. and attacked by enemy planes, however, unsuccessfully. The duration of the transports will probably reach about 25 Oct., one detachment with about three major transports every second day. According to a report from the Naval Command, East, the Commanding General German Air Force, Denmark has already been contacted. According to a statement of the latter, the Fighter Wing 102 is available in that area which, however, he is not authorized to dispose of. The Naval Staff asks with regard to the importance of these personnel and material transports for authorization of the Commanding

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General, German Air Force, Denmark to dispose of the fighter forces available there, and for issuance of a directive to him to contact immediately the Naval Command, East and the 8th Defense Division."

d. With regard to the relevant request of the Naval Command, East, the Quartermaster General has decided that a Commander, Submarine Chasers be not appointed as an independent authority, but instead the submarine chasing forces of the Central Baltic Sea be combined with the 1st Special Duties Division. It has been ordered at the same time that the 11th and 13th Special Duties Flotillas be assigned to the 1st Special Duties Division, and that the 1st Special Duties Division be reinforced by the new organization of the 1st and 3rd Submarine Chaser Flotilla.

II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. The 1st Task Force suggests to carry out the planned disbandment of the 1st Task Force as of 19 Oct. The Naval Command, Norway has approved of the proposal.

b. On account of a relevant proposal from the Naval Command, Norway; the Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff reports to the Operations Staff, High Command, Armed Forces concerning the ferry traffic for the Reich Highway No. 50:

"As it is seen by this headquarters, the necessity not to delay the movements on the Reich Highway No. 50 urgently requires the appointment of a new office commanding the entire area. For this purpose, in the view of the Commander in Chief of the Navy complying with the stand of the Commanding Admiral, Norway, the Navy alone is suitable since

1. competent for the entire area (otherwise the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway and the Army Command 20),

2. corresponding vessels could be provided in cooperation with the Reich Commissar for Shipping and the Transport Fleet Speer.

3. the Navy is competent for troops transports by sea according to an order of the Fuehrer.

4. far-reaching experiences were made in crossing

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the Strait of Messina and Strait of Kerch, in the evacuation of the Crimea, in Sardinia, in Corsica and in the Eastern Area.

The personnel trained in these operations has partly been assigned already to the Chief, Supply and Transport, Norway."

The Quartermaster General, Naval Staff suggests that the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command issue a relevant order to the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway and the Army Command 20, with copy to the Reich Commissar for Shipping so that a uniform regulation is secured now.

Copy of a relevant teletype as per 1/Skl. 31330/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol IIa.

c. In compliance with a request from the Naval Staff (see War Diary 15 Oct.), the Operations Staff, German Air Force has ordered the immediate transfer of 25 fighter planes and the re-armament of the IV. Wing, 26th Heavy Fighter Formation into the efficient type "Me 410" for the reinforcement in the Finnish-Norwegian Area.

III. Subject: West Area:

The Command, Small Battle Units takes the following stand on the question of operating with small battle weapons:

"1. An immediate relief of the defense area of Walcheren Island by special weapons is not possible because there are no suitable targets.

2. An allocation of small battle weapons as a measure against possible landing operations or gunfire from the sea, respectively, is possible. However, the preparation for an action would be more favorable in Northern Holland since the flotillas are too much imperiled due to the lacking possibility of camouflaging immediately off the coast.

3. At present, the Small Battle Weapons Flotilla 215 with 60 Linse-torpedoes is proceeding to Walcheren Island in order to be put into action for relief of Dunkirk; in the case that the Linse-torpedoes were still ready for action after the operation has been carried out, a new action may be started against identified targets in the sea area of the Schelde Mouth.

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4. An action against a possible ferry traffic across the Schelde River has no chances of success for special weapons. An action against such targets might be possible by the Naval Special Operations Unit 40 in cooperation with the Admiral, Netherlands. However, the chances of success are very little because of the strong defense which has to be expected."

b. The Quartermaster General, Naval Staff wired on 13 Oct. to the Operations Staff (Navy) and Operations Staff (Army), Armed Forces High Command, with copy to the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters:

"After the cessation of operative tasks, a further existence of the Naval Group West is not required anymore. However, as long as the encircled fortresses of the west area are still engaged in fighting, the Navy cannot forego an own operations command there. On account of a proposal from the Commanding Admiral, Naval Group West, and in agreement with the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West the following organization for the execution of the fight of the fortresses is suggested:

The encircled fortresses of the west area will be immediately subordinated to the Naval Command West which is to be newly organized. For this purpose, as far as the combat on the land is concerned, the Naval Command West will be immediately subordinated to the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West while the subordination otherwise remains with the Navy.

By this regulation the channels for the issuance of orders from the Commanding General, Armed Forces West to the fortresses are shortened and the Navy with its strong interest in the fortresses and their crews is installed in the issuance of orders."

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Situation 16 Oct. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

31 planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, 13 planes at the 19th Group. Six British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

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In the Channel, a corvette was observed during the day on alternating courses between Minquiers and St. Malo. One destroyer was on southern waiting position in the area of the Channel Islands.

Own Situation:

A local fighting activity has been reported from the encircled fortresses. La Rochelle reported to have successfully carried out a supply operation. The precincts of Gironde South have been reinforced by three 15 cm-guns.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

1. North Sea:

Bay of Heligoland:

During an attack on the hospital ship FRITZ, two harbor defense vessels sank besides the hospital ship.

The 14th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla has carried out mineclearing works on the Elbe River and in the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal.

After the heavy air raid on Wilhelmshaven on the evening of 15 Oct. the Detached Staffs being quartered inside the city could partly resume their work on the evening of 16 Oct. The rest will limitedly be able to work within two days.

During the simultaneous raid on Emden only little damages were caused. Altogether eight enemy planes, four of which in Wilhelmshaven, were reported shot down on the evening of 15 Oct.

Three mines were cleared on the Weser River.

Coast of Holland:

The patrol position "Kairo" had a short encounter with an enemy motor torpedo boat at 0147 and at 0215. No damages and casualties were caused. One enemy motor torpedo boat was sunk, another one heavily damaged.

The port entrance of Flushing has been narrowed by the sinking of a Hansa-steamer.

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The mine task between Hoofdplaat and Houte has been carried out.

During the period from 1 to 15 Oct. the following transfers were made from the southern bank of the Schelde River: 826 soldiers, 952 wounded, 26 guns, 304 vehicles, 440 horses, 25 bicycles and 39 prisoners of war.

Our own sea target batteries and anti-aircraft artillery batteries were put into action during the afternoon in the area south of Hoofdplaat.

The enemy air activity was little, due to weather reasons. During an attack on the shipyard of Flushing the mechanics shed was slightly damaged. The number of workers is decreasing due to the increasing difficulties in the transport and the flooding, however, the continuation of the repair works is secured.

No further reports have been received so far on the operation against the road bridge at Nijmegen.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

25 planes were detected during action in the area of the 18th Group. According to radio monitoring, nine Russian motor torpedo boats were led at noon by reconnaissance planes to a convoy in the Pumanki Area which was supposed to be German.

According to indications from the radio traffic, the approach of a PQ-Convoy is likely. The Commander, Submarines, Norway expects that the position will be at noon on about 69° North. Radio telegraphy traffic was detected at 0430 in the grid square of about AF 2360. Carrier-borne planes were sighted in the grid square 3333.

At 0840 our own air reconnaissance detected one major war ship and six small coastal vessels in Linahamari.

Own Situation:

Area of the Arctic Coast:

In the area of Varanger the enemy developed a vivid activity with motor torpedo boats and planes against our shipping traffic.

On the afternoon of 14 Oct., two motor torpedo boats fired on



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the strongpoint of the radar station "Jacobselv" and withdrew after the shelling. On the morning of 15 Oct., two enemy planes attacked and damaged a supply cutter off the Boek Fjord.

On the forenoon of 16 Oct., a Boston-plane fired a torpedo on the minesweeper M "326" off Hammerfest which missed the target. The plane was shot down.

According to radio monitoring, an encounter took place between Russian motor torpedo boats and a German convoy on the noon of 16 Oct. One Russian motor torpedo boat was probably sunk, another one shot afire, a third one probably damaged.

A patrol position eastward Kirkenes was detected by enemy reconnaissance at 0600 and subsequently three times attacked by ten planes each with bombs and aircraft armament. The patrol vessel VP "6706" was sunk during these attacks. Three of the attacking planes were shot down. The artillery ferry AF "24" that had put to sea for assistance drove away three attacking motor torpedo boats off the Kar Fjord and damaged one of them seriously.

It has been reported on the transport of the TIRPITZ. No execution report has been received yet on the transfer to the new berth.

The batteries Havningsberg and Makkaur have been blown up, the crews have marched off over land. The Naval Command, Norway has ordered the 4th Destroyer Flotilla be transferred to Alta after having carried out the operation "Komet".

Area of the Admiral, North Norwegian Coast:

The main inner leads at Buholmraasa and Grunnene have been blocked because of suspected mines.

At 0900, the jumping-off of 20-30 parachutists was reported on the Reich Highway No. 50, about 70 km south of Bodoe.

The convoy traffic between Maaloey and Bodoe is blocked at noon with the first light because of the threat from carriers.

19 ships were escorted to the North, 17 ships to the South.

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III. Skager Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

No particular reports.

Own Situation:

Admiral, Skager Rak:

The convoy "VP 1605" with the tanker INGER JOHANNE was attacked by 40 enemy planes near Justoey on the afternoon of 15 Oct. The patrol vessel VP "1605" sank, while the tanker ran aground south of Lillesand.

On the afternoon of the same day, 35 to 40 enemy fighter and torpedo planes entered the Skager Rak. The entering of about 40 enemy planes into the Baltic Sea Entrances was reported on the evening; mines are suspected.

Towards noon of 16 Oct. the steamer BRAUNAU was unsuccessfully attacked off the Oslo Fjord by two planes with bombs. One of the attacking planes was shot down. The patrol position off the coast of West Jutland was not occupied due to weather reasons.

17 boats were put into action for mineclearance works. Four mines were cleared off Aarhus, five in the Samsø Belt, two each west of Samsø and in the Bay of Aalborg, one each north of Seclandsrev and in the northern exit of the Sound.

The destroyer RIEDEL will probably be out of war readiness until 20 Oct. due to a gear damage.

The mine operation "Augustus" in the Skager Rak was started on the evening of 16 Oct., however, was discontinued due to the weather condition.

A brief action report has been received from the destroyer BEITZEN on the attack against a transport group on the evening of 15 Oct. For a copy see teletype 1775.

Central and Western Baltic Sea:

The PRINZ EUGEN and the LEIPZIG have arrived at Gdynia, however, were not docked yet. The docking of the LEIPZIG is causing difficulties because of the draft of the ship.

59 vessels were put into action for an increased mineclearance operation.

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Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

An advance of a Russian unit of motor torpedo boats to the roads of Montu was defended by boats of the 1st Motor Minesweeper Flotilla on the evening of 15 Oct. Five motor minesweepers, four artillery ferries and 25 armed fishing vessels were put into action for the defense of the Sworbe Peninsula.

One minesweeper, two steamers, two tugs and 24 naval landing craft were engaged in the transport traffic between Windau and Montu.

The regiment that had been assisted by coastal firing from the torpedo boats T "23" and T "28" reported that the fire was especially well-aimed on 15 Oct. and that it saved losses to the regiment.

The convoys and transports were carried out as planned and without incidents. A supply of 1475 tons and 1000 recoilless anti-tank grenade dischargers was transferred to Libau.

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IV. Submarine Warfare:

In the Northern Waters, 15 submarines have been placed at the disposal of the PQ-convoy, on a position southwest of the Bear Island. Twelve boats of these have been put into position from the grid square AB 5619 to 6768 as the group "Panther". Three boats are serving as advanced observers for the convoy and carrier radio traffic in the grid squares AB 1995, 5724 and 9414.

In the Gulf of Finland, the submarine chasers on westerly course in the grid square AO 3548.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

1. West Area:

The number of sorties was extraordinarily little on account of the weather condition; particular reports are not at hand.

2. Reich Territory:

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In the Reich Territory, too only 20 single planes entered the northern area of the Rhineland-Westfalia.

From the south, between 500 and 600 bombers with a strong fighter escort advanced up to the area of Laibach and separated there into four groups for carrying out raids on Salzburg, Linz, Plzen-Brux and Wiener Neustadt. For a report on the damages see the "Situation of the Day". Besides that, communications targets were attacked in Lower and Upper Austria and in Bavaria.

Against the raid near Brux, 446 fighters started from the Reich which, however, did not approach in time for an encounter with the enemy.

During the night of 16 Oct., 50 Mosquito planes in small groups entered the area of Cologne - Muenster and dropped single bombs.

3. Mediterranean Theater:

The enemy activity in the Italian operational area was to be called strong with approximately 730 planes. Communications targets in the Western Lombardia and in the area of the lakes were attacked by 180 twin-engined planes and 30 fighters. Besides that, communications targets in the areas of Udine-Trieste and on the roads to Laibach were raided.

4. Eastern Area:

At the Eastern Front, 608 own and 4515 enemy sorties were reported on 15 Oct.; four planes got lost on our side while 58 enemy planes were shot down.

Our own fighters shot down positively 19 out of 130 enemy planes in the area of the Arctic Coast on 16 Oct.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Area:

1. German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

One transport entered Gibraltar from the Mediterranean Sea at noon. According to air reconnaissance, a concentration of

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ships was detected on the evening of 15 Oct. at about 30 nautical miles south-southeast of Toulon. A normal supply traffic to the French landing coast was observed south of Cannes. The usual activity of patrol vessels was observed during the night of 15 Oct. off the Riviera.

Own Situation:

The escort and patrol duty was carried out as planned during the night of 15 Oct.

The battery in the Magra Mouth carried out a fire for effect against an enemy battery on the forenoon of 15 Oct. In the afternoon, one gun of the battery broke down through a bomb attack.

2. Area of the Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

A heavy encounter with an Italian destroyer took place in the area off Ancona during an advance movement of three E-boats in the night of 15 Oct., the attack remained without success. The boats have entered Pola.

Single ports were raided by enemy planes. Railroad installations were destroyed up to a large extent during a raid on Opicina (Trieste) on the evening of 15 Oct., the attack was carried out by 100, and not by 20 planes. For cars of a train with 33 cars loaded with LMB-mines blew-up into the air, while twelve burned out. The rest was more or less strongly damaged.

Boats of the 3rd PT boat Flotilla screened the evacuation of Drvenik during the night of 15 Oct.

b. Aegean Sea:

According to a British broadcast report British naval forces have entered Piraeus, among which the cruisers, ORION, AJAX and BLACK PRINCE. Naxos is said to have been occupied by British troops on 15 Oct.

At 0142, the torpedo boat TA "39" sank at about 45 nautical miles south of Salonika after a strong detonation. Two motor minesweepers rescued 116 survivors.

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The Commanding Admiral, Aegean reported that the situation at land on the Southern Balkan (advance of the Russians to the west) had caused the Army Group "E" to issue an order for the utmost speeding-up of the concentration in the North. Therefore, a premature deadline for the evacuation of Salonika must be expected. With that it becomes questionable whether the hospital ship TUEBINGEN and GRADISCA will arrive in time. The Commanding Admiral, Aegean is speeding up the passage of the last convoys to Salonika and the putting out of commission and sinking of the vessels in order to engage the crews in the movements in the North as soon as possible.

c. Danube Area Situation:

All vessels of the Hungarian Forces in Hungary were captured by the Navy partly by surprise raids and partly by way of negotiations. German guard crews were left aboard on all vessels. The Commander of the Hungarian River Forces was taken prisoner.

One mine each was cleared on the Danube River, at the kilometer points 1777 and 1778.

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VII. Situation in East Asia:

Japanese Homeland, Kurile Islands:

No new attacks were reported.

Ryuky Islands:

On 10 Oct., an attack of a strong bomber formation was made on Okinawa Island with 830 planes in five waves, several groups of 15-20 planes each carried out raids against the other islands of the Ruyky Group. The main targets were airfields, ships and the town of Nafa. Serious damages were caused by incendiary bombs, otherwise the damages were little since the ships had put to sea in time and the airfields were occupied only weakly. 26 enemy planes were shot down while five Japanese planes got lost. A counter-operation from Kiushu has been started.

On 12 Oct., a task force of the Allies was 300 km south-eastward of Formosa; a raid on Formosa was made with about 1100 planes, especially against the airfields of Taihoku, Takao, Heito, Kagi

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and Tainan, and against the port facilities of Takao. The damages were relatively little since the raid had been expected. The airfields were thinned-out and the ships had put to sea. An attack of 40 B-29 planes from China carried out against Takao on the same day was more successful.

According to an American Press Report, 396 Japanese planes were destroyed during the attack on Formosa, 27 ships sunk, 14 other ships probably sunk, 22 ships damaged, and the coastal defense installations hit.

Fighter forces and anti-aircraft artillery destroyed more than 100 American planes which partly were marked with Japanese national signs. A wing of torpedo planes was put into action from Kyushu Island and came into encounters with the Task Force from 2130.

The Japanese Fleet has been put into action for further attacks against the enemy unit.

The action against the enemy task force yielded the following results during the period from 12 to 15 Oct. (according to an information from the Japanese Naval Attache, Berlin): 16 carriers, one battleship, one heavy cruiser, one light cruiser, one destroyer and one warship of an unknown type were sunk, one battleship, one carrier and two cruisers were probably sunk, 27 warships of different types were damaged. According to a broadcast report, about 600 planes were destroyed with the carriers. The operations are being continued.

South-West Pacific:

Palao Islands:

Landing operations of the Allies were carried out so far on eleven islands, a part of which was only weakly occupied. Only little fights are still going on on Peleliu and Garakayo Island.

New Guinea:

On 15 Oct., an air raid on carried out against Japanese troops near Wewak; no fighting activity was reported otherwise.

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Philippine Islands:

On 11 Oct., an air raid was made on Appari Islands (Northern Philippine Islands), on 12 Oct. on Luzon Island. No results or damages were reported.

Bismarck Archipelago, Bougainville, Pagan (Mariana Islands):

One air raid each was made between 12 and 15 Oct.; no results or damages were reported.

Indian Ocean:

On 8 Oct. and 11 Oct., one weak air raid each was made on the oil area of Balikpapan (Borneo). On 9 Oct., an air attack was carried out against the oil store of Boela (Ceram Island).

Burma:

The fights in the Arakan Area, near Tiddim and at the Burma Border near Bahmo have been continued without major results.

China:

On 14 Oct., Kweiping (about 90 miles west of Wachu) was occupied by the Japanese. According to an American Press Report of 11 Oct., 44 river ships were sunk by the 14th USA Air Force Corps in the provinces of Yuman and Kwangsi; 14 planes were shot down.

Ship losses:

Besides the losses reported so far; one Japanese transport with 1250 prisoners of war was torpedoed and sunk on 21 Sept., 171 prisoners were rescued, the rest killed.

The observation service yielded on 8 Oct. that an unidentified steamer (American) was torpedoed in the naval grid square 5810 MF (no Japanese submarine was in the vicinity).

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Items of Political Importance:

After Horthy's resignation, Szalasi has taken over the office of the Deputy Reich Administrator and, at the same time, as Prime Minister. Seven members of the cabinet belong to the "Arrow Cross" Movement. Szalasi intends to form a regency council consisting of three members.

Owing to the German intervention the full effect of the disloyalty to the common cause has been prevented. It will have to be proved whether the Hungarian Army and the nation can raise now the necessary force in order to bring the Russian offensive to a stand.

The negotiations in Moscow, as may be taken from the few news at hand, are exclusively governed by the Polish question. It does not seem as though a solution could be found.

The Hearst Press is openly starting now a campaign against the Bolshevich Danger and expects from the continuously growing tension between the Anglo-Saxons and Russians the outbreak of an open struggle in the near future. However, apparently it is too late for the White House to bring the advance of the Bolshevism to a halt in the areas occupied by the Russians.

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Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at

1120:

I. Subject: Aerial Situation:

According to a report from the Naval Liaison Officer, General of the German Air Force, Norway, the BV 138-Echelon Command, Tromsøe, inclusively the reconnaissance planes BV 222 are operationally subordinated, effective immediately, to the Commanding General, German Air Force, Finland for the transport of important goods. With that, the Echelon Command becomes unavailable for the necessary sea reconnaissance until further notice.

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II. The Armed Forces High Command has issued a directive in compliance with the stand of the Quartermaster General, Naval Staff concerning the disbandment of the Group West, (see War Diary 16 Oct.). The remaining Naval Command West will operationally be subordinated to the Commanding General, Armed Forces West.

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Meanwhile a new situation has arisen in so far as the Admiral Krancke has reported that Field Marshal v. Rundstedt had agreed upon his remaining as Chief of the Command. The Commander in Chief, Navy will clear the matter now himself with the Admiral Krancke and Field Marshal v. Rundstedt.

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III. Report of the Mine Warfare Section, Operations Division, Naval Staff on the situation in East Asia, especially on the Japanese success at Formosa and Manila. (see War Diary 16 Oct.)

The Commander in Chief, Navy orders the following telegram of congratulation be transmitted to the Japanese Naval Minister:

"On the occasion of the grand victory gained by the naval and air forces of the Imperial Japanese Navy against an enemy assault fleet at Formosa I transmit my best congratulation to your Excellency. This glorious success in our common fight against the unjustified claims of the Anglo-Saxons is a serious blow to the American Fleet.

The German Navy is joining my joy about the great victory of the Japanese comrades. It will spur also us to the further fight against our common enemies.!"

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IV. Chief of Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

a. A directive has been issued by the Armed Forces High Command concerning the attitude towards Sweden. An aggravation of the situation is to be avoided. Details to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol VIII.

b. The Fleet has informed all concerned that, by order of the Commander in Chief, Navy the repair of the stem of the PRINZ EUGEN is being carried under top priority at the Deutsche Werke (German Works), Gdynia.

c. For the carrying-out of necessary engine repairs the HIPPER is lying for five days in the shipyard of Gdynia in a 48-hour-readiness.

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V. Chief, Quartermaster Division:

The excess consumption in smoke acid will force us to a concentration in the near future. It is suggested to cut down temporarily the consumption at Wilhelmshaven in favor of Kiel, Swinemünde, Gdynia and Pillau.

The Commander in Chief, Navy points at the importance of Wilhelmshaven for the sections construction of submarines. The decision is being deferred until the question of the requirements becomes acute.

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In a restricted circle:

VI. Chief of Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

a. The operation "Geier" (attack of the Northern Army Group) will probably start on 18 Oct.

The Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff wired last night:

"1. As long as the offensive operation of the Northern Army Group has not been started the action of the 2nd Task Force will still be concentrated at Memel. At present the Russians are there in the offensive. As soon as a major attack is to be observed the operation at Memel will be started.

2. Due to the breakthrough of the enemy in a width of 13 km west of Vilkaviskis it is probable that the main defense line will be withdrawn up to the Memel River in order to get forces available for the resulted gap in the front, as other reserves are not available.

3. It may become necessary, under an unfavorable development of the situation and in the case that our own attack scheduled for 18 Oct. should not be carried out, that the evacuation of the 3rd Tank Division and two infantry divisions of the Northern Army Group from Libau by sea must be accomplished most speedily."

The Quartermaster Division has been informed.

b. The Naval Command, East has agreed to the assessment of the situation on the Sworbe Peninsula by the Admiral, Eastern

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Baltic Sea, all the more as after the loss of Riga the defense of the Sworbe Position is not deemed anymore as important for the guarding of the sea communication to Riga.

The Chief, Operations Division, Naval Staff is of the opinion that the defense of the Sworbe Peninsula is still of importance; he points to the information from the Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff concerning the possible transfer of three divisions from Courland. Since it is uncertain whether Libau can be held, the embarkation may become necessary inside the Bay of Riga. Furthermore, the supply of the Sworbe Peninsula beside a large transport movement from Courland is unaccomplishable at the same time as far as the shipping space and the escort are concerned.

The Commander in Chief, Navy orders to clarify the own assessment in cooperation with the Armed Forces High Command or the Army General Staff, respectively, and especially the opinion that the evacuation of Courland, if the occasion arises, should be given priority to the supply or evacuation of the Sworbe Peninsula, respectively.

c. The Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters reported on the evening of 16 Oct:

"The opinion of the Naval Staff according to which the SCHLESIEEN and the SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN are not suitable for coastal firing has been reported to the Fuehrer. The Fuehrer agreed, however, pointed out that in any case the maintenance of the war readiness of both ships should be aimed at for tasks which might necessarily have to be carried out at a later date."

The Chief, Naval Staff has already ordered that a relevant demand be emphatically made by the Naval Staff. The matter will be settled by the order l/Skl I op 31366/44Gkdos. Copy to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

d. In a radiogram to the Group West that was also read here, the Naval Shore Command of the Channel Islands objected to the proposal of the Fortification Command to evacuate only one third of the civil population, and demanded the evacuation of the entire population with the exception of farmers, fishermen and indispensable civil supply officer.

The Commander in Chief, Navy added to this that the Naval Shore Commander would become now the Chief of Staff, Fortification Command.

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VII. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The heavy fights in the Schelde Bridgehead are going on.

At the isthmus of the Walcheren Island, an enemy penetration could not be cleared completely. Since a complete clearing of the communication to South Beveland is not to be expected anymore by the available forces of the 15th Army, the isthmus west of Woensdrecht is to be flooded. The supply of the division standing on the Peninsula will be accomplished on the waterway, as it was handled so far.

The enemy attacks northeast of Helmond were going on, however, could be brought to a stop in a counter-attack.

The defensive battle of Aachen was continued with undiminished fierceness. The enemy succeeded in narrowing the communication leading to Aachen up to 300 meters.

It will be attempted to clear again the communication to Aachen.

In the Western Vosges Mountains the enemy continued his attacks with undecreased strength.

The allocation of two American divisions lets conclude to offensive plans in the area of Diedenhofen - Metz.

Italian Front:

The enemy attacks were concentrated again under an increasing fighting activity in the penetrated area of Bologna. Due to the continuous gunfire that increased up to drumfire, our losses were again serious, although the enemy air force made no sorties owing to the bad weather condition.

At the Adriatic Coast the enemy made continuous attacks with assault detachments along the Via Emilia.

Balkan:

Our own rear guard troops are standing north of Thebes.

Nis has been occupied by the enemy. From there the enemy is advancing with strong forces to the southwest and west.

Fierce street-fighting is going on in Beograd. Tanks which had

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advanced up to the inner city were destroyed for the most part in close combat. The revolt has calmed down.

Eastern Front:

While the political events of 15 Oct. in Hungary created dissolution among some Hungarian formations, the Hungarian Commanders in Chief and Commanders are eagerly trying to re-establish discipline and order.

After the enemy has succeeded in combining his forces by re-organization in the area of Debrecen - Nagyvarad, another serious tension has arisen in the situation of the 6th Army.

At the Baskids Front the defensive fights were also yesterday continued under a noticeable decrease of the enemy pressure.

At the Narva Front only fights of a local nature took place in the two concentration points at the inner flanks of the 9th and 2nd Army.

At the border of East Prussia, near Vilkaviskis, the enemy started the expected great offensive early in the morning on a front of a width of 40 km after a very strong drumfire. The enemy could gain deep penetrations assisted by numerous formations of ground attack planes and tanks. More than 140 tanks of the enemy were knocked out in this area on the first day.

At the front of the Northern Army Group the enemy started an attack with strong forces and a superior action of tanks. While the Soviets could be stopped at several points they succeeded with superior strength in breaking through or pushing back our own main defense line east of Prickule and near Mazaikiai. At the same time the attack of the enemy at Dobele was started under a strong action of ground attack planes. Here the enemy succeeded in gaining a penetration despite a fierce resistance. Our own counter-attacks did not come through due to the enemy air superiority.

In the area of Riga, our own withdrawal movements toward the Aa River in Courland were carried out as planned.

On the Sworbe Peninsula the day was calm.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. The Naval Command, East has reported that the 6th Air Force can procure a fighter escort for the 2nd Task Force only up to 56° North. The area north of this latitude belongs to the 1st Air Force which, however, has no fighters available. The Naval Command, East points out that a sufficient fighter escort is indispensable for the execution of the operation "Geier". On a relevant request from the Naval Staff to the Operations Staff, High Command, Air, the latter answered as follows:

"1. An increase of the fighter escort is not possible.

2. The 1st Air Force has immediately to be contacted with regard to the extension of the fighter escort beyond 56° North."

Subsequently the Naval Command, East and the Report Center are issued the following directive by the Naval Staff:

"An increase of the fighter forces of the 1st Air Force is not possible due to the lack of ground organizations. The Operations Staff, High Command, Air asks the local operations offices of the Navy to contact immediately the 1st Air Force with regard to the concentrated operation with the available fighter forces over the 2nd Task Force. The decisive importance of this escort for the success of the entire operation is especially to be pointed out with regard to the demand for ground forces which may be expected."

b. The following two teletypes of the Chief, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch explain the tense sea transport situation in the Eastern Baltic Sea:

aa. to the Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff:

"The following most urgent evacuation requests are presently at hand at the Chief, Supply and Transport, Eastern Baltic Sea; a. for Libau: 100 000 soldiers, 400 trucks, 190 special vehicles over 8 tons, 300 passenger cars, 2500 horses, 1000 horsedrawn vehicles., 1100 tons of equipment, 100 wounded.

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b. For Windau: 2000 horses, 9000 men of the Todt Organization, 5000 legionaires and prisoners of war.

Besides that, the following evacuations have to be carried out, according to a report of the Reich Commissar, Eastern Countries; 200,000 civilians, 50,000 horses, 70,000 cows, 70,000 "Panje"-carts. These requirements show that the offices turning in requests for transports do not at all clearly see the possibilities of the sea transport. The enormous requirements cannot be met approximately under the very tense engagement which has been put for months on all troop transports and ships of the Reich Commissioner of Maritime Shipping as well as on the convoy escorts; therefore, as it is seen at this headquarters, an according action on the Northern Army Group and the Reich Commissioner of Maritime Shipping, Eastern Countries is necessary. The shipping situation is still aggravated also by the fact that march battalions must continuously be transferred from Danzig and Gdynia to the Army Group. At present, for example, 4000 men are ready for shipment. By that, the circulation of the ships proceeding to the Eastern Countries is being extended up to 30%."

bb. to the Northern Army Group, Quartermaster General, Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

"The requests turned in to the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea cannot be met. Shipping space is not approximately available for that due to the losses which have been suffered and to other tasks. At present, the following vessels are operating in a shuttle traffic under the strongest exertion of the convoys and crews: ten large transports and three medium transports, besides three hospital ships. It is pointed to the fact that about 2000 men belonging to march battalions and special detachments are daily being transferred from the homeland. By that, the circulation of the shipping is delayed by at least 30%. The evacuation of 200,000 refugees, 50,000 horses, 70,000 cows, 70,000 pigs and 50,000 "Panje"-carts as requested by the Reich Commissar is unaccomplishable. It is requested to restrict the requirements to an accomplishable measure."

c. At 2205, the Naval Command East reported:

"Operation 'Geier' postponed. New planning."



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II. Subject: Northern Area:

From a directive issued by the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command on account of a teletype from the Commanding General, Armed Forces, North Finland unknown to the Naval Staff:

"1. The 71st Roman Army Corps is subordinated to the Mountain Army Command 20, effective immediately.

2. The military powers of the Commander, Mountain Army Command 20 towards all parts of the Armed Forces and other organizations in the area of the 71st Roman Army Corps remain restricted to the mission as shown in the Fuehrer Order No. 40. According to that, it is left under discretion to transfer the military powers to the Commanding General, Arctic Area (Commanding General, 71st Roman Army Corps).

3. With regard to paragraph 3 of the teletype of 14 Oct., the attention is invited to the teletype OKW/W.F.St. Qu 2 (Nord) Nr. 00123929/44 gK, dated 14 Oct. However, the large shipping space will exclusively be put into action for the execution of the operation "Nordlicht" and cannot be made available for the purpose of evacuation."

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III. Subject: Naval Command North:

The Naval Staff has sent the following teletype to the Operations Staff, High Command Air, with copy to the Naval Command North, concerning the fouling with mines of the Wester Schelde River:

"1. It is to be seen from the development in the land situation in the area of the southern Schelde Estuary/Walcheren Island that the enemy intends to gain as soon as possible the possession of the port of Antwerp which has been destroyed in parts only.

Under a further favorable development in the land situation for the enemy he will not have great difficulties either in proceeding on the inner Wester Schelde River.

2. Therefore, the Naval Staff deems a thorough fouling of the Wester Schelde River and of the approach routes to Ostende and Zeebrugge or to the Wielingen Gat, respectively, to be of prior importance; the area in question would be about between 02°35' and 03°10' East, and south of 51°30' North.

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3. An efficient and lasting fouling of the named area is not possible by PT boats alone. The additional engagement of the Air Force is urgently necessary. Therefore, it is requested to examine in how far trained and experienced personnel of the IX. Air Corps can be made available for this operation; at the same time it is requested to issue a directive to the IX. Air Corps to contact immediately the Naval Command, North Sea. Information on the stand of the matter is requested."

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IV. Subject: Southern Area:

The Commanding Admiral, German Naval Command transmitted a teletype of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, South West received by the Commanding General, wherein he is requested to cooperate in an increased extent in the discussed urgent measures which have become necessary due to delays in the transfer of personnel and materiel. The Commanding General, Armed Forces, South West intends to detach immediately the mass of the Fortress Brigade, exclusively the cadre personnel provided for the newly to be organized Naval Brigade, and designates the early replacement by the Navy in the extent of the detachment as more than desired. Furthermore it has been planned to deduct further forces from the coastal front and the adjoining land front of the XIV. Tank Corps. The matter is further being dealt with by the Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff.

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V. Subject: Southern Area:

The Commanding Admiral, Aegean has once more submitted a composite report on all plans concerning the further development of the situation in his area.

In the reply-teletype the Quartermaster General, Naval Staff, pointed out his assumption that the necessary Reception Organization will be set up by the Group South through a command ruling, possibly under extension towards the Adriatic Coast with a breakdown into Naval Reception Detachments, Naval Reception Points and, as far as required, Naval Reception Depots. The Organization and Mobilization Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff ordered to secure that Navy Personnel that has temporarily been attached

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to the Army will completely be re-transferred later on to the Navy. If in an exceptional case the subordination as to discipline and supplies is not left with the Navy, at least the manpower competence of the Navy must be maintained. The Alarm Units are not to be designated as Defense Battalions, but as Naval Rifle Battalions numbered from 500 to 599. The Quartermaster General is of the opinion that the headquarters of the Commanding Admiral, Aegean as a remaining staff must still exist even after the naval tasks have been completed, as long as there are still Naval Personnel engaged in fighting on the islands; it would be the responsibility of this remaining staff to control and supervise this personnel.

The Commanding Admiral, Aegean reported that the evacuation of specialists is carried out continuously depending on the transport tonnage available. The railway communication is interrupted at present. The rail transports of the Commanding Admiral, Aegean have been stopped in order to prevent that Naval Personnel on the way is singly picked up by Army Authorities without control. The Navy must be combat through its way to the homeland, and will be attached to Army Units for this purpose in closed Naval Units. With that, the subordination as to discipline and supplies and the operational subordination will be under the respective Army Unit. The Navy will remain competent as far as manpower matters are concerned. The attachment to the Army will be carried out only through the Naval Transit Depot at Salonika. A Naval Personnel Specialist has been provided for each division.

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VI. A directive concerning the escort of ships carrying a major number of human beings has been issued to the Naval Commands, East, North and Norway, with copy to the Operations Staff (Navy), Armed Forces High Command and Reich Commissioner of Maritime Shipping, as per 1/Skl Ia 38154/44 geh. Copy to be found in War Diary, Part B, Vol V.

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VII. The Training Branch of the Operations Staff, German Air Force informed the Naval Staff on the plan to issue a memorandum concerning the cooperation between the Air Force and the Navy in limited sea areas. The matter is being dealt with by the Air Commander, Training Units, Baltic Sea at Pillau. The Operations Division, Naval Staff is requested to detach one Naval Officer

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experienced in relevant questions for the assistance to Pillau from 20 Oct. to 28 Oct., as well as to issue an order to the Naval Offices which may be concerned with the cooperation in the Baltic Sea that the required data and information are to be made available.

The Quartermaster Division has directed the Fleet to send one officer to Pillau.

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Situation 17 Oct. 1944:

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Five planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, six planes at the 19th Group. Two British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

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2. Own Situation:

Merely local fights were reported from the encircled fortresses in the West Area.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

A. Bay of Heligoland:

The blocking of the Elbe and Jade Rivers has been lifted in the evening. Our own shipping was strongly limited due to the southwest storm. One mine was cleared off the Weser River.

B. Dutch Coast:

During the night of 16 Oct., the convoys from Helder to Borkum were carried out as planned. Another 84 mines were dropped in the Barrage K 2 off Terschelling.

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The operation of the Naval Special Operations Unit 60/65 against the road bridge of Nijmegen failed. Details are still being expected. A new operation has been planned.

According to a report of the Naval Shore Commander, Southern Holland, the situation on the ground in the bridgehead of the Southern Schelde River importantly grew worse at noon. The possibility of losing Breskens must be put up with.

The flooded areas have been extended by bomb droppings on the old breach in the dike at Westkapelle.

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Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Ten planes were detected during action in the area of the 18th Group. During an action of four BV 138-planes as of 2100, a large vessel, probably an aircraft-carrier, was detected by gear in the grid square AB 9619 at 2205.

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2. Own Situation:

Area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast:

Mines were cut on 15 Oct. in the Varanger Fjord off Skallneset. On the forenoon of the same day, repeated sorties of small formations were reported in the area of Kirkenes - Vardoe. One plane was shot down during a raid on Kiberg. Four men were wounded on the gunboat K "3" by bomb fragments during a raid made by four planes in the area of Hammerfest.

Early on 16 Oct. the radar station Silbersee was blown-up by our own forces. An eastbound convoy was attacked at 1136 in the exit of the Lakse Fjord by a submarine with two torpedoes which missed the target. The submarine hunt remained resultless. In the afternoon, 18 planes attacked a westbound convoy with torpedoes, bombs and aircraft armament between Skallneset and Vardoe. The motor minesweeper R "301" was sunk by a torpedo hit. Seven of the attacking planes were shot down.

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During an air raid on the Battery Kiberg, three of the attacking planes were shot down.

The artillery ferry AF "24" defended attacks of motor torpedo boats and planes in the Holmengraaf Fjord. One motor torpedo boat was probably sunk during that action.

On the forenoon of 17 Oct., the patrol boat V "107" was attacked and sunk by about 20 planes east of Vadsoe. Three of the attacking planes were shot down.

The convoy traffic between Loedingen and Hammerfest has been blocked until dusk because of the danger from carriers.

Area of the Admiral, North Norwegian Coast:

One mine was cleared on 16 Oct. in the Stabbene Passage, nine mines near Buholmraasa.

The patrol vessel V "6801" was damaged in a low-flying attack by 15 Mosquitoes west of the Alnes Light and had to be beached. It is probable that one plane was shot down.

In the area of the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast, only little sorties of the enemy were reported.

Twenty-two ships were escorted to the North, 27 ships to the South.

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III. Skager Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

Particular reports are not at hand.

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2. Own Situation:

Admiral, Skager Rak:

Thirty-three boats were put into action for mine-clearance works. Two mines were cleared in the northern exit of the Sound, three mines in the Samsø Belt, one mine each west of Samsø, south of Grenaa, south of Anholt and in the Aalbrek Bay.

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The steamer BRAUNAU (3000 BRT) was hit by a mine in the grid square AO 7235 at 0950, however, was able to keep herself afloat by own power.

The ready-use ammunition on the patrol ship VS "903" exploded. The boat was towed-in; the commander is among the casualties.

The GALSTER, the IHN and the destroyer Z "30" are escorting the second transport detachment of the 269th Infantry Division from Oslo to Aarhus.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

Fifty-one boats were put into action for mineclearance works. Two mines were cleared in the Fehmarn Belt.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

No particular combat actions were reported from the Sworbe Peninsula. Three naval landing craft have put to sea with ammunition and rations from Windau to Montu. Seventeen armed fishing vessels have been put into action for the defense of the Sworbe Peninsula and on submarine chasing positions.

During the period from 6 Oct. to 13 Oct., 533 wounded, 2115 soldiers, 354 civilians, 109 refugees, 475 prisoners of war, 1233 horses, 360 vehicles, one plane and 85 tons and 170 drums of fuel were altogether re-transferred from the Sworbe Peninsula.

The bomb droppings in the naval harbor made during the enemy air raid on Libau on the afternoon of 16 Oct. remained without important result.

Altogether 6638 tons of supplies have been transferred to Libau, Windau and Memel.

The other transports and convoys have been carried out as planned and without incidents. For details see the "Situation of the Day".

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IV. Submarine Warfare:

The Commander, Submarines believes that the convoy in the Northern Waters will make an outflanking movement to the North in order to reach a zone where the visibility is worse. At 2000

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seven of our submarines will be in the sector between the Bear Island and the grid square AB 3385, eight boats in the sector between the Bear Island and the grid square AB 6938. Since no other indication could be won on the whereabouts of the convoy than from the air report of 2205, the boats will be ordered to a new patrol line on 18 Oct. from the grid square AC 1514 up to 4841, in case that no shadowing of the convoy can be reached at night.

In the Gulf of Finland, the submarine U "1165" sank an enemy motor minesweeper (German type) with a Zaunkoenig torpedo northwest of Pakkerort. The submarine U "717" was seriously damaged and suffered casualties in an air raid on Libau on 14 Oct.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Strong sorties were started into the west area after the weather condition had improved. A vivid activity of fighter bombers and fighters was reported from the battle area of Holland. Sixty four-engined planes made a raid in the area of Flushing.

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Reich Territory:

A strong formation of about 1100 bombers with a strong fighter escort entered the Reich Territory early in the morning for making raids on Cologne and Bonn. Heavy damages were caused in Cologne.

During the day, about 530 fast bombers made sorties over the entire area of West Germany in small single formations and dropped bombs.

A bomber formation from the South consisting of about 500 planes with fighter escort carried out raids in Vienna and in the industrial area of Upper Silesia. Detailed reports are still being expected.

During the night of 17 Oct. no sorties worth to be mentioned were reported from the West.



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Mediterranean Theater:

No sorties worth to be mentioned.

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Eastern Area:

At the Eastern Front, 680 own and 3650 enemy planes were put into action on 16 Oct. While 16 planes got lost on our side, 78 enemy planes were shot down.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

A transport that had entered Gibraltar from the Mediterranean Sea on the noon of 16 Oct. has probably put to sea at night in an unknown direction.

During the night of 16 Oct. the usual patrol forces were detected off the Riviera Coast. A group of four vessels was probably on mine-clearing duty south of Chiavari. Two other groups were detected within the barrages between Nervi and Sestri.

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Own Situation:

The Cape Mortola was taken under fire by a destroyer on 16 Oct. At noon, the arsenal of La Spezia was unsuccessfully attacked by fighter bombers.

The battery in the Magra Mouth has continued the harassing fire and surprise fire on the enemy main defense line.

The escort and patrol duty at the coast of Western Italy was carried out as planned.

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2. Area of the Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

E-boats which were put into action from Sibenik during the nights of 15 and 16 Oct. did not come into an encounter with the enemy. No report has been received yet on the result of the advance of three PT boats put into action from Pola.

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b. Aegean Sea:

Early on 16 Oct. large ships were sighted from Milos Island, among which carriers, cruisers and transports were identified. The same group of carriers was sighted also from Levitha Island. The air reconnaissance detected at 1035 a carrier on southeast course, southwest of Porto Kupho.

On the forenoon of 17 Oct. a unit of two aircraft carriers with several other war ships was sighted from land in the northern Aegean Sea, south of Chalcidice.

The air reconnaissance detected destroyers, seven freighters, 10 small merchantmen and four minesweepers at work on the roads of Piraeus.

On the forenoon of 16 Oct. the port of Volos was attacked by planes with bombs. One auxiliary sailing vessel was sunk, three vessels were damaged. The torpedo boat TA "39" got lost probably by a drift-mine from an own former barrage. The crew has completely been rescued. The port of Stylis has been evacuated and demolished.

The rest evacuation of Lemnos, scheduled for 16 Oct., could not be carried out due to the enemy situation. The planned air transport of the remaining personnel was not possible. The evacuation was carried out as planned on 17 Oct. The evacuation of 700 men with one naval landing craft and one GN-boat under a permanent enemy threat means a performance worth to be mentioned. The last transport of material with one Siebel-ferry, one GN-boat and one combined operations boat was probably destroyed off Chalcidice. The boat GN "91" reported frankly: "We are being hunted by cruisers."

The Port Commander of Mudros reported fights between the remaining occupational forces and partisans. The communication with the island has been interrupted.

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The Chief, 12th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla and the Commander of the torpedo boat TA "39" belatedly reported in conformity with each other a strong mine detonation in the fouled area during the night of 15 Oct. A mine success against surface forces may be taken into consideration.

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c. Danube Area Situation:

Mine droppings were reported at the kilometer points 1723 and 1724. One mine was cleared at the kilometer point 1734. No reports on losses have been received.

No reports are at hand on the traffic in the German Danube Area since the Office of the Danube Steamship Company in Vienna was destroyed by bomb-dropping.

The vessels of the Hungarian River Forces which were impounded on 16 Oct. have been transferred again outside Budapest by order of the German Deputy General in Hungary. The entire Hungarian and a small German crew are aboard.

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VII. Situation in East Asia:

The Japanese Naval Attache reported that the following vessels had been sunk during the battle at Formosa and the Philippine Islands according to the reports received by him up to this morning: eleven carriers, two battleships, one battleship or cruiser, three cruisers and one destroyer. Seven carriers, two battle ships, four cruisers and 11 unidentified vessels were damaged. It is not yet recognizable whether the Americans intend a push against Formosa. The Japanese Naval Attache assumes this to be an evasive maneuver for a landing on the Philippine Islands. The losses of the enemy are being estimated at about 25 000 men and 1000 planes. No report has been received yet on the Japanese losses.

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Items of Political Importance:

The order of the Fuehrer for organizing a Homeguard was made public in the Reich Territory. The Reichsfuehrer SS in a broadcast speech paid tribute to the measure, which represents a further proof for an unbroken determination to gain the victory, and pointed to parallels in the German History.

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Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1115:

I. No particular reports and decisions were made in the Large Circle.

In a restricted circle.

II. Chief of Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

a. From the assessment of the situation as given by the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters on the evening of 17 Oct.:

1. The Fuehrer ordered the Chief, Armed Forces High Command to examine whether it would be possible to make explosives available for the army ammunition at the expense of the mine production for the Navy. I stated in my report that this would be absolutely impossible since the Navy itself is in a bottleneck as far as mines are concerned. Following a telephone conversation with the Commander in Chief, Navy, I have informed Fieldmarshal Keitel on the opinion of the Commander in Chief, Navy as to this matter.

2. The Fuehrer decided that the Sworbe Peninsula be defended until further notice.

3. The transfer of strong enemy forces via land and sea to the area of Petsamo points at the continuation of the enemy operations under an increased engagement of forces.

The Fuehrer is afraid that an agreement between the Russians and Anglo-Americans has been reached to the effect that the German troops up in the North are taken into a pincers by an Anglo-American landing at the northern coast of Norway and a simultaneous attack of the Russians from the East. Furthermore, the Fuehrer is afraid that the re-transfers by sea will be strongly harassed.

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Upon a proposal of the Naval Staff, the Commander in Chief, Navy ordered the transfer of one PT Boat Flotilla consisting of at least eight boats with an escort ship to the area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast.

In the relevant directive issued to the Commander, PT Boats, with copy to the Naval Command, Norway, the Naval Command, East, and the Fleet, the Naval Staff pointed out that the increase of the enemy activity in the Northern Area necessitated to speed-up as much as possible the ordered transfer. Copy of the teletype l/Skl I op 31522/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol II a.

The Naval Command, East and Naval Command, Norway have been informed on the relevant points in the assessment of the situation as given by the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters. Order l/Skl I Nord resp. I West 3310/44 Gkdos. Chfs. to be found in War Diary, Part B, Vol V.

b. The Naval Command, Norway reported:

"The Naval Command intends to transfer temporarily the 4th Destroyer Flotilla to the Tana Fjord (Smal Fjord) which is a favorable jumping-off place for operations against Russian naval forces showing up in the area of Varanger. The duration of the stay or re-transfer to the Alta Fjord, respectively, depends on the discretion of the Chief, Flotilla, just as the situation requires."

c. The last start from Salonika has been provided for the night of 24 Oct. The Group South turned in a request for evacuating 60 specialists by a courier echelon of the High Command, Navy.

d. The Commanding General, Armed Forces, West again turned in a request to the Armed Forces High Command to examine the possibility of supplying the fortresses in Western France by submarines. The question was brought into discussion at the Armed Forces High Command by the Commander in Chief, Navy personally. The Naval Staff informed the Group West that submarines are not taken anymore into consideration for this task, since

1. the mine situation off the fortresses is by no means controlled anymore and, therefore, an entering of these ports by submarines most probably is not at all possible,

2. for an efficient supply so many boats would be required, due to the long time necessary for one passage and the small capacity of a submarine, that the submarine warfare would practically be brought to a standstill.

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The Admiral, Small Battle Units suggested to hire Spanish seamen for the supply against high wages.

At first, it must be found out whether the required supply goods are available in Spain. The execution would be a matter of the Main Reich Security Office and the Naval Attache, respectively.

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III. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

The news about the operation at Formosa do not yield a clear picture yet. According to a report of the Admiral Nimitz, allegedly neither battleships nor aircraft-carriers were seriously damaged during the fights between USA-carriers and Japanese shore-based planes. Two war ships of medium size were damaged by aerial torpedoes and withdrawn. Altogether 161 Japanese planes were destroyed between 13 and 15 Oct. No encounter with Japanese naval forces had taken place at all. Against that, the Japanese assert that the U.S.A. had lost 60% of their fighting strength in the battle at Formosa. During the night of 15 Oct., one battleship and one aircraft-carrier were again seriously damaged by Japanese air forces. Against that, the Americans reported an attack on 17 Oct. by Superfortresses on the Japanese airfield of Einansho, near Toinan on Formosa, without having suffered any losses.

Admiral Horthy and his nearest of kin have been transferred to Germany.

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IV. Army Situation:

Western Front:

At the eastern front of the bridgehead at Breskens the enemy could gain penetrations at several points.

On the Walcheren Island, the west dike near Westkapelle was again hit by strong bomb attacks so that an increase of the flooding is to be expected there. The artillery had to occupy here many unfavorable dike positions.

The fight in the area of the Army Group B was again concentrated in the area of Aachen. Under the heaviest expenditure of material on both sides, the enemy succeeded in encircling the town on the 15th day of the battle.

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In the area of Diedenhofen the allocation of enemy forces is being continued.

Italian Front:

At the Ligurian coast our troops succeeded under fierce fighting in taking the place of Termignon, which was occupied by de Gaulle-troops, and in adding serious losses to the enemy.

At the Southern Front, the enemy continued his heavy attacks towards Bologna, Imola and Cesena.

Merely northeast of Monterenzio and south of Cesena the enemy could gain further ground.

Balkan:

The enemy is further advancing via Nis to the west and southwest in three strong march columns. All forces available on our side are supposed to be put into action against these enemy forces. Air transports are partly being carried out.

Our own forces advancing from Beograd have reached the area 5 km southeast of Beograd.

Eastern Front:

In the area of Debrecen, our troops have to defend enemy attacks from all sides. The supply has become difficult and must partly be accomplished by air. Single troop contingents have been encircled. Southeast of Debrecen the enemy is advancing in north-easterly direction and, with that, is threatening the communications and withdrawal movements of the 8th Army.

In the Carpathian Mountains, Hungarian units withdraw contrary to a German order.

At the Beskids Front, strong enemy attacks were beaten back, and a full defensive success was again gained.

The battle at the Narev River completely calmed down yesterday. Small local attacks were beaten back.

The great battle at the East Russian border is going on with undiminished fierceness and has been extended. The Soviets gained

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some deep penetrations and advanced up to the frontier, at some points up to East Prussian Territory. Virbalis got lost.

At the front of the Northern Army Group, the enemy pressure against the 18th Army was not so strong as the previous days. Our own counter-attacks made progress under fierce fighting, however, could not fully restore the situation so far.

West of Doblen, the enemy continued his attack on a narrow front with four to five rifle divisions and could push back our own line under serious losses up to one or two kilometers.

Several attacks made in a strength of a company or a battalion in the position at the Aa River in Courland were beaten back by rear guard troops.

On the Osel Island an attack against the isthmus of the Sworbe Peninsula was smashed.

The planned breakthrough of the Northern Army Group to Memel, which was supposed to start on 17 Oct., had to be postponed due to the great enemy offensive on East Prussia and on the Northern Army Group.

The Chief, Armed Forces High Command informed the Chief, Naval Staff on a decision of the Fuehrer to organize operative reserves in the West Area. A report based on maps has been made by the Army Liaison Officer. Teletype as per 1/Skl 3309/44 Gkdos. Chfs. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol IIb.

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V. The Admiral, Small Battle Units asked for the approval of an action with camouflaged armed fishing vessels in the Atlantic with crews from motor fishing vessels.

The Commander in Chief, Navy agreed.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. With regard to the importance of the Sworbe Peninsula for the naval warfare and in compliance with a relevant directive



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from the Commander in Chief, Navy (see WarDiary 17 Oct.), the Naval Staff wired as follows to the Naval Command, East, the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea, the Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff, the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, and to the Operations Staff (Navy), Armed Forces High Command:

"A repeated check on the situation yielded the following:

The possession of the Sworbe Peninsula is of great value for the naval warfare even under the present circumstances. After the evacuation of Riga, the importance of the Sworbe Peninsula on one hand has become insignificant for the protection of the sea route thereto, however, on the other hand the peninsula has won a new importance through the development of the situation in Courland which might still be increased essentially by a further possible development of the situation. It might be necessitated that the Northern Army Group has to be evacuated by sea. If one of the ports which are in question for this purpose (Libau, Windau) should become unserviceable, then the embarkation would necessarily have to be carried out at the open coast, under a west weather condition also at the east coast.

The defense of the Sworbe Peninsula is of great value as protection of the northern flank in an evacuation operation since the control of the Irben Narrows is very important. The abandonment of the Sworbe Peninsula would strongly limit our own movements in the Irben Narrows since the Russians could advance with their artillery up to the southern tip and probably would move their bases for war vessels still closer to our own coast, whereby it would become less difficult for them to harass the evacuation operations. With regard to the other importance of the Sworbe Peninsula for the naval warfare it is pointed at the assessment as per l/Skl I Nord 31177/44 Gkdos., dated 15 Oct. The Naval Staff is still of the opinion that the Sworbe Peninsula must further be defended. However, it is pointed at the fact that, in the case of a necessary evacuation of Courland by sea, the Navy will be fully engaged by these very extensive tasks and that naval forces and transport vessels will be available only in a small extent for the support or the evacuation of the Sworbe Peninsula. Therefore, a thinning-out of the occupational force on the Sworbe Peninsula would be advisable already now, as far as the forces required for the defense of the peninsula admit this."

b. After the completion of the operation of the 2nd Task Force off Memel on 14/15 Oct., the following radiogram from the Chief, Army General Staff arrived at the 2nd Task Force:

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"Appreciation in recognition of the excellent support in the successful defensive fight of Memel. Further on victorious operations."

c. On 17 Oct. the Coastal Defense Commander, Central discussed the question of the defense of Gdynia in a telephone conversation with the Chief, Naval Staff. The Chief, Naval Staff has suggested that the question be discussed with the Naval Command East and the competent Army Offices. After a discussion with the Commander, Fortifications in the Corps Area XX, the Coastal Defense Commander reported today that there were no final directives at hand with the Deputy General Command, XX. Army Corps on the fortification of Gdynia. The demand for starting the planning as turned in by the Coastal Defense Commander has been disapproved because of the lack of skilled workers.

However, the Coastal Defense Commander deems an immediate start to be urgently necessary so that the most important position can be completed before the frost period. Entrenching without the planning and supervision by specialists is being disapproved by the Coastal Defense Commander on account of the experience won in East Prussia and Memel.

The Army Corps is of the opinion that apparently the fortification of Gdynia should entirely be given up since there are no forces available anyway. The same opinion was stated at the time when Memel was concerned. The Coastal Defense Commander cannot think of it that, after a possible breakthrough of the Vistula Position, Gdynia should not be defended by all means.

d. The Fleet reported:

"The operations of naval forces consisting of two cruisers and five destroyers in the Skager Rak require the command by a Unit Commander who has been trained in the tactical command of operative units. Therefore, the following is requested:

1. A temporary appointment of the Commander, Destroyers as tactical commander of the fleet units operating in the area of the SkagerRak.

2. The transfer of the fleet tender F "1" with the Staff of the Commander, Destroyers to Aarhus, since the distance to Swinemuende is too large for the simultaneous accomplishment of the task of the Commander, Destroyers.

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3. The Commander, Minelayers be given the command over the minelayers in the Eastern Baltic Sea.

4. The Command over the fleet forces in the Skager Rak by the Commanding Admiral, Fleet at a later date is being reserved."

The Naval Staff replied:

"1. According to l/Skl I op 30160/44 Gkdos., dated 4 Oct., the regulation of the tactical operation is to be handled immediately by the Naval Command, East with the Fleet. The Naval Staff agrees on the proposal.

2. A decision will follow concerning the memorandum on the action of fleet forces in the area of the Skager Rak as submitted by the Fleet. In this memorandum, the fundamental regulation of the operational question has anew been set-up".

e. The Operations Staff, High Command, Air replied on 16 Oct. as follows to a request from the Naval Staff concerning the fighter escort for convoys proceeding from Oslo to Denmark:

"1. A fighter escort for the convoys from Oslo to Denmark would be efficient under the operation of strong forces, whereby a high consumption of fuel would arise. Under reference to the submitted assessment of the situation as per OKL der Chef des Genstb. Nr. 18227/44 Gkdos., dated 13 Oct., the assignment of the requested fighter escort must unfortunately be disapproved.

2. The Fighter Formation 102 which was named in the reference is at a fighter training center and, as far as the state of training and the technical equipment are concerned, not suitable for escorting convoys."

The Naval Command, East has been informed accordingly.

II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. The Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command has answered the suggestion of the Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff of 16 Oct. with the following advice concerning the operation of the ferry tonnage in the line of the Reich Highway No. 50:

"The Navy has been assigned with the supervision of the operation

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of shipping space for the troops transports of the "Nordlicht" movement by the order concerning the execution of the "Nordlicht" movement (Reference to 1.), paragraph 4. a.), and by the supplementary order (Reference to 2., paragraph 1.). This task includes the operation of the ferry tonnage at the ferry points of the Reich Highway No. 50. A Special Order, therefore, is not required."

b. The Naval Staff informed the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters and the Operations Staff (Navy), Armed Forces High Command on the strength and condition of the naval forces in the area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast. Copy of the teletype l/Skl. I op 31527/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol II a.

c. Besides that, the Armed Forces High Command was informed that all naval landing craft available in the Norwegian Area have been put into action in the Arctic Area for "Nordlicht." A deduction from there for use as ferries in the area of Trondheim (see War Diary 15 Oct., Special Items, II, b, cc) is not possible. Suggestion: Replacement of the ferries by recourse to the material of the Reich Commissioner of Maritime Shipping or of the Transport Fleet Speer, in cooperation with the Chief, Supply and Transport.

d. The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff has ordered the following:

"1. Transfers of commands and offices to other areas controlled by us in the line of the operation "Nordlicht" will be handled through the Naval Command, Norway, under reporting to the High Command, Navy.

2. Commands and offices becoming superfluous will be disbanded by command rulings of the Naval Command, Norway under reporting to the High Command, Navy. Principally, the assigned personnel will be at the disposal of the Naval Command, Norway, as far as in single cases officers and special duties personnel are not ordered back by Special Orders of the High Command, Navy.

3. Superfluous Staffs of Naval Shore Commanders will not be disbanded, but reported vacant to the High Command, Navy, as an operation might be taken into consideration in other areas. At the same time, a re-transfer to the Naval Command, East will be started.

e. The Naval Command, Norway reported the state of the evacuation of the batteries in the Northern Area as of 16 Oct.:

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"1. Area of Kirkenes:

- a. Six batteries lost by demolition, two of which were naval batteries (Sensenhauer and Petsamo);
- b. one army coastal battery and the remaining turret-parts of the Battery Petsamo lost by sinking;
- c. three batteries ready for embarkation, one of which is a naval battery (Jar Fjord);
- d. two batteries embarked, one of which a naval battery (Kirkenes).
- e. during the re-transfer, two army coastal batteries reached Hammerfest.
- f. one army coastal battery reached the new operational position at Tromsoe;
- g. the remaining ten batteries, two of which heavy naval batteries (Westersand, Kiberg), two medium-heavy naval batteries (Vadsoe, Tana), one light naval battery (Vardoe), have been designated for the covering of the withdrawal movements.

2. Area of Hammerfest:

seven batteries ready for embarkation, three of which are naval batteries (Store Korsues I and II, and Voldstrand)."

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III. Subject: Naval Command, North:

The Operations Staff, High Command, Air replied with regard to the fouling of the Wester Schelde with mines (see War Diary 17 Oct.):

"The examination of the possibility to use aerial torpedoes in the Wester Schelde yielded that, under the small width of the fairway and the large number of sand banks, the dropping of mines ashore must be put up with. Besides that, the tense fuel situation prohibits the action of bomber formations for the time being."

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IV. Subject: Southeastern Area:

a. The Group South wired:

"In case that there is a sufficient quantity of fuel available and the operation of the courier echelon of the High Command, Navy is possible for the evacuation of specialists etc. from Greece, it is requested to decide clearly that the Navy alone has the right to dispose of those planes, in order to exclude the seizure by the local Army Command Post."

The Naval Staff answered as follows:

"Three planes of the type "Ju52" will start from Wiener Neustadt on 19 Oct. The exclusive right to dispose of these planes will be in the hands of the Naval Group South. Attempts of other parts of the Armed Forces to lay hold of them are to be rejected under reference to the operational directive of the Admiral of the Fleet.

As far as possible, this teletype should be made known to the pilots of the planes in a certified copy."

b. The Naval Staff issued the following directive to the Group South and the German Naval Command, Italy, with copy to the Admiral, Adriatic and the Commanding Admiral, Aegean:

"1. For the planned re-transfer of German hospital ships from the Mediterranean Sea to Norway and the Baltic Sea, respectively, the courses through the Aegean, Adriatic and Mediterranean Sea will be submitted to this headquarters, in consideration of the new blocked areas.

2. For the Admiral, Adriatic, and the Commanding Admiral, Aegean only: Effective immediately, the movements and positions of the hospital ships will be entered in the daily situation reports."

The suggestion of the Admiral, Adriatic, that the cipher material should not be handed out to the hospital ship GRADISCA, was confirmed. For particular cases it will be necessary to use code names.

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V. The Chief, Armed Forces High Command has issued a directive concerning the treatment of members of the Finnish Armed Forces. Copy as per 1/Skl 31535/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol III. The Quartermaster Division will further deal with the matter.

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VI. The assessment of the situation by the Operations Division, Naval Staff has been distributed as usually with the order 1/Skl 31572. The order to be found in War Diary, Part B, Vol V.

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Situation 18 Oct. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty-three planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, eleven planes at the 19th Group. Six British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

At 0840, one destroyer and two Channel ferry ships were sighted north of Dunkirk on east course.

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2. Own Situation:

The following Naval Units have newly been organized in St. Nazaire: Detachment Josephi, 311 men, Detachment Leptien, 300 men, Detachment Wuerfel, 269 men, Detachment Gaber, 201 men, Detachment Hackert, 227 men, Detachment Penserot with parts of the Light Naval Artillery, Detachment 686, 410 men.

Besides that, the following batteries: Strasser 89 men, Pickhaus 64 men, "HA 3" 76 men, furthermore five boat-companies and the 10th Minesweeper Flotilla with 323 men, the infantry platoon Kroll with 46 men, and the infantry platoon Flatau with 22 men.

Local fighting activity was reported from the encircled fortresses. No particular incidents.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

A. Bay of Heligoland:

No particular incidents.

B. Dutch Coast:

During the night of 17 Oct., no ship movements were carried out due to weather reasons.

At noon, four enemy fighters were fired on by the Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery Detachment of Den Helder. One plane was probably shot down.

The shipyard of Amsterdam Drogdock Mij has resumed work with two thirds of the workers.

The batteries of Breskens, Nieuwe Sluis, Cadzand and Hamilton were lying under enemy artillery fire and air raids. The batteries of Flushing-South and Breskens have been adjusted for close defense.

The flooded areas at Veere and Westkapelle, west of Flushing, with the exception of one narrow strip each, are connected with each other. One partly flooded road each is still leading from Middelburg via Grijpskerke to the north and west of Walcheren Island, the breakdown of which for the use by motor vehicles must be expected within short. Up to 17 Oct., a connection existed between Westkapelle and Zoutelande, furthermore between Flushing and Middelburg via the channel dike, and between Middelburg and Veere on the road east of the channel. The battery of Flushing-North is surrounded by a high wall and connected with the channel dike by a bridge 2 meters high. Despite the building of a wall, it must be reckoned with giving-up the medical bunker because of the intake of subsoil water. The transmitter of Middelburg is endangered. The broken point west of Flushing is continuously growing wider in direction to the Battery Flushing-West. With the exception of one battalion and two fortress reserve companies, the army troops have been withdrawn from the defensive area. The effect of the latest flood and the new bombardment of the dike at Westkapelle has not become known yet.

It is to be feared that the positions will not be held anymore for a long time.

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Norway/Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Forty-eight planes were detected during action in the area of the 18th Group. A British vessel was located 120 nautical miles west-northwest of Mosjoen at 1722, and another enemy vessel in 230° off Obrestad at 0336; the latter was probably a submarine.

The convoy that had been located by air reconnaissance at 0300 on 17 Oct. in the grid square AB 5792 was not detected again. A group of carriers was anew located in the grid square AB 9619 at 2205 on 17 Oct.

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2. Own Situation:

Area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast:

The armed fishing vessel VP "6704" was blown-up on 15 Oct. since she was not fit to be transferred. The patrol vessel V "6107" that sank on 17 Oct. east of Vadsoe after an air raid belonged to the escort of one of our own convoys to Kirkenes.

On 16 Oct., 84 sorties with 125 planes were reported into the area of Vardoe and four sorties with 50 planes into the area of Kirkenes. On 18 Oct., the convoy traffic between Bodoe and Hammerfest was blocked from 0735 up to dusk.

The TIRPITZ reported sorties of small groups of carrier-borne planes in a strength up to seven craft without making attacks toward 1300.

According to the situation report of the Admiral, Arctic Coast, the enemy did not cross the Finnish-Norwegian frontier until 17 Oct.

Area of the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast:

In the afternoon, 35 enemy planes were reported without making attacks in the area of Lister.

On the afternoon of 17 Oct., the quarters of the 2nd Naval Communications Unit in Oslo exploded, probably during the self-destruction of stored explosives ammunition. Serious casualties and material damage were caused.

Twenty-one ships were escorted to the North, 36 ships to the South.

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III. Skager Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

Particular reports are not at hand.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral, Skager Rak:

Thirteen boats were put into action for mineclearance works in the Baltic Sea Entrances, three boats at the coast of West Jutland. One mine was cleared near Anholt. The patrol positions off the coast of West Jutland were occupied as planned.

The steamer BRAUNAU that had run on a mine in the northern exit of the Sound is being towed to Helsingoer.

During the air raid on the convoy of the tanker INGE JOHANNA on 15 Oct., the cargo of 1900 cbm of gasoline burned out after the ship had beached. Serious casualties were caused.

Shortly after midnight in the night of 18 Oct., the transport echelon proceeding from Frederikshavn to Frederiksstad was attacked by single Mosquito planes with bombs.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

Sixty boats were put into action for mineclearance works. Two mines were cleared in the Bay of Kiel, one mine near Rixhoeft.

The LEIPZIG docked in Gdynia at noon of 17 Oct. A report of the cruisers concerning the damage, as per 1/Skl 31538/44 Gkdos., to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

On the afternoon of 17 Oct., an enemy air raid was made on Zerel (Sworbe Peninsula). The guardship WS "30" was hit by a bomb and sank, while the searchlight of the signal station broke down through the action of aircraft armament.

In the land battle in the area of Memel, parts of the 21st Naval

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Replacement Detachment and one company of the 24th Submarine Flotilla have been put into action at the main defense line, and one combined operations platoon and the coastal auxiliary guard on the Nehrung.

The steamer SCHIFFBECK, among other transports, has transferred approximately 200 trucks and passenger cars as well as 600 Political Leaders from Libau to Pillau. Further reports on transports and convoys are not at hand.

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IV. Submarine Warfare:

In the Atlantic, the submarine U "1004" sank a destroyer of the H-type out of a searching group on 17 Oct. in the grid square AN 1316 while on her return passage.

In the Northern Waters, 17 submarines are cruising in the reconnaissance line east of the Bear Island for attacking the reported convoy. The Commander, Submarines, Norway does not intend to move the boats further to the east, but to put them into a new waiting position to the west, since the reports on the convoy seem to be uncertain.

Two submarines that had put to sea from Narvik on the morning of 18 Oct. have been put into action against the carrier unit cruising close to the coast.

The submarine U "365" reported to have carried out the weather task "Spitzbergen" and to have joined subsequently the group "Panther".

In the Gulf of Finland, the submarine U "1165" sighted at 1853 seven motor minesweepers on west course, ten nautical miles north of Packerort.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

A vivid enemy activity of fighters and fighter bombers prevailed during the day in the battle area of Holland. No report is at hand on the action of our own air forces.

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Reich Territory:

About 950 bombers carried out raids on the areas of Cologne and Kassel in the forenoon. A heavy raid was made on Kassel towards 1100. Communications were attacked in the area of Cologne-Dusseldorf. For details see the "Situation of the Day."

Besides that, 350 to 400 fighter bombers and fighters were active with bomb dropping in the West German Area. The attacks were concentrated in the area of Muenster - Cologne -Frankfurt/Main.

During the night of 18 Oct., 15 to 20 Mosquito bombers raided Mannheim, 60 Mosquito bombers, Hannover, and 70 fast bombers, the area of Wiesbaden - Duisburg.

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Mediterranean Theater:

Particular operations have not been reported.

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Eastern Front:

At the Eastern Front, 621 own and 1760 enemy sorties were reported on 17 Oct.; twelve of our own planes got lost, while 66 enemy planes were shot down.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

On the evening of 17 Oct., seven transports, three freighters and 8 escort vessels passed the Strait of Gibraltar in easterly direction. On the afternoon of 18 Oct., one transport, 56 freighters, four tankers and four escort vessels were reported in the Strait of Gibraltar without giving the course.

The usual activity of patrol vessels was detected during day and night off the Riviera Coast.

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Own Situation:

During the night of 16 Oct., a group of boats that had been detected by radar in the Bay of Rapallo was taken under fire by a naval battery. The Small Battle Units Flotilla 213 has arrived at San Remo with 48 Linse Torpedoes. It has been planned to put these forces into a joint action with the 1st Assault Boat Flotilla depending on the enemy situation. The Small Battle Units Flotilla 364 is moving with 30 Marder Torpedoes from Padua to Savona.

2. Area of the Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

At 1625 on 16 Oct., the air reconnaissance detected one gun-boat south of Lagosta. Hits were observed in an attack with aircraft armament.

During the night of 15 Oct., four boats of the 3rd PT boat Flotilla screening a northbound convoy in the area of Sibenik reported no encounter with the enemy. Two torpedoes were fired on the port mole of the Muna Bay (Zuri Island). No success would be observed.

During the night of 17 Oct., three PT boats made again an unsuccessful push from Pola into the sea area of Ancona and entered subsequently Sibenik. A repetition of the operation with three further PT boats from Pola has been provided for the night of 18 Oct.

According to a statement of surviving crew members, two enemy motor torpedo boats and two gunboats were sunk by battle ferries in the sea battle near Puntadura Island during the night of 11 Oct. So far only the sinking of one of these vessels was known.

The hospital ship BONN was unsuccessfully fired on from the northern tip of the Isto Island with light artillery and 2 cm-guns.

Cruda is occupied by partisans. The traffic between Ragusa and Cattaro is only possible by sea yet. The Naval Rifle Battalion of Ragusa has been put into action for mopping-up the road from Ragusa to Metkovic.

During the night of 16 Oct. the island of Zirona, and on 17 Oct. Cavtat were evacuated as planned. The batteries of Cavtat and Lacroma directed a fire for effect against partisans in the

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mountain-front until 17 Oct. The battery of Cavtat was destroyed subsequently. Furthermore, the Naval battery of Treportri was destroyed on 14 Oct.

The hospital ship TUEBINGEN put to sea on 17 Oct. from Trieste for Salonika. The hospital ship GRADISCA is to follow on 19 Oct.

The Group South reported that the operation "Cavour" would not be carried out, especially because of the insufficiency in the ammunition situation.

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b. Aegean Sea:

In the forenoon, a carrier unit was sighted from Cassandra Huk withdrawing to the southeast. The unit was on 17 Oct. in the Northern Aegean Sea. The enemy forces are concentrated in the Gulf of Athens. According to our own air reconnaissance which, however, is incomplete, the Northern Aegean Sea apparently was free from enemy forces during the day. On the sea area of Piraeus more than 80 vessels were detected, among which one old Greek armored ship, four cruisers, nine destroyers, a number of combat car transports and landing boats, as well as one troop transport and three freighters. Besides that, mineclearing works and unloading on the roads were observed. The photograph reconnaissance showed a successful demolition of the port facilities of Piraeus.

On 17 Oct., a strong activity of fighter bombers was reported in the area of Volos. Two of our Do 24 - planes were shot down during a transport flight with wounded to Salonika.

On 18 Oct., a convoy of submarine chasers was attacked by eight enemy planes in five low-flying approaches in the Gulf of Salonika. The attacks were defended by anti-aircraft artillery fire.

The evacuation of Volos has been planned for the night of 18 Oct. The remaining coastal vessels and the ready to move auxiliary sailing vessels have put to sea for Salonika on 18 Oct. Two motor minesweepers and the torpedo boat TA "18" have been sent as escort vessels.

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c. Situation in the Danube Area:

No reports have been received.

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VII. Situation in East Asia:

In the brief reports concerning the "Enemy Situation No. 9/44", the Enemy Situation Branch, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff informed on the operations of the British Fleet in the Far East, on account of a speech by the former Commander in Chief of this unit in the British Broadcast Corporation on 28 Sept. 1944. Copy as per 1/Skl 38349/44 geh. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol XV.

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Items of Political Importance.

In the American Press, the concern about the arbitrary attitude of Stalin is obviously increasing. One newspaper demands to point Stalin at the fact that he were interpreting the Teheran Agreement more in his own way. Churchill and Roosevelt were living for two months in a continuous concern that Stalin would do what pleased him. It would not be strange if one is afraid in London that the negotiations at Moscow that are going on at present on a solution of the Polish Question would not be led to a result.

Radio Moscow has stated that Finland meets only partly her undertaking to surrender the German and Hungarian war materiel, and that the most important undertaking of disarming the German troops in Finland is fulfilled only unsatisfactorily.

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Following an invitation from Dr. Goebbels, the Commander in Chief, Navy will speak to leading personages of the State and Party.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1115:

I. Chief of Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

a. The Fortification Commander, Dunkirk has turned in a request to the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West, with copy to the Group West and Naval Command, North to check once more on the supply question after the operation of PT boats, ferry barges and submarines has definitively been disapproved and the operation of sea-planes has been refused. The requisitioned freight-carrying gliders allegedly are not available. The port has been left in its former condition, so that an entering is still possible up to a certain extent. Therefore, the Fortification Commander asks to examine the operation of sea-plane types which surface at sea and enter subsequently, or unload at the strand if necessary.

An inquiry of the Operations Division, Naval Staff with the Operations Staff, High Command, Air yielded that freight-carrying gliders actually are available. However, the Chief of the General Staff had to disapprove the operation due to tactical reasons, since neither the tow planes nor the gliders would be able to hold themselves in the aerial area controlled by the enemy. The Operations Staff of the Air Force sees the only supply possibility in dropping.



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b. The Group South reported that the German Commanding General in Hungary has ordered the withdrawal of German crews from the Hungarian River Forces. Under these circumstances, the proposal made by the Group for taking over the vessels by German commands is revoked. For the time being, it is attempted to put the Hungarian River Forces into action from the joint warfare by the mediation of the Naval Liaison Officer, Budapest, since an attachment of the Hungarian ships to the Danube Flotilla seems to be impracticable out of regard for the difference in rank and also for political reasons.

II. Quartermaster General:

a. Staatsrat Schieber declared in a discussion of armament problems that the difficulties in the communications system in the West would cause noticeable indications of deficiency within about 14 days. The shipbuilding program, too, would be endangered then. The output of naval landing craft would have to be cut down from 61 up to twelve per month. Only ten minesweepers could be built instead of 20, and that just in the case that certain prerequisites would be met.

b. The Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway has declared Christiansand South a Fortress. According to the executive order, the post of the Fortification Commander is to be occupied by the Navy.

c. The Quartermaster General deems the organization of a Naval Brigade in Italy as requested by the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southwest to be inexpedient. As he said, the cadre personnel of the Army were worthless and would finally have to be replaced by naval personnel. In case that the Brigade is organized, the Navy would be responsible for the entire equipment and would also take over a task without an inner contact to the Navy. The Chief, Naval Staff deems it necessary that the Naval Personnel is concentrated in closed formations. If a Brigade Unit is considered to be inexpedient, then a detachment or regiment must be organized. A relevant proposal is to be submitted to the Commander in Chief, Navy.

d. For the reinforcement of the anti-aircraft artillery of Gdynia, four 12.8 cm-batteries, double-mounted, with six barrels, as well as two 10.5 cm-batteries which will be attached to the so far existing batteries have newly been taken into consideration. As a matter of fact, the 12.8 cm-batteries are provided for Kiel and Wilhelmshaven in exchange against 10.5 cm-batteries.

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However, the establishment of these batteries requires the organization of a new anti-aircraft artillery detachment. It is difficult for the Bureau of Naval Administration to procure the personnel for this purpose since the assignments to the Army make themselves strongly felt.

In a restricted circle:

III. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

According to official reports of the enemy, 150 vessels of the Allied Fleet participated in the landing operations in the port of Piraeus; among them, there were Canadian, South African, Greek, French, and Polish war ships. The port of Patras has been opened again for the Allied Shipping.

According to an official report of the enemy, the shipping in the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal allegedly has been brought to a standstill for at least three months by the destruction of a railway bridge in an air raid. According to a statement of the Canadian Navy, the activity of German submarines in the Atlantic has increased.

The plans of the Allies for the inauguration of a Military Legislation in the occupied German Territories is being announced from the Headquarters of General Eisenhower.

Atlee reported in the House of Commons that the casualties of the Empire Troops participating in the Invasion run up to 103842 men from the beginning of the Invasion up to the end of August. Among these casualties, there were 20795 dead, 19854 missed and 63193 wounded.

IV. Chief of Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

a. A radio message, that was also read here, transmitted from the Fortification Commander, Dunkirk to the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West on the evening of 18 Oct. reads as follows:

"I have attempted by all means to raise the moral of the troops which has been depressed by the withdrawal movements, the general situation, the fall of the fortresses of Boulogne and Calais, and by the clever enemy propaganda. More or less I have been successful, on one hand by the only one supply by PT boats and the supply

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by air (the latter, unfortunately has increasingly become smaller lately), on the other hand especially by announcing an early change in the war by the action of new weapons and by appealing most forcibly to a faithful trust in the Supreme Command and National Socialism.

Motto: If the fortress does not surrender, freedom will be near and the supplies will be secured. As the troops have become sceptical due to the events of the last years, obvious proofs are necessary for my propaganda. Therefore, I had asked for one or two rounds of "V 2" weapons on the enemy positions in order to demonstrate the soldiers a wonder to some extent. Furthermore, the eagerness for combat can be raised only if the soldiers are shown by a bold supply operation similar to numerous examples in history that they have not been given up, and if they practically learn of the effect of modern German weapons. Therefore, I ask additionally once more for the requested examination of the question to bombard at least once the enemy positions on demand."

b. The Naval Command, Norway reported an order issued to the 4th Destroyer Flotilla to move as soon as possible, and as imperceptibly as possible during night to the Smal Fjord (Tana Fjord), in agreement with the Admiral, Arctic Coast. The intention is to be reported 24 hours in advance, the putting to sea by the catchword "Eisbaer."

Task:

Operation against an equally strong or a minor enemy in attacks on our own convoy traffic, as well as against landing actions and surprise raids depending on the discretion of the Chief, Flotilla on account of the local situation. The intention for the operation is to be reported by the catchword "Wetterleuchten." The flotilla will stay some days in the Smal Fjord, depending on the situation met (weather and aerial situation). The re-transfer to the Alta Fjord will be made upon the decision of the Chief, Flotilla or by order of the Naval Command.

The Admiral, Arctic Coast and the Naval Shore Commander, Kirkenes will secure a speedy and continuous transmittal of enemy news.

Copy of a relevant radio message as per l/Skl 3320 Chefs. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol IIa.

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c. According to a telephone information from the Group South, the request of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southeast for the demolition of seven coastal batteries in Dalmatia has been approved by the Armed Forces High Command. An information received later on by the Naval Staff contained a fundamental approval according to which it remained to be examined before the execution whether it would not be more advisable to transfer these batteries out of psychological reasons to the Croatian Units remaining in the coastal area, as far as they would not be of advantage to enemy forces in the case of a landing operation.

V. The Chief, Naval Staff brings the following question into discussion: What will happen if war arises with Sweden? The problem is being dealt with by the Operations Division, Naval Staff and the Admiral on special duty simultaneously.

VI. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The enemy pressure at the eastern and southeastern front of the Bridgehead of Breskens is being continued. Due to the increasing flooding of the Walcheren Island, a re-organization of parts of our own forces which are positioned there has been started to the peninsula of South Beverland.

Strong enemy forces are being gathered in the area between the Waal and Meuse Rivers in order to start the expected push to the Southeast.

In the northern part of the Meuse Bridgehead, the heavy fights were going on also on 18 Oct. In connection with the assumed enemy advance movement for gaining the area left of the Rhine River, it must here be reckoned with the possibility that the enemy will attempt to eliminate the entire German Meuse Bridgehead.

In the battle area of Aachen, the attack of the I SS-Tank Corps met a fierce resistance. We succeeded by heavy fights in taking possession of the decisive group of pillboxes on the Havel Hill. At the outskirts of Aachen, the battle is going on with undecreased fierceness.

In the Western Vosges Mountains, the changing fights are going on. Bruyeres got lost.

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Italian Front:

South of Bologna and towards Cesena, the enemy continued his attacks with undecreased fierceness.

A new concentration of enemy forces is being supposed at the road from Florence to Forli. It has to be put up with the fact that heavy fights are imminent here.

Balkan:

No new reports are at hand.

Eastern Front:

Strong enemy movements in the Area of Szegedin yet expect an early attack at this front.

In the battle of Debrecen, the 6th Army was engaged in heavy defensive fights. On both sides of the town, the enemy is advancing on a wide front to the north in order to cut off the rear communications of the 8th German Army in Transylvania. Due to the lack of sufficient infantry forces and due to the large number of casualties the formation of a closed battle front is not possible anymore. The situation is to be considered as very serious.

Due to the thoughtless withdrawal of Hungarian units, the Soviets gained several deep penetrations in Transylvania which cannot be cleared again because of the lack of sufficient forces.

At the front of the Beskids Mountains, the exemplarily fighting German troops once more gained a defensive success.

While the battle interruption in the Vistula - Narev Area continued, the battle at the East Prussian Frontier against an enemy who was superior as to the number and ten-fold as to the material went on with undiminished fierces. The fighting strength of our own forces was strongly reduced through the most powerful artillery of the enemy and the continuous action of the enemy air forces, so that our lines were again penetrated at several points and our units were withdrawn to the west on East Prussian territory. Eydtkuhnen got lost. North of Eydtkuhnen, a tank battle of six hours duration took place. On 16 and 17 Oct., alone 220 tanks were knocked out.

Off the front of the Northern Army Group, the enemy did not continue his major attack, but restricted his attacks to the strength of a regiment.

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A vivid fighting activity and rear-guard actions were reported from the front west of Riga.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. According to a report from the Naval Command, East, the SCHEER requires a twelve-hours-readiness for four days for exchanging the pressure liquid at the hydraulics. The works have been started on noon of 18 Oct.

b. The Naval Command, East requests that the Group "Buschmann" consisting of AR 95 - planes and being at present in Pillau be put into action for the submarine escort of the 2nd Task Force. The Naval Staff learns from the Chief, General Staff, German Air Force that this group will be disbanded as it is manned for the most part by absolutely unreliable Latvian personnel having partly deserted to the enemy. A new echelon will be organized with the planes.

c. The development of the situation in the Baltic Countries may necessitate a re-organization in the area of the Baltic Sea.

The Quartermaster General suggests the following possibilities:

Solution a.

The coasts of East and West Prussia will come to the area of the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea. The Naval Shore Commanders, East and West Prussia will be newly appointed. The coast from Zarnowitz to Flensburg will be combined under the new Admiral, Western Baltic Sea. If the occasion arises, Mecklenburg and Schleswig-Holstein East will be subordinated to the Naval Shore Commanders, East Pomerania and West Pomerania.

The 9th Defense Flotilla will remain subordinated to the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea, while the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Baltic would be subordinated to the Admiral, Western Baltic Sea.

Solution b.

The area of the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea will be extended as under a. The area of the Coastal Defense Commander,

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Central will be limited by the border of the Corps Area east of Travemuende. The Bay of Luebeck will be subordinated to the Coastal Defense Commander, West, while the remaining area will be attached to the Coastal Defense Commander, West. The Office of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses Baltic will immediately be subordinated to the Naval Command, East, under a re-organization into the 10th Defense Division. The opinion of the Naval Command, East has been requested for.

II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. The Commander, Naval Command, Norway received the following teletype from the Chief, Naval Staff:

"The withdrawal of the XX Mountain Army Command to the West has caused a strong pressure of the Russians. It might be possible that, in connection with that, a British pressure will be started from the west against Northern Norway. There are no indications for any political agreements among the Allies, however, it is possible that concessions were made to the Russians in the Arctic area of Norway. On the other hand, it is also possible that the British come into action in order to gain an advance towards the Russians in Northern Norway. Anyway, the area of the Lofoten Islands and Narvik is being endangered, all the more as this area is in the back of the planned position in the Lyngen Fjord. According to these circumstances, the transmittal of the considerations taken by the Commander, Naval Command, Norway is requested by teletype for the dislocation of PT boats and small battle weapons to be assigned there. Which auxiliary berths may be given consideration with regard to the danger from the air? Which further defensive measures and means are being deemed appropriate? It requested not to turn in demands for the reinforcement of our own air forces as it is impossible at present. Requisitions are continuously being turned in from here.

b. In connection with the transfer of a PT boat Flotilla to Norway, the Naval Staff informed the Unit Commander, PT Boats, with copy to the Naval Command, Norway and the Commanding Admiral, Fleet on the situation in the Arctic Area as follows:

1. The withdrawal of the Arctic Front to the new position at the Lyngen Fjord has been started in the beginning of October. The movement which will take quite a long time is taking place in the main on the Reich Highway No. 50, and partly by sea transport.

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2. Recently, the Russian activity at the Arctic Front has strongly increased and Anglo-American carrier units have frequently shown up in the Northern Area. It is possible that the enemies under a joint plan intend to cut off the withdrawing army by a close pursuit of the Russians from the east and a simultaneous attack of the Anglo-Americans against the Arctic Area from the west or northwest.

3. The transfer of one PT boat Flotilla is being carried out for the general increase of the defensive power in the Arctic Area. The operational areas and jumping-off places depend on the development of the situation. Further directions for the flotilla will be issued by the Naval Command, Norway or the Admiral, Arctic Coast, respectively.

4. The above information is designated only for the Unit Commander, PT Boats and the Chief of the Flotilla that is to be transferred.

c. The 1st Task Force will be disbanded as of 20 Oct. by order of the Quartermaster General, Naval Staff. The TIRPITZ is subordinated to the Admiral, Arctic Coast as to the operations, and to the Fleet as to discipline and supplies; the 4th Destroyer Flotilla is subordinated to the Naval Command, Norway as to the operations, and to the Commander, Destroyers as to discipline and supplies.

d. The Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway reported the following measures for the limitation of losses in fuel to the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command:

1. The Senior Field Economics Officer, Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway has been issued an order that in principal the decision of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway is to be asked for as to the manner of carrying out fuel transports.

2. As far as possible, only small tankers up to a capacity of 600 cbm are to be used for fuel transports in that area. If the use of larger tankers is necessary, due to the lack of small tanker tonnage, then these should be filled only up to 600 cbm.

3. In all cases where the use of the railway is possible for fuel transports, this facility is to be taken advantage of. It must be put up with a repeated reloading, mainly in order to avoid the particularly endangered west coast of Norway.



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4. The transport offices have been advised to carry out fuel transports on ships only during night, or under weather conditions which are unfavorable for the enemy.

5. All orders and information by telephone are prohibited in order to keep secret the fuel transports and mainly the departure of tankers.

6. If there is guaranteed a sufficient protection by the Navy and Air Force, movements of tankers may be carried out.

7. Period delays resulting from the above measures must be put up with, as far as no other decisions are made from case to case by the Armed Forces High Command.

e. The Chief, Naval Staff has informed the Admiral, Fuehrer, Headquarters that Rear-Admiral Brinkmann and Captain Zimmer have been assigned on temporary duty with the 20th Mountain Army Command by order of the Commander in Chief, Navy. The Naval Liaison Officer, Lieutenant Commander Grasshoff, having been assigned so far to the 20th Mountain Army Command will be left there additionally. On account of the experiences made so far in the Black Sea and West Area, an extension of the Liaison Staff by an experienced Flag and Staff Officer is required because of the coming tasks in the warfare at land and at sea in the Arctic Area which will be closely connected and difficult. The following designation is suggested for the office; Admiral, 20th Mountain Army Command.

The Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters is requested to bring about an agreement with the Armed Forces High Command. The Officer Personnel Division and the Quartermaster General are informed, and requested for a further dealing with the matter on mutual agreement.

III. Subject: Area of the Naval Command, North:

The Naval Staff agreed upon the proposed utilization of the armed fishing vessels belonging to the 18th Patrol Flotilla.

IV. Subject: West Area:

Supplementing previously issued directives, the Armed Forces High Command has ordered that, in the case of air-borne landings and for the mobilization preparations which are to be made in such case, in agreement with the Reichsfuehrer SS, all forces available

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of the police and military police, of the Reich Labor Service and Todt Organization, of the Railway and Post Guard, as well as of the Home Guard, also east of the Rhine, are subordinated to the Corps Area Commands. All offices concerned have to submit on request the information necessary for the preparation to the Corps Area Headquarters, giving data on the strength, the organization, the present operation, etc.

V. Subject: Southeastern Area:

a. The Naval Staff asks the Admiral, Adriatic for information as to which data have been at hand for the action of the PT boats during the last nights in the sea area of Ancona.

b. As the anti-torpedo batteries Kobilja and Kabala have no steadiness against air raids, and the number of personnel for a safe protection against partisans and landing troops as well as for the gun crews bears no proportion to the tactical value and combat value, the Naval Staff, the Group South and the Admiral, Adriatic suggest that the Batteries be dismounted and, if possible, be transferred to the area of Istria and put into action there.

c. The Group South informs the Naval Staff by a copy of a directive issued to the Admiral, Adriatic and Commanding Admiral, Aegean:

"The Armed Forces High Command has fundamentally agreed to the proposal of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southeast concerning the abandonment of the bases at the Adriatic Coast. The local Army Command Posts (Army Corps) will decide in detail. Therefore, the Navy will be bound to their orders. This will result in different measures within the different areas, as for example the Army Group F has ordered the 2nd Tank Army Command, in view of the development of the situation in Macedonia, to alter the started withdrawal movements from the Adriatic Coast on the left army wing towards the sofar existing plans in a way that the roads which are necessary for the withdrawal of the Army Group E in the western area remain under German control."

d. The Group South went on to report:

1. The Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southeast has ordered on 16 Oct.:

The movement of persons belonging to all parts of the Armed Forces,

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Staffs and Personnel Units etc. which has been ordered to be carried out on a land march to the North has to be abandoned on account of the present situation. The number of transport planes available is exclusively at the disposal of the combat troops. Consequently, the Commanding General Army Group E has been authorized to put into action at his own discretion all parts designated for the removal, the transport of which is not accomplishable at present, and ordered to transfer them at a later date to the Croatian Area in the scope of the ordered operations.

2. The Naval Liaison Officer, Army Group D wired on 18 Oct.

At first, the withdrawal roads to the North must be cleared from enemy forces; the action of every suitable soldier is required for this purpose. It is not possible anymore to except submarine personnel and members of the Naval Special Operations Unit 20. Subsequently, the Group South proposed to evacuate all officers and the most urgently required specialists with Navy owned planes depending on the requisition from the Commanding Admiral, Aegean.

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Situation on 19 Oct. 1944

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

Twenty-five planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, twenty planes at the 19th Group. Four British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

Our own air reconnaissance detected by photograph on 18 Oct. the following vessels in Ostende: Nine motor torpedo boats, five tank transports, three large landing boats and 24 auxiliary landing boats.

Own Situation:

Only local fighting activity was reported from the encircled fortresses. No particular incidents were reported otherwise.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

Bay of Heligoland:

One mine each was cleared on the Weser River and off the Elbe River. Twelve enemy planes, apparently convoy searchers, were detected during the forenoon in low flight on the shipping route up to Wangerooge Island. The planes were fired on from Bor-kum and Wangerooge Island.

Area of Holland:

The flooding of the Walcheren Island is still increasing.

Inside the wall of the Battery Flushing-North, the ground water level has risen up to a height of 60 cm. The bomb craters in the dike are further being torn open.

The Battery Nieuwe Sluis and the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battery Flushing-South were put into action against land targets. All our own batteries, coastal roads and the port of Breskens were lying under enemy gun fire and attacks of fighter bombers. The order from the 70th Infantry Division for the demolition of Breskens and Flushing is being expected. No ship movements took place due to the stormy weather condition.

Norway/Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Thirty-five planes were detected during action in the area of the 18th Group. At 0915, a PQ-Convoy was detected by a submarine in the grid square AC 1548 on northeast course, at a speed of 10 Knots. Shadowing was maintained until 1445 in the grid square AC 1555, and was lost afterwards.

At 0915, our own air reconnaissance detected by gear a unit of five war vessels in the grid square AF 1643, among which one aircraft carrier. At 1030, the unit was reported with one aircraft carrier on course 200° at a speed of 15 knots in the grid square AF 5131.

Own Situation:

Area of the Arctic Coast:

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On the noon of 18 Oct., twelve carrier-borne planes entered the area of Tromsø. The berth of the TIRPITZ was reconnoitred. Towards the evening of the same day, enemy activity was reported off the Kobholm Bay (Jacobselv), which was believed to be a landing operation.

On 18 Oct., the enemy crossed the North Norwegian Border with reconnaissance forces.

According to a report of the seriously wounded Port Commander of Liinahamari, the demolition of the port has been carried out. An alarm minefield has been laid at Trifona. The ships and boats that lay in the harbor were blown-up or destroyed, respectively.

Area of the Admiral, North Norwegian Coast:

At 2145, on 18 Oct., the troop transport LEVANTE (4769 BRT) caught fire in the port of Mosjoen. The cause has not been found out yet; the fire has partly been extinguished.

The convoy traffic between Bodø and Aalesund has been blocked from the first light until noon due to the threat of carriers.

The blocking of the shipping routes Buholm - Rasa - Grundenne has been lifted.

The route through the Ramsoey Sound remains blocked.

Area of the West Norwegian Coast:

At 2323, on 18 Oct., the steamer WALTER (1538 BRT) sank in the Feiestein Passage.

Fifteen ships were escorted to the North, 33 ships to the South.

III. Skagerak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

No new observations were made.

Own Situation:

Admiral, Skagerak:

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Twenty-four boats have been put into action for mineclearance works. Two mines were cleared in the northern exit of the Sound, one mine each near Anholt and in the Samsøe Belt. The patrol positions off the coast of West Jutland have been occupied as planned.

At 2125, a transport detachment proceeding from Oslo to Aarhus was attacked by enemy planes with bombs northeast of Laesøe. No damage was reported.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

Forty-six boats were put into action on mineclearance duty. The Kaiser Wilhelm Canal cannot be passed by vessels of more than 4000 BRT. The guard ship ARKONA reported at 1025 two Swedish planes approaching on a large distance from the Southeast.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

The battle activity on the Sworbe Peninsula is increasing.

At 1000, four PT boats put to sea from Windau to the east coast of the Osel Island for searching after stragglers. The Sworbe Peninsula has been protected by PT boats, armed fishing vessels and boats of the 24th Special Duties Flotilla against the expected landing attempt.

According to inaccurate bearings, an enemy submarine was believed to be in the southern part of the Gulf of Riga in the forenoon. Escorts and transports were carried out as planned.

From 15 Oct. to 17 Oct., 500 men, 14 vehicles, 135 tons of ammunition and 22 tons of fodder were transported via the Haff to Memel. The following allocations were made: 515 tons for the Northern Army Group, 477 tons and 17 guns to Memel, and 22 guns to Libau.

IV. Submarine Warfare:

In the Northern Waters, a convoy and a carrier were detected at 0915 by the submarine U "965" in the patrol line in the grid square AC 1548. At 1126, these vessels were shadowed by another boat, the submarine U "995", and that at a position situation 40 nautical miles farther to the West. While the course of the convoy was reported as northeast at 0915, it was reported now as east and after two hours as southeast. It might be possible that there were two different partial units. On account of the poor visibility, the shadowing got lost by both boats between 1300 and 1400.

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The last position was in the grid square AC 1526 and AC 1555, respectively. The air reconnaissance action that was started in the afternoon yielded no results. A new patrol line of 20 boats has been ordered to be occupied at 1600 on 20 Oct.

The Commanding Admiral, Submarines stated that the lack of sufficient air reconnaissance during day and night was of a decisive nature. The Commander, Submarines, Norway acknowledged that the Air Commander tried to do everything for the assistance of the submarines. However, the forces are insufficient as to the fuel and type.

In the Gulf of Finland, the submarine U "1165" made three hits by a three-fan fired north of Packerort on a convoy consisting of one submarine, two large escorting vessels and one sea-tug with a barge. Sinking were not observed, however, are likely.

The Commanding Admiral, Submarines reported two or three vessels sunk. Two other submarines reported on shot each with a Zaunkoenig torpedo on an escorting vessel, which missed the target.

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V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

No reports were received from the battle area of Holland and from the other parts of the Western Front.

Reich Territory:

In Western Germany, altogether 140 fast bombers were reported between the East Frisian Islands and the area of Munich - Lake of Constance, having carried out raids with aircraft armament and single high explosive bombs. Towards noon, a formation of about 1000 four-engined bombers with a strong fighter escort entered the area of Saarbrucken and, after having divided into three groups, carried out raids in the areas of Karlsruhe and Mannheim, Bad Kreuznach and Mainz. Bombs fell on Karlsruhe, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, Mainz, Wiesbaden, Bad Kreuznach and Heidelberg. For details on the damages see the Situation of the Day.

Besides that, the railway station of Koblenz was raided by 100 fighter bombers. During the night of 19 Oct., 200 fast bombers and remote night-fighters entered in small groups the areas between Westerland, Hannover, Bayreuth and the Rhine River.

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On 19 Oct., our own fighters were not put into action in the west area and over the Reich Territory. The anti-aircraft artillery shot down positively three and probably four enemy planes.

Mediterranean Area:

Particular sorties were not reported.

Eastern Area:

On 18 Oct., 672 own and 2030 enemy sorties were reported; fourteen of our own planes got lost, while 23 enemy planes were shot down. Besides that, eight enemy planes were destroyed on the ground.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

The large convoy that had been reported in the Strait of Gibraltar on the noon of 18 Oct. passed to the Mediterranean Sea. On the forenoon of 18 Oct., one tanker, 14 freighters, one transport and three corvettes entered Gibraltar from the Mediterranean Sea.

On the morning of 19 Oct., two transports, 16 freighters, one auxiliary cruiser, three corvettes and one submarine left Gibraltar heading to the Atlantic.

The training ship VINDICTIVE that had entered Gibraltar from the Mediterranean Sea on the forenoon of 18 Oct. left for the Atlantic in the evening.

In the area south of San Remo, six minesweepers with gear and two destroyers as escort were during the day outside the closed area. In the evening, two groups of boats were detected by radar south-east of Nice on west southwest course.

During the night of 18 Oct., the following observations were made: one group of boats calling at Antibes, one group of boats standing on and off southeast of Mentone, another one consisting of probably five motor torpedo boats between Rapallo and Genoa, partly heading



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west within the minefields and, after an encounter with our own forces off Nervi, withdrawing in two part groups in south-south-western or southern direction, respectively.

On the afternoon of 18 Oct., three vessels (probably destroyers) and one vessel (probably a patrol boat) were on west southwest course south of Livorno.

Own Situation:

At 2115, on 18 Oct, a convoy of barges proceeding from Sestre Levante to Genoa came into an encounter with three enemy motor torpedo boats which withdrew in south-southwestern direction after the escorting vessels had opened the fire. Hits were observed on the motor torpedo boats. The convoy entered without having suffered any damage.

During the night of 18 Oct., the escort and patrol duties were carried out as planned. The Battery in the Magra Mouth continued the harassing fire on the enemy main defense line.

According to radio monitoring, Livorno reported at 0344 the damage of a ship, 10 nautical miles west of Livorno. It is possible, that the ship was hit by a mine.

2. Area of the Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

During the night of 18 Oct., a unit escorting the war freighter KT "6" had an encounter with three gun boats near the Puntadura Island. The attack was beaten back without suffering any losses. The escorting unit consisting of the torpedo boat TA "20" and two submarine chasers entered Fiume, while the war freighter KT "6" arrived at Zara.

After having carried out an operation with battle swimmers against Ancona, three PT boats returned to Pola.

Four battle swimmers and two Linse torpedoes have been transferred for a special operation in the area of Ancona.

In the afternoon, one naval artillery lighter with seven infantry boats put to sea from Slano to the north and tried to break through the Peljesac Passage. Four PT boats have been put into action from

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Sibenik for diversion maneuvers in the area of Lissa - Brac - Drvenik. Concerning the situation in Dalmatia: On 17 Oct., the enemy occupied the area southeast of Cavtat. Strong enemy forces landed in the area of Neum (1000 - 1500 men). The strongpoints of Ravano and Neum have fallen into enemy hands.

A naval rifle battalion has been transferred via the sea and put into action against the landed enemy forces.

After the establishment of own strongpoints, the mountain front west of Ragusa has moved four kilometers towards Ragusa. Naval Batteries are participating in the defensive action. The evacuation of Ragusa has been started on 18 Oct. The Naval Radio Station has been destroyed, the connection with the Naval Shore Command at Ragusa interrupted. The PT boat personnel of the strongpoint are battling their way back together with naval units. Secret matters, torpedoes and ammunition have been destroyed. The batteries on the islands, the weapons, ammunition and evacuation goods from Ragusa, as well as almost all troops have been transferred on naval artillery lighters and infantry boats to Slano and Doli. The Battery Sipan has assisted the clearance of the area of Slano - Doli. On 19 Oct., the main road at the crossway near Doli was attacked by strong enemy forces. For assistance 700 Marine Troops with heavy weapons have been put into action from Udano. The Battery Molunat is encircled by strong partisan forces. A demand for surrender was replied by artillery gunfire. The Battery 3/628 has been transferred from Drvenik to Trogir with personnel, equipment and anti-aircraft weapons. The guns in the former positions have been destroyed, the ammunition blown-up.

b. Aegean Sea:

According to a British Broadcast Report, the island of Santorin was occupied with the aid of the British cruiser AJAX.

A unit with one carrier and one cruiser was sighted on alternating courses early in the morning. At noon, the unit withdrew to the southeast. In the afternoon, a carrier with two cruisers was sighted on southeast course by airforce guards on Leros Island.

The Commanding Admiral, Aegean has answered on an inquiry from the Group South that all measures for the main fortifications have been taken in agreement with the Commanding General, Army Group E.

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The harbor defense troops, who will be sufficient for the tasks still to be carried out, remain assigned to the main fortifications. All warships and merchantmen entering Salonika have been or are being disarmed continuously and prepared for the blocking of the harbor.

Continuous attacks by fighter bombers have been reported against the 12th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla in the area of Volos. Milos was attacked with bombs by eight planes.

The Commanding Admiral, Aegean deems it remarkable that no enemy push into the area west of the longitude of Kassandra Huk has been made since the fight with the torpedo boat TA "37" on 7 Oct., despite the continuous presence of destroyers; he attributes this to the effect of our newly laid mine barrages. Owing to this attitude of the enemy we succeeded in bringing through several convoys from Volos.

The Naval Shore Command, Dodecanese has been disbanded on 18 Oct. The Naval Shore Commander will be appointed Commander of the Transit Camp Salonika. The Port Commander, Piraeus has additionally reported the entirely carried out demolition of the quays, cranes and docks, as well as the blocking of the port narrows. Due to a breakdown of the radio connection, the hauling of ship-wrecked from the island-exit in the Volos Bay, which was planned for 18 Oct., has not been carried out. The operation is to be repeated the following night with the torpedo boat TA "18".

c. Situation in the Danube Area:

Particular reports are not at hand.

VII. Situation in East Asia:

No particular reports.

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Items of Political Importance:

The conference between London Poles and Lublin Poles in Moscow have been finished without decision of the disputed questions. The mutual points of view could merely be stated. The unfavorable news from Moscow have caused a serious consternation among official Polish circles in London.

The nickel mines in the area of Petsamo have been sold by the Canadian Group, which was the owner so far, to the Government of the U.S.S.R.

According to a United Press Report, the decision of the British cabinet to acknowledge de jure the de Gaulle government in France yet before 10 Nov. 1944 as provisional government is said to have caused surprise in Washington circles.

The Commander in Chief, Navy has left for Strandkoppel in order to inspect small battle weapons.

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Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1115:

I. a. Surface Warships Operations Section, Naval Staff

Operations Division:

The High Command, Air intends to withdraw the anti-aircraft artillery from Flensburg. By that, the submarine concern will be affected in the first place. The Submarine Division will deal with the matter.

b. The Commander, PT Boats reported:

"1. The 4th PT Boat Flotilla with eight boats and the escorting ship HERMANN VON WISSMANN have been provided for a transfer to the area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast.

2. The HERMANN VON WISSMANN has been issued an order speedily to move from Gdynia to Swinemuende for equipment and reinforcement of the artillery armament.

3. The 4th PT Boat Flotilla will proceed from the area of Holland to Swinemuende on the evening of 19 Oct.

4. The Flotilla and the escorting ship will be ready for the transfer on 27 Oct. at the earliest; the date will depend on the reinforcement of the artillery armament."

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II. Naval Staff, Quartermaster General:

The Armed Forces High Command has ordered that the supply of anti-aircraft ammunition for all the Armed Forces be handled by the High Command, Air.

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In a restricted circle:

III. Surface Warships Operations Section, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

The Naval Commands, North, East and Norway have been issued an order by the Naval Staff concerning the escort of tankers, which is to be carried out in order to avoid fuel losses.

The Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff will be informed on this order. With regard to this matter, the Commander in Chief, Navy especially points at the fact that the escort of the tanker tonnage has always been a serious concern of the Navy, which is doing and has been doing everything possible in order to meet these difficulties. The weakest and, under the present conditions, the most decisive point of view is the insufficient fighter escort. Furthermore, it has been reported:

1. The tanker situation admits an action of small tankers for fuel of high quality. Submarine-lighters are being developed in order to increase the security in the transport and storage of fuel. However, it cannot be surveyed yet when the production will be started.

2. It is of particular importance that the tankers are announced to the competent Naval Operations Office under reference to the valuable cargo, in order to effect that the escort forces are made available in due time and the convoys are escorted as safely as possible.

3. Despite all security measures, it will not be possible either in the future to eliminate losses completely, due to the enemy superiority by air and sea and the lack of own forces.

Copy of the order 1/Skl I op 31684/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol IX.

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IV. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

Report on the Swedish-American discussion concerning the protection against a German attack, as well as on the "Josefine"-Commentary concerning the limitation of the British-Russian interests in Europe. Details to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. VIII.

According to American and Japanese reports, the Americans carried out a landing operation on a large scale on the Philippine island of Leyte. Japanese counterattacks have been started. Apparently, the Formosa-action served as a diversion for this strategic target.

In an election speech, the presidential opponent of Roosevelt, Dewey, assaulted the secret policy of Roosevelt. In his opinion the most concerned points are the Polish problem, the desolate situation in Italy and making the German people so fanatic by leaving them in ignorance of authentic post-war plans.

Mihailowitsch has left the Serbian Territory and gone to Italy.

According to a report of 11 Oct. forwarded through the Reich Security Central Office, the Turks are eagerly establishing fortifications at the Caucasus Front. The airfields are almost entirely occupied by the British. The straits have recently been protected by strong mine-barrages.

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V. Mine Warfare Section, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

The mine-planning submitted by the Naval Command, East for the Irben Narrows cannot be carried out for months due to the material situation. The Naval Staff considers a breakthrough of the land front, and not a landing at the coast of the Bay of Riga to be the main danger for Courland.

As it is impossible to establish a mine-barrage off the coast with the available material, and as the effect of the entire action would become extremely questionable under an incomplete barrage, however, on the other hand an enemy breakthrough in the Skagerak would mean a very serious threat for the entire naval warfare in the future, the Naval Staff agrees on a shifting of the mines from the Skagerak to the Bay of Riga only as far as it is required for a lasting barrage of the Irben Narrows.

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In view of the fact that the place of possible landing operations cannot be foreseen and the entire barrage cannot be established effectively due to the lack of material, and that the Soviets are relatively unconcerned towards losses and, therefore, cannot be deterred from landing operations by mines, the barrage planning along the coast from Lyserort up to Markgrafen is deemed inexpedient.

The Chief, Naval Staff agrees. As the execution of the operation "Geier" has become very doubtful and several units are to be deducted from the Northern Army Group, a new situation has arisen which strongly decreases the importance of the barrage plans in the Irben Narrows.

A relevant directive is issued to the Naval Command, East, with copy to the Admiral, Eastern Baltic. Copy as per 1/Skl I E 31587/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

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VI. Surface Warships Operations Section, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

a. The Group South reported on the evening of 19 Oct.:

"Under the development, which can be surveyed already now, the evacuation from the island fortresses in the Aegean Sea by surface forces is not possible any more and, also by air, it is possible only in a very small extent; after the abandonment of Salonika, the evacuation will probably be not at all possible. Therefore, it is requested to consider whether the transfer of about four submarines to the Mediterranean Sea would be possible, especially for the supply transports from the Adriatic Ports to the islands. Otherwise it is requested to check whether it might be possible to accomplish a camouflaged traffic to the islands with auxiliary sailing vessels, etc., under cooperation of the Armed Forces High Command, Intelligence Division and national opposition governments, or whether the Air Force could arrange the action of special planes with corresponding ranges. Some connection is urgently requested out of psychological reasons."

The Naval Staff suggests the following reply:

"1. A transfer of submarines to the Mediterranean Sea is impossible.

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2. No possibility is seen for the inauguration of a camouflaged traffic, as only the Northern Adriatic Sea will still remain in our hands after the abandonment of the Northern Aegean Sea, and the Strait of Otranto as well as the area of the Dalmatian Islands will strongly be used by the enemy and guarded by enemy forces.

3. The High Command, Air is requested to check on the action of special planes and to state its views."

The Chief, Naval Staff agrees.

A teletype is directed to the Group South with the order 1/Skl I m 3329/44 Gkdos. Chefs.

The Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, with copy to the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters and the Chief of Operations Branch, High Command, Air, Naval Liaison Section, is informed on the proposal of the Group and on the view of the Naval Staff. The Commander in Chief, Air Force is requested for an examination as to the action of special planes. (Copy of the order 1/Skl I m 3340/44 Gkdos. Chefs. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.)

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VII. Army Situation:

Western Front:

In the Schelde Bridgehead of Breskens, the occupational force was withdrawn to a closer front; penetrations were cut off.

In the Meuse Bridgehead, enemy attacks were beaten back, and our own position was reinforced.

The battle of Aachen is going on. The Ravels Hill got lost again. Only a few districts of the town are still in our possession.

In the south of the Western Front, fierce fighting is going on at places hitherto considered as focal points.

Italian Front:

The fights are going on in the areas known.

Balkan:

The withdrawal movements in Greece and Albania are taking



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place as planned. Due to the knock-out of both the 7th SS-Division "Prinz Eugen" near Nis and of the Corps "Schneckenburger" south of the Danube River, the situation between Nis and Beograd has become extremely serious and there is danger that all forces from the Southern Balkan will be cut off. All units, which are fit for combat, are being transferred to this area for the establishment of a front line.

The situation in Beograd has become more tense; a new revolt has arisen in the town, and fights are taking place with superior Soviet Troops at the outskirts.

Eastern Front:

West of the lower Tisza River, the enemy is assembling strong forces for a push towards Budapest.

In the area of Szolnok, the attack of the IV. Tank Corps towards the east gained ground up to 40 kilometers.

Debrecen got lost. Despite the knock-out of more than 400 tanks, the enemy forces are still superior in this area and are bringing up a new army.

The withdrawal of the front in Transsylvania is followed by a strong enemy pressure; the Hungarian units are partly unreliable and without any fighting strength.

All enemy attacks in the Beskids Mountains failed.

After a short lull in the battle, the enemy resumed his attacks both north of Warsaw and in the bridgeheads at the Narev River, however, the attacks did not assume the extent of the expected major offensive. In the main, all attacks were beaten back.

East of Gumbinnen, the attack of the far superior enemy engaged our troops, who showed anew a steadiness above any praise, in very fierce fights at the entire front of the penetrated area.

The enemy advanced into the Rominten Heath and occupied Schlossberg (Pilkallen). Our own troops are again and again making heroic counter-attacks against the far superior enemy. More than 350 tanks have been knocked-out so far at the border of East Prussia.

At the front of the Northern Army Group, the enemy made little

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attacks in the south, and in the east, on a narrow space 40 kilometers south of Tuckum, he launched very strong attacks, which were beaten back in serious and fierce fighting.

Heavy fights have arisen on the Sworbe Peninsula; the result of these fights has not yet become known.

Due to the development of the situation, the breakthrough of the Northern Army Group towards Memel must still be postponed. The Army Group has shifted into a defensive position, and is transferring divisions to the Central Army Group. The transfer is being carried out by sea. At the same time, the Tank Divisions at Memel are to be exchanged against Infantry Division from East Prussia, and the former to be transferred to East Prussia. (High Command, Army, Army General Staff, Operations Division I a 44065/44 Gkdos. Chfs., dated 20 Oct.).

Finland:

The withdrawal and marching movements in the area of Rovaniemi are taking place as planned.

At the Arctic Front, the enemy resumed his superior attacks with the aid of tanks concentrating at the E-Highway.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. According to a report from the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, an order was issued by the Fuehrer to check on whether it would be possible to put into action artillery ferry barges in the Courland Haff for firing on Russian positions and for protecting the Haff.

After a telephone conversation with the Naval Command, East, an information was given by the Naval Staff of the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters (with copy to the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command, Naval Liaison Section, to the Naval Liaison Officer of the Army General Staff and to the Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Liaison Section, High Command Air, that the following vessels have been put into action on the Courland Haff:

1. Since several days, two artillery ferry barges with 8.8 cm guns,

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2. since three days, three naval landing craft of the Army Coastal Anti-Aircraft Artillery with light anti-aircraft artillery with light anti-aircraft weapons,

3. since two days, groups of launches (twelve vessels of the minesweeper "12" with machine-gun armament.)

The action of further vessels, among which artillery ferry barges from the Baltic Area, is presently being examined in a discussion with the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea at Pillau.

b. The Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff transmitted the following immediate transport request of the Army General Staff at 1740 on 19 Oct.: Three infantry divisions from Libau to Memel, subsequently two tank divisions from Memel to Gdynia. With that, the operation "Geier" is dropped for the time being. The Naval Liaison Officer asks that the matter be not brought yet to the knowledge of the Army Offices, as the directive to the Northern Army Group is still under way.

On the evening of 19 Oct., the Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff immediately issued a directive to the Naval Command, East, according to which the transport steamers will be unloaded and provided for the first and second wave. It is assumed that each wave will again be ready for loading at Pillau after about 28 hours time. It is intended to put into action one additional steamer each in the case that the transfer of the divisions and the unloading works at Memel admit this.

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II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. The Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters reported that the Armed Forces High Command had agreed upon the appointment of Vice Admiral Brinkmann and Captain Zimmer and the designation "Admiral", "Mountain Army Corps 20."

b. The Naval Command, Norway submitted on 14 Oct., a mine-planning for the protection of Tromsoe. In compliance with the proposal, the barrage-plan had been approved by the Operations Division, Naval Staff on 15 Oct.

At the same time, the Naval Command, Norway had requested that the anti-submarine barrages, which have been lying out since

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September 1942 in the area of Lister - Feiestedin, be reinforced. In compliance with the request, the Operations Division, Naval Staff approved also of this barrage-plan.

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III. Subject: Area of the Naval Command, North:

a. The Admiral, Netherlands has turned in a request for transferring a combined operations company with assault boats for the supply in the flooded area on Walcheren Island. The Naval Staff supports this request at the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command and asks to draw these troops from the Replacement Army, as a fulfilment of the request, according to a report from the Naval Command, North, is not to be expected by the operative command of the Army in the West.

b. The Admiral, Army Group B wired a request of the Army Group B for granting priority and additional support in the further improvement of the Rhine Ferries, as the railroad and road bridges are breaking down in an increasing extent through the action of enemy air forces. The Central Army Group asks for the transfer of 30 naval landing craft or seven ferries with crews and anti-aircraft armament.

Naval landing craft and similar vessels cannot be transferred as they are urgently required in the Eastern Baltic Sea, in Norway and in the area of Holland.

The Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff will solve the problem by the provision of railway ferries.

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IV. Subject: West Area:

Effective immediately, the Naval Command, West is to be organized by order of the Armed Forces High Command.

Responsibilities:

1. Operation of the encircled fortresses in the West Area,

2. Taking-over the remaining winding-up responsibilities of the Naval Group West. The encircled fortresses in the West Area are immediately subordinated to the Naval Command West.

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As far as the land battle is concerned, the Naval Command, West is operationally subordinated to the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West, otherwise to the High Command, Navy.

The Naval Group, West will be disbanded as soon as the serviceability of the Naval Command, West has been established. The date will be appointed by the Commanding Admiral, Naval Group, West.

The so far existing Commanding Admiral, Naval Group, West will take over the position of the Commanding Admiral, Naval Command West.

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V. Subject: Southeastern Area:

a. On an inquiry, the Admiral, Adriatic reported that the operation of PT boats off Ancona was inaugurated due to the strong occupation of this harbor on 15/16 Oct. and on 17/18 Oct., and on account of the assumption that was won from the radio monitoring of the 1st PT boat Division that there would be a convoy traffic. During the night of 18 Oct., an action of battle swimmers has been planned in the port of Ancona.

b. The Commanding Admiral, Aegean reported to the Naval Staff and Group South that the arrival of the hospital ship TUEBINGEN was to be expected on the morning of 23 Oct., and the arrival of the hospital ship GRADISCA on the afternoon of 26 Oct. at Salonika, provided that the passage was carried out without incidents. The deadline for the GRADISCA means the very last date as to the evacuation plan for Salonika.

Under a maximum capacity of both ships with 2000 men, there are waiting at present about 3000 sick and wounded for reception in Salonika.

In the case that Salonika cannot be defended as long as the GRADISCA has been embarked, the Commanding Admiral, Aegean sees a possibility to protect the wounded from an attack by partisans by embarking them on the Swedish Red Cross Ship VASAOLM lying in Salonika which would have to be sent to the open sea out of security reasons as long as the occupation of the harbor has been carried out by British troops. A fast decision is necessary.

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c. In agreement with the Army Group E, the Group South reported on a plan to relieve the Commanding Admiral, Aegean and his Staff, with the exception of a small remaining Staff, as soon as the last sea tasks connected with the evacuation of Salonika become superfluous at about the end of October. It has been provided that the remaining area of the Naval Shore Command, Albania is subordinated to the Admiral, Adriatic.

The proposal does not correspond to the plan of the Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff (see War Diary 19 Oct.).

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VI. According to a report from the Bureau of Naval Armament made on account of very reliable sources, the enemy has carried out tests with Mosquito planes as torpedo-carriers, which turned out positively, so that the action of these planes as torpedo-planes is to be reckoned with in November.

The Operations Division, Naval Staff has immediately informed the Naval Commands, East, North and Norway, as well as the German Naval Command, Italy and the Group South.

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VII. The Confidential Report No. 42/44 contains a composition of the enemy news picked-up by radio decoding and radio monitoring during the period from 9 to 15 Oct.

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Situation: 20 Oct. 1944:

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Seven planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, three weather planes only at the 19th Group. Five vessels were located in the rendezvous area. The radio traffic yielded that the USA Naval Commander (Commander Task Force 125) has moved on 12 Oct. from Cherbourg to Le Havre. According to a British broadcast report, American war ships having lain so far in ports of Southern England have put to sea heading to French ports.

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2. Own Situation:

Local fighting activity was reported from the encircled fortresses. Dunkirk and Lorient reported successful command raids carried out by our troops. After deduction of the losses suffered so far, the occupational strength of Lorient mounts up to 26 000 men, among whom 12800 naval personnel. A part of the sea target batteries has been made ready for land firing. Eighteen vessels have been moved to the sinking points at the navigable channel. A traffic gap has been left open for our own ships. Mines for fouling have been secured on barges in the shelters. The establishment of the hospital village of Ile de Croix with 600 beds has been partly completed. The hospital boats are ready for action, two other ones are being prepared. The traffic of small ships to St. Nazaire, Quiberon, Belle Ile and Ile de Croix has continuously been carried out so far without being hampered by the enemy.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

A. Bay of Heligoland:

No particular incidents.

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B. Area of Holland:

Due to the stormy weather condition, the escort and minesweeping duties were not carried out. The guard positions remained unoccupied.

Off Terschelling, the barrage "K2" has been laid with 454 KMA-mines.

The area of Breskens was lying under enemy gunfire. The Battery Schelde South was continuously attacked by fighter bombers. At 2000, on 19 Oct., the dropping of eight mines or bombs was observed in the Veere Gat.

The port entrance of Breskens has been blocked with two barges by order of the Land Commander. The Port Commander and the Naval Signal Station have been withdrawn. The fouling of Breskens with mines has been carried out. The batteries Nieuwe Sluis, Cadzand and Flushing South have been put into action against land targets.

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Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Seven planes were detected during action in the area of the 18th Group. At 1622, our own air reconnaissance reported a convoy of seven ships, among which one cruiser, at about 100 nautical miles north of Vardoe.

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2. Own Situation:

Area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast:

An enemy PT boat was destroyed during attacks on the artillery ferry AF "24" in the Holmengraa Fjord. The enemy landing on the evening of 18 Oct. in the Kobholm Bay did not prove to have been carried out.

At 0247, on 20 Oct., an own convoy proceeding from Kirkenes to the Laa Fjord was attacked by a submarine near Nordkyn. The submarine chaser UJ "1219" proceeding in front of the convoy was hit by a torpedo and sank. The convoy anchored in the Laa Fjord.

Area of the Admiral, North Norwegian Coast:

At 1000, the independently proceeding Norwegian steamer CHRISTIANIA (1895 BRT) was slightly damaged by a mine hit in the Stabbene Passage, however, entered in Aalesund under own power.

Area of the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast:

On the afternoon of 19 Oct., an own northbound convoy was attacked by enemy planes with bombs and aircraft armament. The patrol boat VP "5111" has been towed to Bergen with numerous hits. One tug had to be beached, one lighter sank. Two of the attacking planes were shot down.

In the afternoon, seven Mosquito planes attacked the patrol boat VP "5116" and a submarine with bombs and aircraft armament northwest of Bergen. The patrol boat VP "5116" was hit several times whereby casualties were caused. Two of the attacking planes were shot down. At 2010, on 20 Oct., the steamer MILOS (2207 BRT) proceeding with a cargo of dynamite and ammunition from Christiansand



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South to Stavanger was reported sinking after a detonation off the Lister Fjord. The coastal defense service reported the danger of submarines in the Bay of Lister. Owing to suspected mines, the area has been closed.

Twenty-two ships were escorted to the North, 45 ships to the South.

III. Skager Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

No new observations were made.

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2. Own Situation:

Admiral, Skager Rak:

During the night of 19 Oct, several enemy planes carried out armed reconnaissance over the Skager Rak and Kattegat.

The transfer of the Admiral, Skager Rak to Aarhus has been provided for 21 Oct.

Twenty-nine boats were put into action on mine-clearing duty. Two mines were cleared near Anholt.

At 0850, the destroyer Z "30" reported a mine hit in thick fog in the grid square AO 4153, in the southern exit of the Oslo Fjord. At 0940, the vessel was taken in tow by the IHN. The hit of a moored mine has been established beyond doubt. The hit damaged the section I of the destroyer. One engine and the rudder broke down. Casualties: Eight dead, sixteen seriously wounded, three missing. The destroyer flotilla was cruising with three motor minesweepers and one submarine chaser for the protection of a troop transport convoy being escorted from Aarhus back to Oslo. For a short action report see teletype 1630.

On the evening of 19 Oct., a steam trawler in the Aalborg Bay and the escorting vessel VS "909" engaged in assistance sank after mine hits.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

The 2nd Task Force is lying in a six-hours readiness until further notice.

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The armed fishing vessel KFK "22" ran aground near the Rossitan Lighthouse.

Thirty-seven boats and one mine-exploding vessel were put into action on mineclearing duty.

The submarine U "2510" reported a mine detonation between the light-vessel KIEL and the light-vessel OST. The boat was damaged.

The convoy traffic in the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal has been released for ships up to a draft of 8 meters.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

A heavy air raid on the Sworbe Peninsula has been reported since noon of 19 Oct., during which a breakthrough of tanks was successful. The casualties and losses in weapons on our side are great.

The 1st Motor Minesweeper Flotilla with five boats has been ordered on a defense position off the east coast of the Sworbe Peninsula. Besides that, seven armed fishing vessels are here in action, and six armed fishing vessels at the west coast. Five other armed fishing vessels are chasing submarines. The guard position of Windau is occupied by four armed fishing vessels.

The mine-exploding vessel AMMERLAND and one patrol vessel have been put into action for the protection of the north coast of Courland.

The artillery ferry group has been issued an order to fire on the coastal road near Laidunia on the morning of 20 Oct.

The troop transport BREMERHAVEN has touched an underwater obstruction, possibly a submarine, off Steinort at 0200 on 16 Oct.

The escorts and transports were carried out as planned. The following transfers were made: 2289 tons to Libau, 100 tons to Memel, four anti-tank guns and three assault guns to Montu.

The Central Army Group fears an enemy landing attempt in the Courland Haff, out-flanking against the wing of the 3rd Tank Army south of the Memel River Mouth, or from the area north of Memel, at the Courland Nehrung.

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IV. Merchant Shipping:

It is pointed at the Report No. 20/44 "Foreign Merchant Shipping"

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submitted by the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, together with the report on the difficulties in handling the Swiss Oversea Trade, and on the Brief Report No. 21/44 of the same office, containing different brief news.

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V. Submarine Warfare:

In the Atlantic, the submarine U "802" reported her position from the grid square AK 39. There had already been concern about the boat, as she was at sea since 16 July and the radio connection did not function.

In the Northern Waters, the PQ-Convoy was not detected again. The boats of the Group "Panther" were issued an order early on 20 Oct. to operate against several smoke clouds that had been reported in grid square AC 4692. At 1622, the air reconnaissance reported one cruiser and four freighters on southeast course in the grid square AC 5755. The boats have order in case that they do not come into an encounter with the enemy, to interrupt the operation against this unit at 0400 on 21 Oct. and to occupy with high speed the patrol line from grid square AC 9338 up to 8593.

The submarines U "313" and U "315" are standing off the Kola Mouth.

In the Gulf of Finland, the submarine U "481" fired a torpedo on a group of two patrol vessels northwest of Packerort which missed the target.

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VI. Aerial Warfare:

West Area;

A vivid activity of fighter bombers and fighters was observed in the area of Holland.

Our own action was carried out by 255 fighters which reported to have shot down positively 16 enemy planes.

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Reich Territory:

From the North Sea up to the Lake of Constance, small groups of fighter bombers and fighters entered the area of Western Germany, concentrating in the areas of Aachen, Cologne, Bonn, Mannheim, Strasbourg and Freiburg. Communications targets were attacked.

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During the night of 20 Oct., no sorties were reported from the west.

In the forenoon, a formation of 500 bombers with fighter escort entered Upper Bavaria and Bohemia from the south. Strong fighter formations were with the bomber formation and put up a screen towards the east up to Linz and the area of Brux. Regensburg, Innsbruck, Rosenheim and Brux, furthermore the airforce station of Aibling. Single high explosive bombs fell in the area of Prague. For details on the damages see the "Situation of the Day."

During the night of 20 Oct., 60 planes coming from the south dropped high explosive and incendiary bombs on the airforce station of Steinamanger.

During the daylight-attacks in Upper Bavaria and Bohemia, no fighters of our air forces were put into action.

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Mediterranean Theater:

The enemy activity in the rear of the Italian frontline area and in the area of Upper Italy was strong and mainly directed against supply communications and railway installations. One enemy plane was shot down by our own fighters. The coast of Southern France was reconnoitered by photograph. For details on the occupation of the ports, especially of Marseille and Toulon, see the "Situation of the Day." In Toulon, the increase by two battleships, apparently the OCEAN and the CONDORCET, is remarkable; on 11 Oct., these ships were not reported. The occupation showed a decrease of nine cruisers, 14 destroyers, 22 PT Boats and 20 freighters. Apparently a convoy which had entered the port was included in the reconnaissance report on 11 Oct. In a bay between Marseille and Toulon, 15 vessels were sighted at anchor, while south of Toulon a convoy of 13 ships heading to the port was detected. In the in-shore waters off Toulon, several patrol vessels and one cruiser were moving.

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Eastern Area:

At the Eastern Front, 346 own and 1512 enemy sorties were reported on 19 Oct.; two of our planes got lost, while 13 enemy planes were shot down.

It has been reported on the reconnaissance in the area of the 5th Air Force.

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VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

On the afternoon of 19 Oct., the French battleship LORRAINE entered Gibraltar from the Mediterranean. It has been reported on the occupation of the ports of Toulon and Marseille.

During the night of 19 Oct., and on 20 Oct., the movements of the naval forces off the Riviera Coast were as usual.

No particular observations were made in the occupation of the port of Livorno on account of the photograph reconnaissance of the afternoon of 19 Oct. The port is being utilized for supplies to the front and as base for PT boats.

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Own Situation:

On the evening of 19 Oct. and on the forenoon of 20 Oct., the Cape Mortola, Ventimiglia and the rear area were fired on by destroyers which under the fire from naval batteries and putting up a smoke screen temporarily withdrew out of range and continued the fire. San Remo, too, was fired on. One destroyer was probably hit.

On the evening of 18 Oct., an attack of partisans on the E-Battery of Ceriale, in the Albenga Bay, was beaten back without losses on our side.

A mine task provided to be carried out by a minelayer and two naval landing craft has been postponed by 24 hours.

During the night of 19 Oct., a reconnaissance sweep by three TA-Boats (torpedo boats of foreign origin) south-southeast of Imperia was interrupted because of high swell, as the use of the weapons had become questionable.

During the night of 19 Oct., the escort and patrol duties were carried out as planned.

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2. Area of the Naval Group, South

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a. Adriatic Sea:

At 0845, a destroyer on northwest course was sighted west of the Zuri Island.

The reconnaissance of the port of Bari made by photograph on 16 Oct. yielded among others 17 small war vessels, eight LCT, four LCM, 138 auxiliary landing boats, two transports, one tanker and ten freighters.

The action of battle swimmers during the night of 18 Oct. against Ancona remained unsuccessful. All swimmers returned.

On the afternoon of 19 Oct., the Po River Lock and Canal were attacked without suffering essential damages. On the afternoon of 20 Oct., a boat of the Port Commander of Alexandrowo was attacked in a low flight off the southern coast of the Veglia Island. The Port Commander and six soldiers were killed.

Forty KMA-mines have been laid by minelaying naval landing craft as planned south of Porto Corsini.

The breakthrough of the infantry boats from South Dalmatia to the north will not be carried out through the Corcula Channel, but through the middle of the Adriatic Sea. Early on 20 Oct., four PT boats entered Sibenik; they had been put into action for screening the operation, however, did not come into an encounter with the enemy.

At 2145, on 19 Oct., four naval landing craft proceeding from Zara to Sibenik had an encounter with the enemy in the Paskan Channel. Details have not arrived yet. The vessels have entered Sibenik.

A reinforcement of 120 men has been transferred by four Siebel Ferries to the Veglia Island. Another transport of 100 men has been provided for the night of 20 Oct.

Ragusa has been evacuated under enemy resistance as planned. The transport of almost all personnel is being carried out by sea. Markarska will be evacuated on 20 Oct. The Port Command will withdraw together with the Army. The situation in the Cattaro Bay is still quiet. The withdrawal together with the Army has been provided from there in about one or two weeks.

The Naval Shore Commander, Albania reported on 19 Oct. a violent attack by partisans on the outskirts and the city of Tirana.

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b. Aegean Sea:

After the evacuation of Volos, the carrier unit has probably withdrawn from the Northern Aegean Sea. The action of fighter bombers against the remaining convoys, too, has ceased. No report has been received so far on the transfer of the ship-wrecked by the torpedo boat TA "18".

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c. Situation in the Danube Area:

No particular incidents.

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VIII. Situation in East Asia:

The Naval Attache, Tokio reported that there were no details available on the course of the fights and the operations east of Taiwan. The extent of the success must be doubted. The impression of an extensive confusion has arisen.

Undoubtedly, the purpose of the American attack was a temporary interruption of the Japanese traffic to the Philippine Islands in order to facilitate the landings on the Philippine Islands. This aim was fully reached. The damages caused on Liukiu and Taiwan Island are important. Taihoku and Takao have for the most part been destroyed, and the airfield installations wrecked. Five ships have been sunk in the port of Takao, more than ten large ships in Keelung.

Early on 18 Oct., eight carriers and five battleships were sighted 300 nautical miles northeast of Luzon, partly heavily damaged. It is to be taken from indications that the Japanese Fleet has been put into action against these targets.

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Items of Political Importance:

The Moscow Conference was closed on 19 Oct. Churchill and Eden left Moscow the same day. A communique made public in London on 21 Oct. shows that apparently no agreement was reached in the Polish Question. It seems, however, that an agreement was reached in other questions. For example in concerning the remaining points of the armistice terms for Bulgaria and the common policy in Jugoslavia. Possibly, the British succeeded to prevent in the Polish Question that the Russians caused irreparable facts. Whatever the facts may be, it seems yet as though they once more succeeded further to check the latent tension and further to postpone its explosion. Insofar, the conference is not to be judged favorable as seen from the German point of view.

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The Commander in Chief is visiting a hospital in the area of Hamburg.

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Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1115:

I. Chief, Naval Staff:

In the Arctic Area, more frequently own submarine chasers have been sunk by enemy submarines. Against this, our own hunting results are surprisingly small. Therefore, it seems to be doubtful whether the dislocation of the submarine chaser flotillas is suitable at present. The Chief, Naval Staff orders a corresponding examination be made. The Quartermaster General, Naval Staff (Submarine Defense) is to utter his opinion as to the following question:

- a. Which are the reasons for the little success of our submarine chasers in the Arctic Area?
  - b. Is it possible to increase the efficiency of the boats, and by what means?
  - c. If not, is the operation of the submarine chasers in the Arctic Area justified at all? or
  - d. is an operation in the Baltic Sea, where there exists as well a lack of submarine chasers, more promising?
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II. During the gunfire from destroyers on San Remo on 20 Oct. all Linse Torpedoes of the Small Battle Weapons Flotilla "213" and 20 motor trucks, as well as four one-man assault boats were destroyed. The Chief, Naval Staff orders an exact examination of the circumstances be made and a report be submitted.

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III. Chief, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

The Foreign Office has been requested to bring about the permission of the Swedish Embassy for a temporary use of the Red Cross Ship VASAHOLM at Salonika, in the sense of the made proposal (see War Diary 20 Oct.).

As it is not to be expected that, through diplomatic channels, the request will be effected in due time, the Commanding Admiral, Aegean will have to act independently in the provided manner and to point the crew at the fact that the utilization of the ship takes place out of reasons of humanity.

The Chief, Naval Staff agrees.

Copy of the relevant order as per l/Skl I i 31715/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol XIV.

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IV. Chief, Naval Staff:

At Hammerfest, the number of the wounded waiting for evacuation has increased up to 6000. Large steamers with a draft up to 6 meters will be necessary for the evacuation. The Naval Command, Norway has asked for assistance by the Naval Staff. The Naval Staff must do everything possible in order to help here. The question is being examined by the Quartermaster Division.

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Conference restricted to a limited circle:

V. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

According to American reports, considerable forces seem to have landed on the Philippine Island of Leyte and Sylan. According to a report from the Japanese Headquarters, one aircraft-carrier of the Allies and one destroyer were destroyed, and one battleship and one destroyer damaged near the Nicobar Islands.

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In a mass meeting, the Japanese Prime Minister referred to the battle of destruction at Formosa as the overture of further clashes on a very large scale.

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VI. Surface Warships Operations Section, Operations Division,  
Naval Staff:

Report on the transport movement of the Northern Army Group to Memel, and from Memel to East Prussia corresponding to the report in War Diary 20 Oct.

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VII. Army Situation:

Western Front:

Yesterday was characterized by an increased fighting activity of the enemy at the entire front of the Army Group B.

The strong pressure there, and the air raids on bridges and ferries across the Waal River may be considered as preparation of an attack against the 15th Army in order to get clear in the rear for a main push towards the east and to occupy finally the area of Antwerp.

In the Meuse Bridgehead, the enemy continued his attacks with the aid of tanks, which, however, did not fully come into effect due to the strong counter-action by artillery.

The brace garrison of Aachen is standing concentrated on a very close space in the final battle against the superior enemy forces which attack again and again.

Continuously fierce fighting is going on in the area of the 19th Army, east of Epinal.

Several bridges and ferries were heavily damaged by enemy air raids on the Rhine crossings between Rastatt and Basel.

Italy:

The enemy continued his strong attacks in the area southeast of Bologna for a breakthrough towards the Via Emilia.

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In the mountainous area of the Adriatic Coast, the enemy established a bridgehead across the Savio River.

The group of forces that had been provided for a landing operation on the Balkan from Italy has become so small through the action of Polish forces and other reorganizations at the land front that such is of little probability at present.

Balkan:

Between Skoplje and Beograd, the struggle with highly superior Russian and Bulgarian armies is going on in order to keep the withdrawal routes open for the forces in Greece. Beograd got lost. Serious losses on our side must be reckoned with.

For the time being, the Department Foreign Armies West does not reckon with a fast advance movement of the British formations in Greece, even not under a continuation of landings on a large scale.

Eastern Front:

On a broad front, the Russian Forces are advancing through the Bacs-Bodrog district towards the central Danube River. The Hungarian units are withdrawing mostly without combat.

The advance movement of the German Tank Corps east of Szolnok has met an increasing enemy resistance and will, despite local successes, bring no relief anymore to the own forces standing near Debrecen.

In the area of Debrecen, the Russians have gained the operative freedom of maneuver and are advancing with strong forces to the northeast in order to cut off the Army Group of General Woehler.

In the Beskids Mountains, all enemy attacks were beaten back.

At the Narev River, too, the enemy attacks in the main remained unsuccessful.

In East Prussia, the defensive battle was going on in undiminished fierceness also yesterday, the fifth day of major fighting activity. South of the Romintern Heath, a new defensive front could be erected, however, the enemy made further progress north of the Heath and south-east of Gumbinnen to the west and crossed the road from Goldep to Gumbinnen.

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Between Gumbinnen and Schlossberg, too, heavy and alternating fights took place with the enemy who tried to break through our front with concentrated infantry forces and the aid of strong tank formations. Under the toughest resistance and repeated counter-attacks we succeeded in preventing a breakthrough of the enemy and suffered little local losses of ground.

North of the Memel River, the enemy tried to break into the bridge-head of Tilsit by numerous attacks supported by tanks. The enemy gained some penetrations.

At the front of the Northern Army Group, the enemy continued in the area of Doblen his offensive battle under the engagement of strong forces. All attacks were beaten back under high enemy losses. At the front west of Riga, too, the enemy attacks collapsed.

On the Sworbe Peninsula, our troops are standing further on in a heavy defensive battle against the enemy who has advanced across the Ariste Position. A counter-attack could not gain any ground.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. The Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea reported with regard to the situation on the Sworbe Peninsula:

"1. At 1300, on 19 Oct., a strong attack was made by Red Esthonian Divisions which broke through the first and second blocking position. The operations detachment and the 531st Naval Artillery Detachment have again been put into action at the last blocking position.

2. On the noon of 20 Oct., naval landing craft escorted by armed fishing vessels transferred three anti-tank guns from Windau under a limited weather condition; during the night, two assault guns and rations were transferred from Windau, and on the noon of 21 Oct. ammunition and rations.

3. It has been turned in a request to the Army Group that the storage of supplies be secured more prospectively.

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4. On account of the so far observed development on the Osel Island, this headquarters has won the impression that the troops will leave the last favorable blocking position with the next attack, whereby the Navy again will suffer the most serious losses due to the lack of heavy weapons. The latest order of the day on the Sworbe Peninsula started with the indication that the position should be defended out of strategic reasons. With that, compulsorily, however, well planned the impression has been caused among the ordinary infantry men that they were put into action on the tip of the island merely in the interest of the Navy.

5. An official journey of the Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff to this headquarters is deemed urgently necessary."

In the evening, the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea submitted the point of view of the Northern Army Group concerning a teletype from the Naval Staff as to the importance of the Sworbe Peninsula for the naval warfare (see War Diary 18 Oct., Special Items, I). The Army Group cannot join the view of the Naval Staff in the following points:

"1. No new importance of the Sworbe Peninsula seems to have arisen through the development of the situation.

2. An evacuation of the Army Group by sea would presuppose the most unfavorable development of the situation. This, however, is not expected by the Army Group. As the loss of the mass of the materiel and of a large part of the personnel must be put up with during the evacuation, the Army Group will do everything in order to prevent that such development takes place.

3. An evacuation of parts of the Army Group by sea can be forced only by an enemy breakthrough of the left wing of the 16th Army at Tuckum, or by an enemy landing of strong forces at the Northern or Eastern Coast of Courland. In both cases, the evacuation of parts of the Army Group from the eastern coast will not be possible.

4. Therefore, the Army Group has no interest in passing the Irben Narrows, however, it would be interested in a blocking of the Irben Narrows by mines which could not be carried out until the Sworbe Peninsula has been evacuated. The control of the Irben Narrows by our own artillery at the Northern Coast seems to be secured. As a protection against landing operations, it is requested that the Northern and Eastern Coast be fouled with mines. This, too, would not be possible until the Sworbe Peninsula has been evacuated.

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5. The ship traffic in the port of Windau cannot be distrubed by the Russian artillery positioned on the southern tip of the Sworbe Peninsula.

6. Only Ahrensburg, which is already in Russian hands, would be suitable as base for enemy war vessels. Possible bases at the eastern coast of the Sworbe Peninsula would be eliminated by the mine barrage at the northern coast of the Sworbe Peninsula; at the western coast, there are possibilities for midget vessels only which are as well available at any other point of the western coast of the Osel Island."

b. From the assessment of the situation as given by the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters as of 1800:

"1. The situation at the front of the 4th Army in East Prussia has become more tense through strong penetrations by the enemy in the Romintern Heath and north of that. The advance units of the tank forces have gained ground up to Angerapp. The situation in East Prussia necessitates the quickest deduction of divisions from the Northern Army Group by sea. First of all, the Chief, Army General Staff intends to deduct four divisions, two or three of which are to be transferred from Libau to Memel, and one from Libau to the area of Danzig or Koenigsberg.

2. The Fuehrer does not deem it possible anymore that the Northern Army Group could break through by land to the south. He pointed once more to the unconditional necessity of defending Windau, Libau and Memel.

3. With regard to the battle on the Sworbe Peninsula, the Fuehrer asked for an examination whether the action of a heavy cruiser would be promising any success."

The Naval Staff informed the Naval Command, East asking for immediate transmittal of its relevant point of view.

The Chief, Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division, too, is informed and ordered to report on the disposition of the transport tonnage to the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters before 22 Oct., when a discussion of the situation will take place with the Fuehrer. The tonnage will be or has already been provided, respectively.

According to an inquiry made by telephone at the Naval Command, East the action of a heavy cruiser is deemed possible by that headquarters. The ammunition supplies will be sufficient.

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The Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff informed the Naval Staff (Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division) on reports from the Northern Army Group to the Army General Staff. According to these reports, the following units were ready for transfer to the Central Army Group:

- a. 1. effective immediately, according to the tonnage available, the General Command, XXXIX. Tank Corps, the remaining parts of the Tank Grenadier Division "Grosedeutschland" and of the 7th Tank Division, the 61st Infantry Division, and the Assault Gun Detachment No. 1158.
  2. the 121st Infantry Division, consecutive to the 61st Infantry Division.
- b. The Army Group asks to provide continuously transport tonnage up to a full utilization of the ports of Libau and Windau in order to continue the started thinning-out besides the transport task shown above. With that, the operation of transports will also be necessary as the number of freighters is not sufficient.
- c. With regard to the operation of Fleet Forces as transports, the Operations Division, Naval Staff has established new figures for the transport capacity of the minclayers, The Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff is informed. Copy of the letter l/Skl I Nord 3163/44 Gkdos. Chefs. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol III.
- d. The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff informed the Operations Division, Naval Staff on the following directive issued to the Naval Command, East, the Fleet and the Net Barrage Unit:
  - "1. The establishment of a barrage at the southern exit of the Sound is urgently necessary as supplement of the newly laid net-barrage at the northern exit of the Sound which reaches only up to the limit of the Swedish Territory. The establishment of a submarine barrage between Drogden and Brekgrund is ordered, and the course of the line is approved according to the proposal of Captain Tschirch.
  2. The establishment of a singly-row submarine barrage is ordered for the protection of the exercise areas in the Bay of Danzig. The course of the line is to be proposed as soon as possible by the Net Barrage Unit.

The barrage planes under 1. and 2. are important for service reasons,

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and will be prepared and carried out with increased speed. The Net Barrage Unit has to take measures that the netlaying materiel is prepared and - as far as it is not available - is produced with the greatest speed under exhaustion of the production capacity.

3. The closing of the Tromper Wiek by an anti-submarine bottom net has been planned in order to provide a protected anchorage for parts of the Fleet."

e. The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff has issued the following order:

"All coastal speed boats and coastal minelayers that were subordinated for the last time to the 9th Defense Division are to be put out of commission and laid up on account of their inappropriateness and because of the scarce fuel situation. Valuable installations, as the engines, bronze torpedo tubes and artillery armament are to be dismantled and made available for other purposes. "

II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. From the assessment of the situation as given by the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters on 21 Oct.:

"The Russian preparations at the Arctic Ocean are indicating planned operations on a large scale directed about towards Narvik. For smaller operations, the preparations are deemed too extensive in the view of the Chief, Operations Staff, Armed Forces."

The Naval Command, Norway is informed.

b. The Naval Command, Norway reported:

"A further extension of the mine barrages on a large scale has been intended for a reinforcement of the coastal defenses, concentrated in the area of Trondheim to the north up to the Lyngen Position. Information is requested as to what extent an allocation of mines is to be expected, especially EMC, EMF, EMR and UMB mines, in consideration of the most important areas in Norway."

The Naval Staff replied:

"There are about 1000 EMF mines available; the monthly output is pending from 200 to 600 pieces. All stores of EMC and EMR mines



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have already been distributed up to the end of November; at present, the monthly output of EMC mines reaches about 2000, EMR mines about 500, and cutting floats about 750, UMB mines have been distributed up to the first third of November; the production lies between 1000 and 1600 pieces, depending on the supply of material. The allocation of EMF mines would be possible immediately, UMB mines as from the middle of November, and EMC mines and anti-sweeping devices as from the end of November, however, the latter in a limited extent only. A requisition is soon to be turned in, so that a priority classification can be made."

c. The Naval Command, Norway went on the report:

"The increased mining of the shipping routes by enemy planes from the Oslo Fjord to the Kattegat and intensified air attacks during night on troops and the supply traffic, especially in the area south of the Oslo Fjord, require urgently, as it is deemed necessary by this headquarters, the operation of night fighters not only from the area of Lister, but also from places near to the exit of the Oslo Fjord."

The Naval Command, East expressly supports this hint.

The Naval Staff informed the Operations Staff, High Command, Air and added that the urgent request was approved.

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III. Subject: Southeastern Area:

With regard to the point of view stated by the Naval Staff as to a camouflaged sea traffic to the Aegean Islands (see War Diary 20 Oct.), the Group South reported that not the Northern Adriatic was taken into consideration as initial position, but the Greek or Thracian ports, respectively, and if the occasion arised, under cooperation of followers of national counter-governments who were living there.

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IV. The Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff submitted the Report on the Enemy Situation No. 20/44, dated 20 Oct. Copy as per 1/Skl 31733/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part D, Vol. 8 b.

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Concerning the Situation in the West, it reads as follows:

"Apparently, the enemy has to struggle with great difficulties in the supply at his entire front in France, which strongly impede his operative freedom of movement. He was forced to engage the far-devastated harbors of Marseille and Toulon for the supply of the southern wing; for the supply of the area of Northern France, besides the strongly limited ports of Cherbourg and St. Malo, the enemy could additionally engage only the port of Ostende which is of little efficiency. Therefore, the opening of Antwerp must be a target of superior importance for the enemy. In the first place, he is carrying out this battle only from the land and from the air. With a further development of the battle for the Schelde Mouth, it must also be reckoned with an operation of naval forces from the sea aiming at a defeat by force of the German coastal defenses in that area."

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Situation 21 Oct. 1944:

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Thirty-four planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, and 18 planes at the 19th Group. Ten British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

In the area of the Channel Islands, one destroyer was sighted on southerly waiting position. Northwest of Cherbourg, probably a cable layer was standing on northwest course.

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2. Own Situation:

Local fighting activity was reported from the encircled fortresses. Dunkirk reported that the rations would last until about 1 Dec., under a very strong cut of the single rations. At present, there are issued 260 g of bread, 35 g of fat, 20 g of which in form of canned meat, 300 g of potatoes, 10 g of sugar, and 2 cigarettes daily.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

a. Bay of Heligoland:

During the night of 20 Oct., the provided tasks were carried out as planned. One mine was cleared northwest of Borkum Island.

b. Area of Holland:

During the night of 20 Oct., the escort and minesweeping duties were not carried out owing to weather reasons. The patrol positions were not occupied. On the Walcheren Island, the batteries of Flushing-North, West and East are operating against land targets east of Breskens. The radar set of the battery Flushing-North is lying under water.

The batteries of Flushing-South, Nieuwe Sluis and Cadzand carried out several effectful surprise fires on enemy concentrations of artillery. The batteries have lain under enemy gun fire since darkening. The Battery Hamilton has moved its position to Knokke.

From 0900 to 1100, the area of Breskens was lying under the strongest enemy drum fire. Since 1200, house-to-house fighting has been reported in Breskens. The battery of Flushing-East, the main fortification and the port were attacked by 75 enemy planes. The great lock was hit. The quarters of the Port Commander and the medical shelter at the lock are destroyed. One harbor tug sank. One gun each broke down in the main fortification of the battery and in Flushing-North. One of the attacking planes was shot down.

The mine material provided for an operation against the bridges at Nijmegen got lost on the way to Utrecht when a motorcar accident was caused by enemy fire. New preparations have been started.

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Norway/Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Thirty-five planes were detected during action in the area of the 18th Group.

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According to a report from the Commander, Submarines, Norway of 2400, 21 Oct., the PQ-Convoy was not detected again neither by submarines nor by air reconnaissance. During the day, the boats reported a strong activity of planes over the land in the area 100 nautical miles northeast of the Kola Bay.

In the forenoon, our own air reconnaissance detected four boats (probably PT boats) in the northern exit of the Petsamo Fjord on northeast course. Towards noon, five PT boats were reported on south course, north-northwest of the Haimaeissari Island. At 1300, a freighter was standing at Liinahamari, in the Petsamo Fjord; besides that, 14 smaller motor boats were detected.

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2. Own Situation:

Area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast:

At 2351, on 20 Oct., enemy PT boats attacked one of our own westbound convoys in the southern exit of the Busse Sound. Two attacks were beaten back, several PT boats damaged. The motor minesweeper R "311" was towed to Vardoe after having been hit by a torpedo in the bow. At 0226, on 21 Oct., a new attack was made off Havningsberg during which the minesweeper M "31" was sunk by a torpedo hit. At 0633, the convoy was attacked with bombs by four planes near Makkaner. During this attack, the motor minesweeper R "151" sank.

From 1012 to 1125, approximately 40 to 50 Boston planes and 50 fighters raided the town and port of Kirkenes. Little damages and casualties were caused by bomb hits on the artillery ferry AF "25". Besides that, a tug was damaged. An ammunition warehouse of the army exploded. Our own fighters shot down 21 enemy planes. Further enemy planes were reported to be shot down by anti-aircraft artillery.

Area of the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast:

The cause of the loss of the steamer MILOS on the evening of 20 Oct. off the Lister Fjord has not been cleared yet. The steamer NORDSTURM of the same convoy ran on the sinking steamer MILOS and was slightly damaged.

During an attack of 20 Mosquito planes at 1445, on 21 Oct., on Hangesund, the steamer ECKENHEIM (1923 BRT) sank at the quay, and the steamer VESTRA (1422 BRT) on the roads.

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On the evening, at 2135, a southbound convoy was attacked by PT boats northwest of the Sogne Fjord. The attack was beaten back. One of the attacking planes was shot afire. At 2300, the submarine chaser UJ "1111" sank northwest of Egersund due to a detonation. The cause has not been cleared yet.

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III. Skager Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

Our own air reconnaissance detected in the afternoon seven small freighters, twelve barges and three fishing boats in Ahrensburg.

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2. Own Situation:

Admiral, Skager Rak:

The minesweeper M "3833" and the patrol vessel VS "328" were slightly damaged in an air raid early on 20 Oct., southeast of Arendal. On 21 Oct., 23 boats were put into action as planned on mineclearing duty in the Baltic Sea Entrances. Six mines were cleared in the Aalborg Bay from 16 to 20 Oct. One mine was reported cleared in the northern exit of the Sound.

The 8th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla searched unsuccessfully for AT-mines on the Erle Route, in the southern exit of the Oslo Fjord.

At 1900, on 20 Oct., the third transport detachment of the 269th Infantry Division arrived in Aarhus.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

Forty-nine boats and one mine-exploding vessel were put into action on mineclearing duty. One mine was cleared north of Pillau.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

With regard to the situation on the Sworbe Peninsula, it was reported that an attack had been made by Red Esthonian

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Divisions on the noon of 19 Oct., who broke through the first and second blocking position. The Naval Special Operations Detachment and the Naval Artillery Detachment No. 531 were in action at the last blocking position. A counter-attack has been started against the tank penetration at the west coast of the isthmus. The enemy has broken through the new defense position with the aid of strong tank forces. At present, the situation is not clear.

The gunfire directed by a group of artillery ferries on the coastal road near Laidunia was carried out with observed effect. Due to weather reasons, the operation was shortened.

At 1530, five motor minesweepers have put to sea from Windau for carrying out a mine task southwest of Ahrensburg. Furthermore, ten PT boats have put to sea from Windau for a push towards the east coast of the Sworbe Peninsula.

At noon, a group of armed fishing vessels was attacked by several enemy planes in an unknown position. Another group of armed fishing vessels was attacked by eight enemy planes at the west coast of the Sworbe Peninsula. During that attack, the minesweeper M "3155" was sunk, and had to suffer little casualties.

The supplies for the Sworbe Peninsula were transported from Windau on naval landing craft and armed fishing vessels without interruptions.

Two artillery ferry barges and eight pinnaces have been put into action on guard positions in the Courland Haff.

Parts of the Special Operations Unit "Ostland" and the Naval Artillery Detachment No. 531, both positioned in Libau, will move to Gdynia for re-organization and armament.

The convoys and troop transports were carried out as planned.

For the Northern Army Group, 190 tons of fuel were allocated to Libau.

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#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

According to the Swedish Press of the afternoon of 20 Oct., a report from London states that the submarine warfare at the Canadian Coast has revived after not even one vessel of the Allies

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was sunk there in September. Another press report of the Allies talks about four attacks by our own submarines on a convoy at the Canadian Coast during which one ship was sunk. No reports have been received yet from our own boats being in operation there.

No particular reports are at hand from the other operational areas.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Raids in the areas of Dortrecht and Flushing were carried out by 150 four-engined British planes. The port of Flushing was heavily damaged, also the railway bridge south of Zevenbergen.

A British formation of twin-engined planes entered the area of Venlo in the forenoon and attacked ground targets.

For assistance of the Army, 176 of our own fighters were in action. Three enemy planes were shot down while 17 of our own planes got lost.

During the night of 21 Oct., a strong activity of remote night-fighters was reported in the area of Holland.

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Reich Territory:

Approximately 450 fighter bombers and fighters were active in small and large groups in the West German area between the North Sea and the Lake of Constance. High explosive bombs were dropped and attacks with aircraft armament carried out.

From the South, twelve planes advanced up to the areas of Klagenfurt, Vienna, Brno and St. Poelten.

Approaching from Italy, 200 American four-engined bombers with fighter escort carried out raids on Raab and Steinamanger.

During the night of 21 Oct., 180 remote night-fighters and fast bombers entered Western Germany approaching singly and in groups. Bomb and mine droppings were reported from the area of Duesseldorf-Krefeld.

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A mixed formation of bombers consisting of 70 - 80 planes has advanced from the South for a raid on Marburg on the Drau River.

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Mediterranean Theater:

The enemy battle activity was as usual. Our own planes were on reconnaissance duty.

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Eastern Area:

At the Eastern Front, 784 own and 995 enemy sorties were shot down. Besides that, seven enemy planes were destroyed on the ground. It has been reported on the reconnaissance and battle activity in the area of the 5th Air Force.

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IV. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

On the forenoon of 20 Oct., a cruiser of the "Coventry"-class put to sea from Gibraltar heading to the Mediterranean. The enemy ship movements off the Riviera were as usual.

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Own Situation:

During the night of 20 Oct., a minelaying operation west-southwest of Genoa was carried out as planned by the minelayer OLDENBURG and two minelaying naval landing craft. The OLDENBURG rammed a harbor defense vessel.

The battery and radar station at the Magra Mouth were unsuccessfully taken under fire by enemy artillery.

At 2315 on 20 Oct. and at 0220 on 21 Oct., two of our own submarine chasers and two motor minesweepers of foreign construction came into an encounter with enemy PT boats on patrol positions south of



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Rapallo. Hits were observed on two boats during the first fight. One of our torpedoes missed the target. One PT boat was sunk during the second fight. Probably the same enemy forces attacked unsuccessfully a small convoy proceeding from La Spezia to Genoa with artillery fire.

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2. Area of the Naval Group South

a. Adriatic Sea:

According to photograph reconnaissance (preliminary evaluation), the following vessels were lying in Ancona: one destroyer, three small war vessels, 20 artillery and torpedo PT boats, twelve LCT, 26 auxiliary landing boats, 43 landing lighters, two tankers and nine freighters.

The action of three PT boats during the night of 20 Oct. in the area of Ancona remained without success. An attack of two Mosquito planes was beaten back. The office of the port commander was heavily damaged during a strong air raid on Metkovic. Only little damage was caused during a bomb attack on Mostar. Enemy artillery fire was directed against the coast east of the islands of Brac and Hvar.

No report has arrived so far on the breakthrough of the naval artillery lighters and infantry boats. On the evening, three PT boats put to sea from Pola to Sibenik for the transfer of battle swimmers. During the night of 20 Oct., two Siebel ferries transferred another 100 men to the Veglia Island.

All parts of the Armed Forces from the area of Ragusa up to Slano have reached the area of Rudinia on the line Dunta - Doli with almost all heavy weapons, ammunition, most valuable equipment as well as with the supply train and 200 wounded. Able-bodied soldiers have been assigned since 18 Oct. to a battle group in different sections, and have been detached in Naval Rifle Battalions and Army Coastal Artillery Units in a total strength of more than 1000 men. Heavy enemy attacks were carried out against the area of this battle group from three sides from 19 Oct. to the noon of 21 Oct. The enemy activity has remarkably slowed down since our own front was reinforced.

During an attack of partisans on Markarska, Ustascha Units have abandoned their positions in full flight. Ragusa is occupied by the enemy.

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b. Aegean Sea:

On the afternoon, an auxiliary carrier and two destroyers were reported from the Leros Island on southeast course in southwestern direction. The air reconnaissance carried out in the Northern Aegean Sea up to 380° North remained without enemy sighting inclusively Chios, Mythilene, Lemnos and Thasos. The search for the torpedo boat TA "18" remained unsuccessful. Coming from Leros, one naval landing craft and one auxiliary sailing vessel arrived at Salonika on 20 Oct. and brought back army goods of first priority.

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c. Situation in the Danube Area:

The stream has been fouled with 25 LMB-mines from the mouth of the Tisza River up to Neusatz. No mine hits nor searching results have been reported. Advanced detachments of Russian tanks entered Bajar during the night of 20 Oct. Downstream beyond Neusatz, the Danube is blocked for shipping.

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Items of Political Importance:

The Prime Minister of Iran announced that the government of Iran had agreed to adjourn the negotiations concerning oil concessions until after the war.

Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy, at 1100

I. During a discussion on new losses at the southwest Norwegian coast, the Commander in Chief of the Navy expresses the intention to inform the Fuehrer by a letter that a further deduction of dockyard workers is impossible; this information should be given after a statement has been made on 23 Oct. by the Chief, Bureau of Naval Administration and by the Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament concerning the war readiness and the new construction situation.

II. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

According to a report from the Naval Attache, Stockholm, the Russian Control Commission in Helsinki allegedly has chosen 14 Finnish ships for the transport of goods from Stockholm to Leningrad. Five of the ships have been listed by name. The Naval Attache, Stockholm, is issued a directive to inform immediately the Naval Command East on further indications about the departure of the ships. The Naval Staff is examining measures which would be suitable for a blockade of this traffic. With that, it might be possible that the necessary and compulsory consideration of Swedish interests appears in a disturbing manner.

III. Chief, Organization and Mobilization Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff:

a. The Chief, Organization and Mobilization Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff asks for a decision whether in compliance with the plan of the Group South the office of the Commanding Admiral, Aegean is to be disbanded after the accomplishment of the naval operations, or whether the Commanding Admiral and his remaining staff is to stay at his post up to further notice for taking care of the occupational forces still fighting on the islands.

The Commander in Chief, Navy decides as per the latter regulation.

b. The Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southwest, on account of his authorization and without regarding the interests of the Navy, takes recourse to the motor-trucks of the Navy in the same manner as at that time the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West.

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The Commander in Chief, Navy orders to direct a request to the Chief, Armed Forces High Command for checking this procedure.

c. Report on the exchange of radio-messages with the German Naval Command Italy and the Commanding General, Armed Forces Southwest, respectively, concerning questions about the Naval Brigade. In compliance with the Chief, Bureau of Naval Administration, the Commander in Chief, Navy agrees to the reached decision according to which the Naval Brigade should not be organized.

d. Proposal for a new organization in the Baltic Sea as had been reported already (see War Diary 19 Oct.). The Commanding Admiral, Naval Command East has expressed himself to the solution A. (Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea; Admiral Western Baltic Sea; Naval Shore Commanders, East Prussia, West Prussia etc.)

The Commander in Chief, Navy gives his approval.

e. Concerning the appointment of a Fortress Commander, Kristiansand South, who would have to be provided by the Navy, the Chief of the Organization and Mobilization Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff proposes an appointment besides the Naval Shore Commander.

The Commander in Chief, Navy agrees.

IV. The Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament reports that the tests with containers towed by submarines have been completed. The new construction has not been ordered yet. At first, the Commander in Chief, Navy wants to learn the result of the tests.

V. Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division:

A decision is required concerning the further operation of small battle weapons in the Ligurian Sea. The broken-down battle flotilla 213 in San Remo could newly be replaced by the Linse Flotilla which becomes available.

The Commander in Chief, Navy is instinctively opposed to the above said. The operation is more necessary in the area of the Netherlands. There are more urgent tasks also in the Irben Narrows and Northern Norway than in the Mediterranean Sea. Therefore, the Commander in Chief, Navy decides that the new flotilla be retained in Germany.

In a restricted circle:

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VI. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

According to Radio London, the 1st Lord of the Admiralty, Alexander, stated that the first part of a huge British Fleet was proceeding to the Far East in order to take part in the imminent offensive against Japan. The British Admiralty hopes to establish a fleet power in the Pacific that would alone be sufficient to meet the entire Japanese Fleet.

The standpoint of the Home Office as to the result of the Moscow Conference does not yield any new aspects.

VII. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The enemy continued his strong attacks against the bridgehead of Breskens and entered the harbor.

At the front north of Antwerp, the British concentrated their forces and threw back our troops. It must be reckoned with an extension of the fights up to the frontline area east of Tilburg.

Strong enemy attacks northeast of Aachen defeated the intended deduction of tank divisions. The battle for Aachen has come to an end.

East of the Parroy Forest, east of Nancy, the enemy continued his attacks and gained several deep penetrations. East of Epinal, too, the enemy divisions could several times deeply penetrate positions.

Italian Front:

South of Bologna, enemy attacks were beaten back in the main.

Balkan:

Fierce fighting is going on for keeping open the retreat road of the Army Group E in the area of Kriva Palanka, north of Pristina, Krajevo, Kragujevac and Beograd. In contradiction to the first reports, 15000 - 16000 men of the Corps Schneckenburger have now broken through to the West and crossed the Save River.

Eastern Front:

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The Russian Forces advancing through the Batschka to the West have taken Baja on the Danube, and are advancing towards Budapest with concentration to the North.

During the fights of the last days in the area east of Szolnok, the 4th Tank Corps gained a remarkable attacking success and smashed several enemy divisions.

While enemy attacks north of Debreszen were beaten back in fierce fighting, the enemy advanced further to the east in northern direction up to Nyiregyhaza (50 km north of Debreszen). The Army Group Woehler in Transsylvania has been issued an order to fight the way back to the west beyond the Tisza River. The establishment of a Tisza River Front has already been started by rear forces.

At the Beskids Mountains, locally limited attacks were beaten back. The enemy is going on to reinforce his front between the Carpathian Mountains and the Vistula River for a great offensive and, apparently, is bringing up now to this front even forces from Courland.

On the whole, a defensive success was reached again in the defensive battle between the Narev and Bug Rivers. Fierce fighting is going on.

In the great battle for East Prussia, the enemy broke through the Rominten Heath and advanced up to Goldap and Gumbinnen. Advanced tank detachments crossed the Angerapp River. Our own troops are fighting for every foot of ground; they knocked out more than 400 tanks during the last three days.

North of the Memel River, the Soviets broke through our bridgehead and advanced up to the railroad bridge at Tilsit.

At the front of the Northern Army Group only local attacks were made which were beaten back.

On the Sworbe Peninsula, the fights were going on under serious losses on our side and under the abandonment of positions.

VIII. Report of the Chief, Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff:

a. For the transport of the tank divisions from Memel, naval landing craft are required which, however, have been put into action by the Admiral, Eastern Baltic for the defense of the Sworbe Peninsula.

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The Commander in Chief, Navy reminds of the statement according to which the transport from Courland and the action on the Sworbe Peninsula are not to be carried out simultaneously.

Chief, Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff: In addition, there are still about 100 000 men who have been requested by the Northern Army Group, to be deducted from Courland for the purpose of thinning-out the area.

b. In Northern Norway, the difficulties are increasing through the enemy air activity, i.e. in Kirkenes and during the approach of the ships. (Danger of carriers, submarines and mines).

c. For the Courland transports, the deduction of the target ships of the Ship Gunnery School is requested. The Commanding Admiral, Submarines has given up already all suitable vessels.

d. In the Netherlands, important shipping space has been paralyzed by the walkout of Dutch crews. The powers of command are in a state of confusion. Minister Speer intends to deduct from the Netherlands at least 500 000 tons of goods. At present, approximately 8000 inland ships are proceeding without any control. A solution can be reached only by an occupation of the Navy.

Commander in Chief, Navy: The possibility for this depends on the result of the personnel report on 23 Oct.

IX. Report of Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division Naval Staff:

On the point of view stated by the Northern Army Group as per protocol in War Diary 21 Oct.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. Concerning a new assessment of the situation on the Sworbe Peninsula (see War Diary 21 August), the Naval Command, East wires to the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

"1. The Fuehrer has ordered that the Sworbe Peninsula be defended. It is not urgent that the Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff goes on an official journey there.

2. I intend to come there for a meeting in the beginning of November.

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b. According to the information on the situation as given by the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters at 1825:

"The Fuehrer has ordered that the Sworbe Peninsula be declared a fortress and defended up to the last man."

The Naval Command East is informed by the Operations Division, Naval Staff accordingly.

c. The Naval Command East takes the following stand as to the question of the Fuehrer whether a heavy cruiser should be put into action at the Sworbe Peninsula (see War Diary 21 Oct.):

"Sufficient preparations have been made for the land target firing from the Sworbe Peninsula. With that the operation is promising success. However, a fighter escort is deemed unconditionally necessary, as the risk would otherwise not bear proportion to the expected result. It must be pointed to the fact that the operation is limited as to the time. An interruption of the operation will depend on the local situation in the air, and will therefore have to be decided by the Commanding Admiral. In the case that the operation is ordered to be carried out, it is proposed to put into action the cruiser LUETZOW with a corresponding escort. The command will lie in the hands of the Commander, 2nd Task Force."

After having discussed the matter with the Northern Army Group, the Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea reports with regard to this subject:

"1. The operation is urgently requested also by the Army Group. Even in the case that the operation would be of a short duration up to the first light only, it would bring relief to the heavily fighting front. The fuel allowances of the Air Force admit operations in critical moments only.

2. It is requested that the operation be started early on 23 Oct."

Additional note of the Naval Command East: "This is impossible as to the time. The earliest time would be the morning of 24 Oct. Further proposals will follow."

d. According to a report from the Naval Command East, the Central Army Group has again asked for assistance through the 2nd Task Force due to the tense situation. The Commander of the 2nd Task Force has been issued an order to be with the heavy cruiser LUETZOW and an appropriate escort on bombardment position with the first light of 23 Oct.



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As soon as the SCHEER is ready for action, a three-hours-readiness will be ordered for the SCHEER and for those boats of the 6th Destroyer Flotilla and 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla which are not in action at the LUETZOW.

e. The Naval Staff informs the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command (Navy), the Naval Liaison Officer, High Command Army, Army General Staff, and the Operations Staff, High Command Air (Navy) as follows:

"1. The action of the 2nd Task Force for assistance of the army front has newly been ordered.

2. Plan: The Commander of the 2nd Task Force with the LUETZOW and an appropriate escort is to start the operation early on 23 Oct. off Memel, and early on 24 Oct. off the Sworbe Peninsula.

3. The operation is to be carried out even in the case that the requested fighter escort is not provided."

f. Towards 1400, the following phone call arrived from the Chief, Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff at the Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

The Northern Army Group turned in an urgent request for the provision of further hospital ships, for the transfer of wounded from Libau. For this purpose, the Shipping and Transport Branch makes available only the transport for wounded, STEUBEN. As a matter of fact, the operation of this very large ship in this area is extremely undesirable as the danger for the ship and possible consequences appear to be very great, however, the operation cannot be avoided since there is no other transport space for wounded available, normal transports are not suitable for this purpose, and the transports are urgently required for other tasks.

The Chief, Shipping and Transport Branch asks for a decision by the Chief, Naval Staff.

After having reported to the Commander in Chief, Navy, the Chief, Naval Staff decides as follows:

The ship may be put into action for the stated purpose, however, the following will be paid attention to:

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1. The ship is not to be loaded with wounded up to the full capacity.
2. The escort at sea, with wounded aboard, is to be accomplished by no less than two destroyers and two torpedo boats, or by corresponding other forces.
3. Urgent demand for fighter escort during the loading and transport passage.
4. The Northern Army Group is expressly to be pointed at the risk, however, the ship is to carry out the transport because of the urgency even then when an appropriate fighter escort cannot be provided, or cannot be provided sufficiently.
5. The stay of the ship in Libau is to be restricted to as short a period as possible. It is to be examined which times are the most favorable ones for the entering and leaving of the ship. (Proposal of the Chief, Naval Staff: The entering of the ship is to be managed several hours before dusk, so that the arrival of the ship remains concealed from the enemy. The loading is to be accomplished during night and during the first morning hours, and the departure so early that a possible reconnaissance action in the morning cannot use the sighting of the ship for bringing air forces into operation in the post area).

The Naval Command East and the Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff are informed on this decision by telephone through the Chief, Operations Branch.

The Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea makes the following proposal by telephone with regard to this matter:

The ship should enter the port in the morning, the loading should be carried out in daylight, and the ship should leave again in the evening, as the security during the approach and return passage would be granted best by this procedure. A protection of the ship in port would be guaranteed by anti-aircraft artillery and fighters.

Approval has been granted, and the Naval Command East informed accordingly.

In conclusion, the Naval Staff sends the following radio message to the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, with copy to the Operations Staff

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(Navy), Armed Forces High Command, the Naval Liaison Officer, Army General Staff, High Command Army, and the Chief, Operations Staff (Navy), High Command Air:

"The Northern Army Group has turned in urgent requests for further hospital ships. The Naval Staff can meet these requests only by putting into action the transport for wounded STEUBEN, as there are no other hospital ships available and transports are not suitable for this purpose; furthermore, the transports are needed for other purposes. Despite the considerations of putting into action such a large ship for this purpose, the operation must be risked as there is no other possibility. The ship will be escorted as strongly as possible by naval forces and not completely be loaded with wounded. A sufficient fighter escort, especially as long as there are wounded aboard, is urgently necessary and will be asked for. However, it is intended in view of the urgency to carry out the transport even in the case that no fighter escort is provided, or that the fighter escort is provided up to an insufficient extent. The Army Group has been pointed to the great risk.

II. Subject: Northern Area:

Among other things, the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command informs the Naval Staff on the following directive issued to the 20th Mountain Army Command:

The movements of the IXX. Mountain Army Corps and the abandonment of Kirkenes has been approved of, depending on the development of the situation. A thorough destruction must be guaranteed.

III. Subject: Southeastern Area:

The Group South informs the Naval Staff by sending copies of directives issued to the Commanding Admiral, Aegean and the Admiral Adriatic, respectively, wherein the flight of the Admiral to Vienna and the subordination of the Naval Shore Command Albania to the Admiral Adriatic is ordered in compliance with the disbandment plan of the Commanding Admiral, Aegean.

Situation 22 Oct. 1944:

I. Situation West Area:

Enemy Situation:

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Forty planes were observed during action at the 15th Group, twenty planes at the 19th Group. Three British vessels were located in the rendezvous area. Radio monitoring detected the cruiser BIRMINGHAM in the area of Devonport. According to photograph reconnaissance, the following vessels were lying in Ostende at 1600 on 21 Oct.: two escort vessels, ten PT boats, four minesweepers, two LST, eight LCT, four large landing boats, 40 auxiliary landing boats, 30 escort vessels, four coastal vessels and 50 small boats. With that, the strongest occupation of this port observed so far has been detected.

Own Situation:

At 1815 on 21 Oct. the coastal motor sailing vessel ALDEBARAN departed from Lorient with three patrol boats heading to Port Haluguen.

In the area of the Channel Islands, two fishing smacks carried out a courier passage between Guernsey and Alderney, and a supply escort between Guernsey and Jersey. The Army Coastal Battery 12/1265 on Alderney Island has fired on enemy targets, probably destroyers, according to location east of Alderney. The target has withdrawn.

The PT boat S "112" carried out a trial run before a planned mine operation and reported again an engine fault. The boat will be docked on 23 Oct. The Naval Shore Commander of the Channel Islands, Rear Admiral Hueffmeier, has at the same time been appointed as Chief of Staff, Commanding Admiral, Channel Islands.

Local fights without particular incidents were reported from the encircled fortresses.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

Bay of Heligoland:

The night tasks were carried out as planned.

Single planes were fired on by heavy anti-aircraft artillery in the sections of Wilhelmshaven, Borkum and Wesermuende during noontime. Further 82 KMA mines were laid off Juist Island.

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Area of the Netherlands:

During the night of 21 Oct., enemy radar-fitted vessels were detected by radar location between IJmuiden and Hook of Holland and partly confirmed by radar locations. The escort and patrol tasks during the night of 21 Oct. were carried out without incidents.

In Amsterdam, the great door of the Wilhelm Lock, leading to the North Holland Channel, has been reported out of action due to a ramming by a minesweeper.

On the afternoon, naval batteries at the Dutch coast fired on enemy planes.

On the Walcheren Island, the roads from Middelburg to the north and west of Walcheren are unserviceable. A communication exists only on the waterway via Veere Vrouwenpolder. The road via Westkapelle is serviceable during two hours when the tide has gone out. The batteries of Flushing North, West and East, and the battery of Dishoek laid a surprise fire in the morning on Breskens. The radar station of Flushing East has been destroyed by an attack of fighter bombers. Breskens is occupied by the enemy. The 64th Infantry Division has ordered that the battery of Flushing South be blown-up and the occupational force of Fort Hendrik be put into action for the defense as infantry unit.

The Battle Flotilla 215 has been ordered to proceed with its operations staff to Flushing. Two groups and four boats have arrived already at Flushing. One naval landing craft with seven boats has run aground. The remaining forces can be put into action on 24 Jan. at the earliest. (Translator's Note: The date should read 24 Oct. instead of 24 Jan.) It is intended to transfer two groups proceeding independently to Dunkirk during the night of 22 Oct. Four boats will transport important parts of guns to Kadzand.

Norway/Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Twenty-three planes were observed during action in the area of the 18th Group. No reports were received from the convoy.

The air reconnaissance detected a coastal freighter on south course in the sea area 45 nautical miles west of Kanin Noss, and south thereof a strong traffic of cutters in different directions.

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Own Situation:

Area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast:

The following number of sorties of enemy planes was reported from 18 to 21 Oct.: 30 sorties with 240 planes into the area of Kirkenes, 19 sorties with 29 planes into the area of Vardoe, and 13 reconnaissance planes into the area of Banak and Hammerfest.

According to an information from the IXX. Mountain Army Corps, the last westbound convoy will sail from Kirkenes on 23 Oct. Subsequently, three days are provided for the demolition of Kirkenes.

At 0850, a westbound convoy was attacked by six enemy planes off the Sylte Fjord. Two patrol boats were heavily damaged and suffered casualties.

Area of the Admiral, North Norwegian Coast:

On the noon of 21 Oct., 20 enemy planes were reported without attacking activity in the area of Aalesund.

Area of the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast:

The convoy traffic between Egersund and Stavanger is blocked because of suspected mines.

Thirty-five ships were escorted to the North, 15 ships to the South.

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III. Skager Rak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

No new observations to be reported.

Own Situation:

Admiral Skager Rak:

Twenty-one boats were put into action on minesweeping duty. One mine each was cleared at Aarhus and at Grenaa.

Early on 21 Oct. the steamer HOHENHOERN (3026 BRT) sank near Vinga due to a mine hit.

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The departure of the 4th Transport Detachment, 269th Infantry Division, from Oslo was scheduled to take place on 22 Oct.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

Forty boats and one mine-exploding vessel were put into action on minesweeping duty.

In the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal, an anti-mine escort is necessary up to further notice. Forty-four ships were escorted to the East, 55 ships to the West.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

On the isthmus of the Sworbe Peninsula heavy fighting is still going on. On 21 Oct., the enemy carried out several air attacks during daylight on Montu and Zerel without mentionable result. The roads of the peninsula are lying under continuous attacks of low flying planes. On the noon, the entire area lay under heavy artillery gunfire.

On the morning, the torpedo boats T "23" and T "28" carried out a firing on the isthmus of the Sworbe Peninsula with 560 rounds from the west. The boats were encountered by a well-aimed gunfire from the shore. The operation was interrupted due to weather reasons and lack of radio communication. The boats have returned to Windau. It is intended to repeat the operation in the evening.

On the morning of 22 Oct., the east coast of Sworbe, too, was taken under fire by two groups of artillery ferries. A new firing by three artillery ferries is provided for the evening.

The fouling with mines of the Bay of Ahrensburg, north of 58°05' north, has been carried out as planned; during that operation, the PT boat S "517" had an encounter with an escort vessel without suffering any casualties. A new mine-laying operation by nine PT boats is provided in the area southeast of Ahrensburg for the night of 22 Oct.

The following naval forces were put into action for the battle on the Sworbe Peninsula on 21 and 22 Oct.: The torpedo boats T "23" and T "28", three artillery ferries, 33 armed fishing vessels, ten PT boats and five motor minesweepers, and 13 naval landing craft. With that, almost all vessels that are not engaged with the escort duty are bound to the operation on the Sworbe Peninsula.

During the night of 21 Oct., seven naval landing craft and five armed fishing vessels transferred supplies, three assault guns, motor trucks and ammunition to Zerel and Montu.

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Out of 19 artillery ferry barges available, five are at war readiness and four at limited war readiness for the time being. Two artillery ferry barges have been transferred to the Sector Commandant of Memel.

At 1020, a group of armed fishing vessels was attacked by enemy planes with bombs and aircraft armament, west-northwest of Zeral. One minesweeper was damaged. Twenty-nine enemy planes dropped bombs on Memel. On the afternoon, approximately 50 enemy planes were reported in the area of Libau, eight of which were shot down.

The 2nd Task Force, consisting of the LUETZOW with two destroyers and three torpedo boats, has put to sea as planned from Gdynia at 1930, and intends to be ready for action at 0700 on 23 Oct. at the approach buoy of Memel. Due to the fuel shortage, no fighter escort is provided.

The convoy and troop transports were carried out as planned. The following supplies were transferred to Memel: 124 tons of ammunition and 35 tons of equipment.

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#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

The submarine U "983" ran on an own mine in the grid square AN 3513. The boat was towed by a submarine chaser to the Strand Fjord.

No reports are at hand on the convoy in the Northern Waters. The boats are partly released for refilling, the other ones counting about 8 - 10 boats are put into position on the patrol line from the grid square AC 8356 to AC 8244.

During a search for a BV 138-plane, which had been forced to a landing in the grid square AN 3470, the submarine U "737" reported an exchange of fire and the firing of a Zaunkoenig Torpedo on an escort vessel which missed the target. A circle runner was observed over the boat.

During the return passage in the grid square AC 9494, an attack by two enemy planes with heavy parachute-bombs and aircraft armament was made. One plane was heavily hit. The submarine reported little damages and three wounded.

The submarine U "1001" reported from the area southeast of Hangoe to have fired a torpedo three-fan on a tow and three escorting vessels missing the target.



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V. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

A vivid enemy activity of fighter bombers was reported over the Belgian - Dutch area.

During the night of 22 Oct., single remote night fighters were in the Dutch area. During the day, our own planes supported the Army in the west area and shot down one enemy plane.

Reich Territory:

Approximately 900 bombers with a strong fighter escort entered the northwest of the Reich during the afternoon and separated into two groups in the area of Osnabrueck. The first group attacked Hannover - Brunswick, the second group the area of Muenster - Hamm. Fighter screens were standing in the north in the area of Heligoland - Bremen, and in the east in the area of Brandenburg - Magdeburg. For details about the damages in Hannover, Brunswick and Muenster look up the "Situation of the Day."

Further enemy raids were directed against communications in Hamm and two air force stations.

A new raid by about 100 - 150 four-engined bombers of the RAF with fighter escort was carried out in the area of Duesseldorf - Neuss.

During the whole day, approximately 500 fighter bombers and fighters were in action at the western border of the Reich, from the North Sea, up to the Lake of Constance. Railway installations and roads were attacked.

During the night of 22 Oct., 60 - 80 Mosquito planes raided Hamburg. Eighteen Mosquito planes were active in the industrial area of the Rhineland and Westfalia and in the area of Wiesbaden. Besides that, the dropping of mines in the Kattegat was observed, while about 20 planes carried out probably the supply of agents in Northern Jutland.

None of our own fighters were put into action against the attacking enemy planes in the Reich Territory, due to weather reasons.

Mediterranean Theater:

No particular operations were reported.

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Eastern Front:

At the Eastern Front, 463 own and 1120 enemy sorties were reported on 21 Oct.; eight of our own planes got lost, while 39 enemy planes were shot down. Our own planes carried out an extensive reconnaissance operation in the Gulf of Finland. For details see the "Situation of the Day."

It has been reported on the area of the 5th Air Force.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

At 1825, on 21 Oct., eleven freighters, one tanker and five escorting vessels passed through the Strait of Gibraltar in western direction. On the noon of 22 Oct., a convoy consisting of 52 freighters and ten tankers with six corvettes followed. On the forenoon, a cruiser of the "Coventry" class and a towed floating dock put to sea from Gibraltar to the Mediterranean. One formation, among which one cruiser, fired on the main defense line south of the Magra Mouth, according to an Army Report. After the fire had been returned by the army coastal battery, the formation withdrew under a smoke cover to the south.

Own Situation:

During the night of 21 Oct., six enemy PT boats attacked a convoy of naval landing craft proceeding from Genoa to La Spezia west of Levante. One of the attacking boats was sunk, another heavily damaged. Two torpedoes detonated ashore. The convoy arrived without being damaged. Previously, the same group of enemy vessels had an encounter with a convoy of war freighters. No report has been received on this.

Naval Land Units have successfully and without losses finished the fights against partisans along the coastal road from San Remo to Imperia. The battery at the Magra Mouth continued the gunfire on the enemy main defense line.

2. Area of the Naval Group South:

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a. Adriatic Sea:

On the evening of 21 Oct., an enemy air raid was made on Rovigno; the Navy reported no damages. During a raid by fighter bombers on Grado, one motor boat and two lighters sank.

The situation in the Bay of Cattaro is calm. One of our battle forces has taken Neum. No reports are at hand from the Naval Shore Commander of South Dalmatia. The enemy has escaped partly via the sea, and partly withdrew to the north.

The Naval Liaison Officer with the German Air Force in Italy transmitted an enemy report, according to which 17 shipwrecked were brought to Ancona from a point 25 nautical miles east-south-east of Ancona. As there are no reports at hand from the unit of infantry boats and naval artillery lighters, the report must be brought into connection with this.

During the night of 21 Oct., the northbound convoy re-entered Zara as the escort of torpedo boats was not at the rendezvous-point.

The torpedo boat TA "20" was rammed by the torpedo boat TA "21". The repair works will take until 23 Oct.

A southbound convoy entering Zara was unsuccessfully fired on with heavy mortars, anti-tank guns and machine guns in the Strait of Pasman on the evening of 21 Oct. Two harbor defense vessels transferred alarm units in a strength of 100 men from the Veglia Island to Fiume.

The Naval Shore Command Albania has been subordinated again to the Admiral, Adriatic.

The Command of the Small Battle Units reported that the operation of battle swimmers in Lissa will be given up to the bad weather conditions and unreliable reconnaissance results during the current new moon period. The land situation makes improbable a later operation; it is intended to carry out a commando raid against the fuel pipeline north or south of Ancona with the 24th PT Boat Flotilla from Pola.

b. Aegean Sea:

The torpedo boat TA "18" has been overdue since the night of 19 Oct. The boat was to rescue shipwrecked from an

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island in the exit of the Volos Bay. The British broadcast reported that two British destroyers had sunk a German destroyer near Salonika on 19 Oct. In the opinion of the Commanding Admiral, Aegean, the reason for the loss of the torpedo boat TA "18" is probably to be seen in a mine hit. The patrol vessel F "317" and one auxiliary sailing vessel, too, have been overdue since 20 Oct. proceeding from Leros Island. The loss of the boats has to be put up with. According to a British broadcast report, the British cruiser ARGONAUT destroyed a large landing boat near Lemnos on 18 Oct. According to another British broadcast report, the island of Lemnos is occupied by the enemy.

As a last rescue measure for the shipwrecked on the island in the Volos Bay, assault boats which are out of commission have been made ready for action by the crew of the 12th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla, and put to sea from Salonika on the evening. A sailing vessel with ammunition for Crete Island was damaged and beached, probably by a drifting mine, during the departure in the outer Gulf of Salonika.

c. Situation in the Danube Area:

The guard ship NOTHUNG of the Danube Flotilla got lost through a mine hit at the kilometer point 1355 and suffered casualties.

The Commander, Danube Flotilla reported that the Russian had entered Apatin, Bezdan and Baja. By order of the Group South, the north-going group of the Danube Flotilla has operationally been subordinated again to the Inspector of Mineclearance, and is ordered to break through to the area of Budapest taking along all shipping space available. With that, the special requests of the Southern Army Group concerning the operation are to be met.

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VII. Situation in East Asia:

Particular reports are not at hand.

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Items of Political Importance:

Reuter is spreading the following assessment of the situation: "Germany is by no means defeated, and a long winter battle is threatening during which the opposing armies might be engaged for months in possibly the most serious of all fights in Europe. In no case, the German people would be willing to give up the fight, and there would be nowhere a sign in Germany for an inner collapse. The majority of the higher officers of the Allies were of the opinion that the war would last rather far into the year of 1945. The fights at the entire front were still limited to local targets, and the winter rainfalls and strong winds would force the prospects for a fast conclusion of the fights into the background."

It is to be heard from Radio London:

"The problem of the Western Front is still a problem of supply. The German decision of leaving behind important occupational forces and defending the harbors which were not touched by the advance of the Allies was no mistake. The losses suffered there were absolutely worthwhile the efforts."

The Reuter statement must in the main be regarded as a measure serving a particular purpose. It is intended to weaken the German forces of resistance and to spur the British on the other hand.

Churchill returned to London on 22 Oct., while Eden is still in Cairo. The Prime Minister will probably make a statement on the London Conference on 27 Oct., following which a debate in the House of Commons will take place.

The information received by the German Ambassador at Stockholm from diplomatic circles on the result of the Moscow Conference to be looked up in War Diary, Part C, Vol. VIII.

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Conference on the Situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1130:

I. Subject: Situation in the East:

a. A strong enemy attack against the front at Memel is being expected on 23 Oct. According to an unconfirmed report, landing preparations of the enemy at Starischken are intended. The Section Commander of Memel intends to put into action two anti-aircraft ferries from the north against this. The artillery ferry barges will stay in the south.

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b. The Naval Command East has issued the following directive:

"1. The gunfire directed at land targets in the area of Memel on 23 Oct. is to be arranged in a way that the unit comes into a position to support the heavily fighting front on the Sworbe Peninsula by opening the fire at land targets with the first light of 24 Oct.

2. The Admiral Eastern Baltic is to provide the torpedo boats T "23" and T "28" for the relief of the boats assigned to the LUETZOW, as soon as the latter have to be released for fuel refilment.

3. After the accomplishment of the task off Memel, the unit will be operationally subordinated to the Admiral Eastern Baltic for the operation at the Sworbe Peninsula.

4. A request for the provision of fighter escort will be turned in by the Admiral Eastern Baltic.

5. The Admiral Eastern Baltic will take care that the request for anti-submarine patrol and anti-submarine hunt by sea-planes, especially the time and the area, is forwarded to the report center of the Naval Command East in Due time."

After the provision of a fighter escort was originally disapproved by the 6th Air Force, a fighter escort in the strength of five planes will be provided for the operation of the 2nd Task Force at the Sworbe Peninsula on 24 Oct. under a suitable weather condition.

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II. Subject: Situation in the Mediterranean:

For a conclusive report concerning the performance of re-transfers by the Navy in the Aegean Sea from 23 Aug. to 21 Oct. 1944 see War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV under 23 Oct. 1944. Altogether, the following have arrived in the ports of destination: 28512 soldiers, 1,077 horses, 504 motor trucks, 274 guns, 1434 other vehicles and 15604 tons of war materiel.

The following losses were suffered: appr. 400 men, 164 motor trucks, 60 guns, 43 other vehicles and 12296 tons of war materiel, furthermore by the air force: eleven steamers and auxiliary sailing vessels with 10049 deadweight tons and 23 small vessels with

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about 1400 deadweight tons, by naval forces: mine steamers and auxiliary sailing vessels with 12810 deadweight tons and 17 small vessels with a total of about 2400 deadweight tons, probably by enemy mine: one auxiliary sailing vessel with 200 deadweight tons.

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III. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

Requests have been received from the Naval Command Norway and Naval Command East asking for an increase of the Defense Forces. The Naval Command Norway invites the attention to the new dangerous area near Lister and deems it necessary to assign additionally destroyers, torpedo boats, PT boats and ten submarines, especially for the defense of the enemy carrier-borne planes.

With regard to this, the Chief of the Operations Division, Naval Staff states that there are still 15 vessels from the former area of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West which belong to the Naval Command, Norway and are now temporarily in a shipyard.

The Naval Command Norway has pointed out that the 8th Defense Division can carry out the escort duties in the Baltic Sea Entrances only by a concentration of its forces; it is pointed at the extraordinary delay which must take place through this measure. This Naval Command, too, turns in a request for the urgent assignment of new forces.

The Naval Staff can reply only that the defense forces are engaged to the utmost in all areas, so that an assignment of new forces is impossible.

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IV. The Chief, Organization and Mobilization Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff reports that the Group South is going to settle the matter concerning motor vehicles immediately with the Commanding General, Armed Forces Southeast. Therefore, the plan of contacting the Chief, Armed Forces High Command has been abandoned.

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In a restricted circle:

V. Chief, Mine Warfare Section, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

The Operations Staff, High Command Air has asked for issue of the river ground mines fitted with the firing unit "D 103". The

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Air Force intends to drop the first 300 mines of this kind in the beginning of November in the Schelde River and in the Rhine Estuary.

The Naval Staff cannot approve of the requested issue as our own defense device against the D-firing unit has not been developed yet. An imitation by the enemy would be the most serious disadvantage for our own warfare. Under the low dropping height required, plane losses are to be put up with in the nearest future, and with that the seizure of intact instruments by the enemy. There are no considerations existing against a technical and tactical instruction of the operations headquarters and aerial mine detachments for a short-termed inauguration of this operation. The Commander in Chief, Navy is of the same opinion. A relevant teletype as per 1/Skl IE 31920/44 Gkdos. is sent to the High Command Air. Copy to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol VI.

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VI. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff reports on news according to which Southern France is standing under a strong influence of the communists. Strong formations of Spanish communists have also gathered in the area of the Pyrenees Mountains, and are said to intend a penetration of Spain at a favorable time. Undoubtedly, the situation is dangerous.

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VII. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The situation on 22 Oct. was marked by the continuation of the heavy attacks against the southern front of the 15th Army and by the attacks from the east against Hertogenbosch which were started after a strong preparation by artillery gunfire.

By this, the plan of the enemy is quite obvious to keep clear the back for the main push that is to be expected to the east, to eliminate the own blocking of the port of Antwerp, and to cut off the German troops fighting south of the Meuse and Waal Rivers by occupying the main bridges. Under the engagement of all reserves available we succeeded so far in holding back the enemy attacking from the south in a narrow defense line and in frustrating an enemy breakthrough of Hertogenbosch.

Only local fights took place in the area of Aachen.



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At the front of the 19th Army, the enemy pressure continued in the same strength at the sofar existing concentration point east of Epinal.

Italian Front:

In the battle area of the 14th Army, the enemy fighting activity was limited during the day to locally separated attacks in the section of Bologna.

At the front of the 10th Army, the enemy succeeded in establishing another bridgehead north of Cesena.

Balkan:

In Central Greece, the rear guards were standing on 20 Oct. north of Larissa.

The enemy is following closely our own withdrawal movement west of Kriva Palanka.

West of Beograd, the Russians have occupied the airfield of Semlin. The troops who were withdrawn from the bridgehead of Beograd in a strongly exhausted condition are presently being reorganized. After completion of these measures, the withdrawal of our own forces standing in East Syrmia is provided beyond the Drina River.

During the night of 21 Oct., the withdrawal movement of the German forces at the lower Tisza River has been started leaving behind motorized rear guards.

Eastern Front:

Between the middle course of the Danube near Braja and Szolnok, the enemy is continuing his pressure towards Budapest.

East of Szolnok, the fights of the 4th Tank Corps aiming at the annihilation of encircled enemy forces are going on.

North of Debrecen, our troops withdrew and beat back strong enemy attacks. In the area 50 km northeast of Debrecen, our advance detachments from the west and east could close up and, with that, cut off the enemy standing further to the north from his supply routes.

The withdrawal movements of the Army Group Woehler from Transsylvania are taking place as planned.

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At the left wing of the 1st Tank Army (Beskids Front), the heavy defensive fights are going on. We succeeded here in clearing mainly a former penetration. The fights with the newly attacking and partly having broken-through enemy are going on.

At the Narev River, heavy and serious fights took place yesterday mainly at the left wing of the 9th Army.

Under the extension of the enemy attacks up to the area of Augustowo, the defensive battle in East Prussia developed again to its full strength. South of the Rominten Heath, the XXXXI. Tank Corps was attacked by a superior enemy and broken through at numerous points. Goldap got lost. Northeast of Gumbinnen, the XXVI. Army Corps could prevent with its last reserve a breakthrough, despite several penetrations.

The attack of the reinforced FS.Pz.K.H.G. broke through from the area southeast of Gumbinnen, joined by forces which were put into action from the south, and could cut off by that the enemy forces fighting in the area south of Gumbinnen in a strength of about one rifle corps and one tank corps from their rear communications.

At the Memel Front, the withdrawal movement beyond the river took place as ordered.

The garrison of the fortress of Memel was standing today in heavy and serious defensive fights.

Northern Army Group: No important fights took place at the land front of the Northern Army Group.

On the Sworbe Peninsula, our own attack aimed at the occupation of the Ranna Position met a strong enemy resistance. Our own Eastern Group still holding out in the Ranna Position is strongly endangered from the rear. The fierce fighting is going on.

Finland:

At the Southern Front, our own troops are standing now at about 180 km north and 120 km north-northwest of Rovaniemi, as well as 160 km north of Harpanda at the border road between Finland and Sweden.

At the Arctic Front, enemy flanking maneuvers against the southern wing were frustrated, and attacks along the three roads leading to the west were beaten back. Enemy reinforcements indicate that the

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enemy intends to carry out operations on a larger scale.

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VIII. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

A radio message from the Group West to the Naval Shore Command, Channel Islands, which was read here, shows that it is intended to send a representative of the International Red Cross to the islands. In spite of this fact, the Naval Shore Command is to take all measures apt for a longer defense, i.e. to aim at getting rid of all superfluous food consumers on the islands.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. Pointing at the fact that the numerous wounded on the large and easily to be damaged hospital ship STEUBEN would be strongly endangered, the Operations Division, Naval Staff once more turned in an urgent request to the Operations Staff, High Command Air for the procurement of a fighter escort which would also be needed because of the lack of escort forces. The Chief, Naval Staff has ordered only on demand of the Operations Staff that the ship be put into action.

b. Concerning the importance of the Sworbe Peninsula, the Naval Staff wires as follows to the Naval Liaison Officer, Northern Army Group, with copy to the Naval Command East, the Admiral Eastern Baltic, the Naval Liaison Officer with the General Staff of the Army and the 2nd Task Force:

"The Naval Staff has taken notice of the assessment as given by the Northern Army Group. The so far existing opinion about the Sworbe Peninsula has not been altered. Meanwhile, the Fuehrer has ordered that the Sworbe Peninsula be defended as a stronghold."

c. The Naval Command East points to the fact that an operation of submarines in the area of the southern Aaland Waters against the ship traffic between Sweden and Russia would promise success only under the condition that the permission to attack is restricted by no means, i.e. that a sufficient alarm area is designated wherein any vessel may be sunk without warning. The same presuppositions apply to the operation of surface forces, as according to the prize regulation the forces are too strong for the economic warfare.

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The Naval Staff intends, on account of the altered situation in the Baltic Area, to extend the presently assigned operational area of the Gulf of Finland up to the eastern Baltic Sea and, if the occasion arises, up to the Gulf of Bothnia.

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II. Subject: Northern Area:

The Operations Staff, High Command Air reports that the Commanding General in Norway has been pointed at the importance of the night fighting in the area of the Oslo Fjord, and that an increased action of night fighters has been asked for in this area.

According to a further information from the Chief, Operations Branch, Air Force (Navy), 56 bombers are provided for the Norwegian area, 16 of which are still in the Reich, while 40 have arrived already in Banak and Bardufoss.

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III. Subject: Naval Command North:

a. The Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament points to the fact that the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North is to be acknowledged for his initiative and multiple efforts in transferring successfully the two repair ships STAHL and EISEN.

The Commander in Chief, Navy transmits the following teletype to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North:

"The successful re-transfer of most valuable new ship constructions and goods from the area of Holland to the home ports is a performance of which the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North and the subordinated units can be proud, and to which my special appreciation is attached. Despite the opposing circumstances arising during the preparation and execution, great nautical difficulties and strong enemy activity, the task was carried out owing to the efficiency, skill and exemplary operational readiness. The success is of great value for the further naval warfare."

b. Due to the interruption of the communication facilities with the Naval Shore Command, South Holland, the Naval Command North asks for a new appointment of a Naval Shore Command, Central Holland for the area north of Schouven.

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The Naval Command North agrees also in detail upon the proposals. It is suggested to appoint Captain Stoepfasius as Naval Shore Commander, Central Holland with site in Scheveningen.

The Chief, Naval Staff agrees. The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff will further deal with the matter.

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IV. Subject: Southeastern Area:

a. The Commanding Admiral, Aegean reports that there are still the following vessels in the main fortress of Crete: one Italian submarine chaser and five harbor defense vessels; in the main fortress of Leros: one armed fishing vessel, one naval artillery lighter, four patrol boats, four infantry boats, one speed boat (fitted with a float step), two ferry barges, two minesweepers, four wherries, two combined operations boats and two combined operations assault craft; in the main fortress of Rhodos: one combined operations assault craft, seven combined operations landing boats and two infantry boats. These figures are required by the Armed Forces High Command.

b. The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff wires to the Group South that, during a repeated examination, the Commander in Chief, Navy had decided that the remaining staff of the Commanding Admiral, Aegean be kept in operation even after the naval personnel that was put into action on the islands for observing the naval operation has carried out the naval tasks, as it would not be sufficient to detach merely a commander of a transit camp with a personnel specialist to the Army Group for taking care of the naval personnel and representing the naval interests. The Group South is to assign the headquarters and to arrange further details.

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Situation 23 Oct. 1944:

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Thirty-four planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, sixteen planes at the 19th Group. One British vessel was located at 0836 in the grid square BF 1720.

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2. Own Situation:

Two fishing smacks carried out a courier passage between Guernsey and Alderney Island. Besides that, a supply convoy was carried out between Guernsey and Jersey Island.

In the fortified area of St. Nazaire, a patrol boat fired on enemy positions near Le Tertre.

During the night of 23 Oct., three submarine chasers put to sea from St. Nazaire to Lorient in order to carry out personnel and materiel transports. The submarine chaser UJ "1411" sank after collision with a mine; the crew was rescued.

During an attempt to occupy again the Minquiers Islands with an observation post and a radio station, it was found that the islands were occupied by the enemy. Besides that, two enemy PT boats were standing in the vicinity.

Local fighting activity was reported from the encircled fortresses. Despite repeated protests, hospitals in Dunkirk were several times taken under fire by enemy artillery.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

North Sea:

A. Bay of Heligoland:

Further 82 KMA mines were dropped off Juist Island. During the night of 22 Oct., the escort and minesweeping duties were carried out as planned.

Passing enemy planes were taken under fire by the naval anti-aircraft artillery of Norderney, Wilhelmshaven, Heligoland, Brunsbuettel, Cuxhaven and Wesermuende.

B. Area of Holland:

During the night of 22 Oct., radar location reports were continuously made between Hook of Holland and Helder. The escort and minesweeping duties were carried out as planned during the night of 22 Oct.

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In the vicinity of Lemmer, two further steamers were sunk in the Channel by gunfire. The passage through the Channel is not hampered. Near Sliedrecht, a convoy group was fired on from land by terrorists with machine guns. The fire was returned.

The minesweeper M "3245" ran aground when entering Veere.

In the afternoon, two enemy planes were shot down by a naval battery during a low-flying attack on the port of Flushing. During a further attack, the lock of Flushing was heavily damaged, the supply for Cadzand was made difficult.

The port entrance of Flushing was narrowed up to 35 meters through the sinking of two further vessels.

The batteries of Nieuwe Sluis and Cadzand were put into action against enemy targets. Concentrated enemy artillery gunfire was directed against our own batteries.

Two groups of the 215th Small Battle Weapons Flotilla put to sea from Flushing to Dunkirk at 2200, on 22 Oct. Four other boats have been put into action from Cadzand for assistance. The Dunkirk Group was dispersed after the departure by artillery gunfire. As the boats were equipped with a hand compass only, the target ship was not found. Fourteen crews have returned so far.

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Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Thirty-one planes were detected during action in the area of the 18th Group.

2. Own Situation:

Area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast:

A strong and direct enemy pressure was lying on Kirkenes on 21 Oct. The advance detachments of the enemy are standing about 20 km south-southeast off the town.

In the afternoon of 22 Oct., a westbound convoy was attacked by 40 enemy planes with bombs and aircraft armament off the Sylte Fjord.

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Three enemy planes were reported shot down. In the evening, an attack of four PT boats was beaten back by a westbound convoy having left Kirkenes with a cargo of evacuation goods.

Towards noon of 23 Oct., the westbound convoy "K 3" was unsuccessfully attacked in the Kibergneset by 20 enemy planes with bombs and aircraft armament.

Area of the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast:

On 22 Oct., sorties of several single planes were reported in the area of Christiansand South up to Boemmelen from 1100 until about midnight. In the afternoon of 23 Oct., 21 Mosquito planes were in the area of Bergen. A salvage group in the Hjelte Fjord was attacked. The patrol vessel VP "5506" was damaged, beached, and has capsized later on. Two tugs were heavily damaged, other vessels slightly.

A surfaced midget submarine on south course was sighted at 1709 three nautical miles west of the Battery Rannaberg. A patrol of the Feiestein Narrows has been ordered to be carried out by four submarine chasers. Twenty-five ships were escorted to the North, fifteen ships to the South.

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III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

Our own air reconnaissance detected 30 boats - later on 36 boats - near Pappensee. One barge, two lifting vessels, one ponton and 7 - 10 boats were detected in Sventoje, and six boats, all of them midget vessels, in Polangen. In Riga, 73 barges were lying at 0200 on 23 Oct. The bridges are destroyed and cannot be passed by vehicles, the quay installations have been demolished. Two new foot bridges have been laid across the Duena River.

Four motor minesweepers, four guard boats, eleven motor boats and one ferry were detected in the port of Ahrensburg, and three auxiliary gun boats, four motor minesweepers, two PT boats, twenty motor boats, three small freighters, one ferry and four parts of landing stages in the port of Werder.

One salvage ship and one freighter were at sea northwest of Werder. The port mole of Baltic Port has been blown up. Details have not been reported. Twelve midget vessels and a wreck were detected in the port of Reval. The port facilities have been blown up.



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Seven motor minesweepers as well as eight motor minesweepers equipped with gear, furthermore seven small freighters, ten motor boats, two tugs and one salvage tug were observed in the Bay of Reval.

Five auxiliary gun boats, four motor minesweepers, three submarines of the SCHTSCH class, three PT boats, the submarine parent ship SMOLNY, the ice-breaker JERMAK, forty freighters, two tugs, twenty-nine barges, approximately 220 small boats and two submarine docks are lying in the port of Helsinki.

Seven motor minesweepers, five motor guard boats, eight small freighters, five tugs and forty small boats were detected in the port of Hangoe. In the area of Porkalla, three minesweepers of a new type and five motor minesweepers equipped with gear were under way.

At 1500 on 23 Oct., the air reconnaissance detected seven freighters, four sailing vessels, four barges and approximately 100 small boats along the coast of Western Finland, south of 61° north. Seven freighters, three sailing vessels, one tanker, fifty-two barges and eighty-one boats were lying in Rauma.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

In the evening of 22 Oct., about 60 enemy planes entered the central and southern Kattegat, apparently for dropping mines. At 0005, on 23 Oct., a transport detachment proceeding from Oslo to Aarhus accompanied by the escort of the 5th Destroyer Flotilla was unsuccessfully attacked by planes with bombs.

At 0220, the escort of the tanker IRANIA (2184 BRT) was attacked by planes. The tanker burned out after several hits by bombs.

At 1602, the mine-exploding vessel "11" observed a Beaufighter plane dropping mines northeast of Anholt.

Twenty-six boats were put into action on mineclearing duty. Three mines each were cleared in the Aalborg Bay and near the Zealand Reef, two mines in the Samsø Belt. The patrol boat VS "1011" collided with a mine north of Samsø and has been towed to port.

At 1100 on 22 Oct., the 4th Transport Detachment of the 269th Infantry Division put to sea from Oslo to Aarhus.

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Western and Central Baltic Sea:

Forty-five boats and one mine-exploding vessel were put into action on mineclearing duty. One mine each was cleared off Pillau and in the Fehmarn Belt.

In the afternoon of 22 Oct., the motor minesweeper M "403" was rammed by a troop transport near Kahlberg and towed to Neufahrwasser in a damaged condition.

At 0700 on 23 Oct., the steamer IDA (6090 BRT) enroute to Gdynia, loaded with coal for Norway, ran on the wreck of the GNEISENAU north of Darsserort and sank.

The TOGO will be transferred to Pillau for operating as fighter directing ship.

The mineclearing works in the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal turned out unsuccessfully. Ships with a tonnage of more than 4000 BRT cannot pass.

Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea:

On the Sworbe Peninsula, the strong enemy attacks with the assistance of tanks are concentrated at the west side of the peninsula. Besides that, our own troops are continuously being attacked with bombs and aircraft armament.

In the early morning, the torpedo boats T "23" and T "28" repeated the fire on the west coast of the Sworbe Peninsula with 148 rounds. The returned fire of the enemy lay between the boats. An air shadower operated with the unit. In the evening of 22 Oct., a group of artillery ferries fired 320 rounds on the east coast of the Sworbe Peninsula. Six naval landing craft and two motor minesweepers were put into action for the supply of the Sworbe Peninsula.

In the afternoon of 22 Oct., the PT boat S "67" reported a torpedo track northwest of Windau. Submarine chasers have been put into action.

At 0800 on 23 Oct., nine enemy planes with fighter escort attacked a group of naval landing craft northeast of Lyserort. Casualties were suffered.

In the afternoon of 22 Oct., and in the evening, heavy enemy air raids were made on Libau. The Mining and Barrage Headquarters was

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damaged. A dock of 1500 tons was hit by two bombs. Two vessels, one tug and the steamer DIEDENHOFEN were heavily damaged, the torpedo boat T "23" and the naval landing craft F "3" slightly. Our own fighters shot down 21 attacking planes, our own anti-aircraft artillery five.

The armed fishing vessel KFK "3153" sank during enemy air raids on Windau in the evening of 22 Oct. One tug, one artillery ferry and two barges were damaged.

Serious damages were caused to buildings during air raids on Memel in the evening of 22 Oct. and in the morning of 23 Oct. One ferry barge and two motor launches were damaged. Two of the attacking planes were shot down.

According to reports received so far, the operation of the 2nd Task Force in the area of Memel has been carried out as planned. It is intended to leave Memel at 1400 at a cruising speed of 17 Knots heading north for an operation off the west coast of the Sworbe Peninsula at 0600 on 24 Oct. The aircraft tender WEDEL with three planes of the type "AR 196" will be transferred to Windau as escort of the task force.

The convoys and transports were carried out as planned. The following supplies were transported to Libau: 2173 tons of ammunition and 125 tons of equipment, to Memel: 310 tons of ammunition.

#### IV. Submarine Warfare:

Being on the return passage from the east coast of America, the submarine U "802" reported the sinking of a destroyer without giving further details.

In the Northern Waters, about eleven boats will be brought into action on the patrol line running from the grid square AC 6781 to AC 8168. At 0700, one boat beat back the attack of a Catalina plane in the grid square AC 8353.

In the Gulf of Finland, the submarine U "481" reported to have fired a three-fan on a slowly proceeding towed convoy northeast of Odensholm missing the target.

No particular reports were received otherwise.

#### V. Aerial Warfare:

##### West Area:

Approximately 100 - 150 four-engined British bombers made a raid on the fortifications in the area of the Schelde Estuary in the afternoon. Otherwise, the activity of fighter bombers in the entire area of the Netherlands was only weak.

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Reich Territory:

Between 0700 and 1600, approximately 45 enemy planes entered singly and in small groups the northwestern corner of the Reich territory.

In the forenoon, 34 enemy planes entered the area of Munich and Augsburg from the South and advanced then up to Tuebingen, Lower Silesia and Poznan.

Approximately 500 bombers with fighter escort entered the Reich territory and made raids on the areas of Augsburg, Woerishofen, Regensburg, Schleisheim, Dachau, Gera, Brux, Eger, Saalfelden and Zell am See. For details on the damages see the "Situation of the Day." Besides that, air force stations in the Vogtland and in Bavaria were attacked without great result. Our own fighters could not start due to weather reasons.

During the night of 23 Oct., about 40 - 50 Mosquito bombers attacked Berlin, and about 250 - 300 four-engined bombers Essen. Further raids were reported from the area of Wiesbaden.

Mediterranean Theater:

No particular operations were reported.

Eastern Area:

On 22 Oct., 446 own and 1671 enemy sorties were reported from the Eastern Front; thirteen of our own planes got lost, while fifteen enemy planes were shot down. It has been reported on the results of the reconnaissance action in the Gulf of Finland.

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

According to a report of a contact man from Gibraltar, the carrier of the "Formidable" class which is lying there is said to be put into action against Japan as soon as the repair works have been completed.

The usual activity of patrol boats was observed on 22 Oct. and during the night of 22 Oct. at the Riviera.

Own Situation:

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The escort and patrol duties along the west coast of Italy were carried out as planned. During the night of 22 Oct., one of our own patrol groups reported to have had an encounter with enemy PT boats near the Cape Mesco without suffering damages or casualties.

2. Area of the Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

Two submarine chasers enroute from Fiume to Zara had a fight with four enemy PT boats without suffering losses. One PT boat was probably sunk. In the evening, the two submarine chasers had again an encounter with enemy PT boats and reported casualties without any further details.

In the Bay of Trieste, the minelayer KIEBITZ was slightly damaged during an attack of fighter bombers. One of the attacking planes was positively shot down, another one probably.

The Coastal Artillery Group of Split reported an increasing tension between the German and Coratian Navy.

The transfer of the Staff, Naval Command South Dalmatia to Bijelo - Polje has been completed. The connection with the Chief, Naval Command has not been restored yet.

The Naval Personnel of Durazzo has transferred the castle and all batteries in Valona to the Army. One Naval Reception Camp each has been established in Durazzo and Cattaro; it is provided to evacuate the naval personnel from there in closed march battalions which will join later the march movement of the Army.

The Operations Staff, Naval Shore Command Albania is still in Tirana. The Works Staff will be transferred to Skutari on 24 Oct.

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b. Aegean Sea:

According to a British broadcast report, the island of Euboca is occupied by British troops. According to a statement of a member of a ship's anti-aircraft artillery crew who has battled his way through to our side, the tanker DRESDEN was captured by partisans on 15 Sept. in the Bay of Karystos.

At 0625, Cassandra sighted one carrier, one cruiser and two destroyers on south course. West of Salonika, 10 - 15 fighter

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bombers were observed. The airfield of Polykastron was raided in a low-flying attack by 3 - 5 planes.

The last attempt of rescuing the shipwrecked on the island in the Volos Bay turned out unsuccessfully due to continuous breakdowns of the engines in the combined operations assault boats. The Commanding Admiral, Aegean has requested to provide the hospital ship TUEBINGEN for the evacuation. This ship entered Salonika early on 23 Oct. as planned, and put to sea again at noon of 24 Oct. The vessel GRADISCA is expected to arrive in the forenoon of 26 Oct. Both hospital ships can evacuate a total of 3000 men.

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c. Situation in the Danube Area:

At 1800, the Commander of the Danube Flotilla was standing below the mouth of the Drau River with two gun carriers, one naval landing craft, two guard vessels, five mineclearing vessels and an escort having order to bring upstream the entire shipping space lying in that area, inclusively the bridge building equipment of the engineer troops.

No new minelayings, losses through mine hits, or mineclearings were reported on the river.

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VII. Situation in East Asia:

Particular reports are not at hand.

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Items of Political Importance:

The U.S.A., Great Britain, Russia, Australia, Canada and Brazil have acknowledged the government of de Gaulle as a provisional government of France. In connection with this, France has been divided into an interior and a military zone. The border line runs from Boulogne to the Ardennes Mountains, and from there through the Rhone River Valley to Marseille.

According to press reports, the agreement of Stalin upon the creation of a three power commission for the administration of the subjugated countries in Eastern and Southeastern Europe is marked as one of the most important results of the Moscow Conference. At the same time, Stalin allegedly had promised (!) not to solve the Balkan problems and similar questions which may arise from the war in Eastern Europe without consulting the two western powers beforehand.

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The Commander in Chief, Navy has slightly fallen sick.

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Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1115:

I. Concerning the aerial situation, the Naval Air and Air Force Liaison Officer, Operations Division, Naval Staff reported that the Operations Staff, High Command Air would transfer aerial torpedo planes to Northern Norway for fighting against the enemy aircraft carriers and convoys.

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II. Concerning the situation in the Mediterranean, the Chief, Situation Maps and Files Section, Operations Division, Naval Staff reported on the defensive success of the submarine chasers UJ "202" and UJ "208" against enemy PT boats in the Adriatic Sea. Both vessels, while proceeding from Fiume to Zara, had an encounter at 2145 on 23 Oct. with at least nine enemy PT boats and gun boats near the island of Maun. The submarine chaser UJ "208" sank one gun boat and one PT boat, damaged two PT boats, while the submarine chaser UJ "202" sank two gun boats and shot afire one PT boat. Our own boats were only slightly damaged. Casualties: three killed, eleven wounded. During a new encounter in the early morning, another PT boat was sunk.

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The Commander in Chief, Navy transmitted a radio message through the Admiral, Adriatic Sea, with copy to the Group South, to the two submarine chasers expressing a special recognition of the excellent defensive success.

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III. The Chief, Meteorology Section, Operations Division, Naval Staff reported on the establishment of a floating meteorological and radiosonde station in the sea area between East Greenland and Spitsbergen; the station is supposed to make weather reports operating close to the ice border. The keyword for this operation is "Zugvogel". The weather ship WUPPERTAL has been provided for the execution. It is pointed at the particular risk connected with the operation. Otherwise, however, a submarine must occasionally be put into action for the weather reports as those in no case can be resigned of. The Chief, Naval Staff ordered that the operation "Zugvogel" be carried out as provided.

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IV. Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

The Naval Command East reported that the operation of the hospital ship STEUBEN for the evacuation of wounded from Libau had been canceled.

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V. Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff:

a. In compliance with a directive of the Armed Forces High Command, effective immediately a deduction of 10% affecting all formations and parts of the Armed Forces in the homeland will be executed. Motorized formations of the Navy will be excepted.

It was discussed whether those troop formations etc. which serve for the provision of warship crews would be exempted from this deduction or not. The matter must be cleared by the Chief, Bureau of Naval Administration with the Commander in Chief, Navy.

b. Furthermore, the following order was issued by the Chief, Armed Forces High Command:

For the case that the raw material sources and centers of armament within the Reich territory break down, or are destroyed by the enemy



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air forces, or are blocked as far as the communications are concerned, respectively, the Armed Forces Transportation Office will prepare an "Emergency Armament Program" already now. This program may include only such weapons, equipment and ammunition from the current programs in the minimum number that is absolutely necessary for an immediate defense of the Reich with the simplest means.

No programs are to be considered which will come into effect only at a later date. The Emergency Armament Programs of the Armed Forces Transportation Office will be turned in as soon as possible to the Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff of the Armed Forces, Organization Branch for checking and forwarding to the Supply Offices, no later than 1 December."

By this measure, the fundamental question becomes at once acute for the Navy in how far the continuation of the submarine warfare will be affected by this directive or not. The matter is reported to the Commander in Chief, Navy.

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VI. Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division:

The operation against the bridges of Nijmegen was started during the night of 23 Oct. with two operational Linse boats, one reserve Linse boat and two tons of mine packages. The operation was interrupted as the mines went aground after a passage of about 1 km. After five hours the mines exploded.

Eighteen gears returned so far from the first attempt to transfer Linse boats to Dunkirk. No report was received yet on the remaining six.

The Biber Flotilla provided for operations in Norway, will not be transferred to Bodo but to Harstad.

The Admiral, Small Battle Units asked for the assignment of operations officers for Norway, Jutland and the Eastern Countries. Two officers were assigned already by the Department of Naval Personnel.

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In a restricted circle:

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VII. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

The capture of a British major who was landed with six men south of Bodoë revealed that it was a reconnaissance command troop for a parachutist batallion to be landed later. The mission was to block the Reich Highway from Mo to Bodoë in order to cut off the transfer of German troops. In the case that the statement is true, it may be taken from it that for the time being no major landing operation in Norway is not intended, but that a new battle area of partisans is supposed to be created by the reinforcement of local forces of resistance.

A report which arrived on 21 Oct. through the Reich Security Head Office from the reliable contact man Josephine confirmed that a major landing operation from England in Scandinavia is now less to be expected than so far. A large operation in this area was never planned in the original invasion program. All news, spread with regard to this, were merely harassing reports. However, a Russian landing operation must be expected in the area of Northern Norway in the course of the present operations.

There were further reports received on the spreading of a vivid guerilla war in Northwest Spain. The situation seems to be unclear.

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VIII. Army Situation:

Western Front:

North of Antwerp and east of Hertogenbosch, the strong enemy offensive carried out on a large scale was mainly beaten back. The land communication to Beveland is interrupted. All reserves available of the 15th Army are put into action.

In the Parroy Forest and in the area of Bruyeres; our own attacks met those of the enemy in a difficultly to be passed woods ground.

Italian Front:

Due to the poor weather condition during the past days, the fights were generally kept in a local scope; the enemy attacked in the single sections extraordinarily fierce with strongly concentrated forces.

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Balkan:

The fights in Macedonia and Servia are going on. Kragujevac got lost. The withdrawal movements west of Beograd are taking place as planned. The establishment of a defense position at the middle Danube has been started. The German troops standing in the Southern Batchka have carried out a change of the position across the Danube near Neusatz.

Eastern Front:

Between the Tisza River and the middle Danube, the enemy is advancing further towards Budapest. Probably, the enemy is shifting important forces from the mountain front in Transsylvania to this front section, and that in a considerably faster speed than our own counter-measures are running.

The moving and fierce defense battle around Debrecen and north thereof is going on.

At the Beskids Mountains, all attacks of the Soviet Divisions which were heavily weakened during the last weeks were beaten back.

Locally limited fights took place at the Narev River; however, here is still one of the strongest concentration of enemy forces, and further concentrations were observed. Far reaching operative aims (Danzig?) must be expected.

In East Prussia, the great battle is going on under extension up to the area of Sudanen - Filipow. On 23 Oct., too, the enemy could be halted in fierce fighting. Important hills around Goldap were recaptured in counter attacks. Southeast of Gumbinnen, the encircled enemy broke through our box barrage front. The enemy is withdrawing to the east under the pressure of our attack. Trakehnen got lost in fierce fighting.

There is calmness at the front of the Northern Army Group.

On the Sworbe Peninsula, the fights are going on. The remaining forces still holding out in the Ranna Position were pushed back to the Leo Position. The attacks against the new main defense line were beaten back so far.

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IX. Chief, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

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At present, the Naval Staff is examining the question whether it would be possible and suitable to subordinate operationally the air forces in the area of Northern Norway under the Naval Command, Norway for supporting the naval operations. The operational subordination of Air Commanders who would come into question has been taken into consideration. The Naval Command, Norway has been asked for submittal of their opinion.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. Concerning the question of attacking the shipping between Sweden and Russia the Commanding Admiral, Submarines, Submarine Division, Naval Staff reported that an operation of submarines in the Gulf of Bothnia would actually be possible at any time. Under the presently small number of boats, an action would be possible only with little forces of one or two boats, as long as boats are needed in the Gulf of Finland. An increase of the number of boats could not be expected in the near future. An efficient blocking of the entrances to the Gulf of Bothnia would be accomplishable for the enemy at any time. An outflanking movement of the enemy traffic to the safe coastal route would also have to be reckoned with.

Concerning the declaration of an operations area in the Eastern Baltic Sea, the Naval Command East reported:

"1. It seems not to be suitable to declare the Gulf of Bothnia and the Aland Waters as operations area. The Aland Passage is difficult as to the navigation and already blocked by mine barrages of the Swedish territorial waters; a measure of the same effect would be possible on the side of the Finns at any time. A breakthrough of submarines would always demand a full action. A reinforcement of the coastal batteries must also be expected. The area south of the Aland Waters is little suitable as operations area as the ships within the limits of the territorial waters can at any time withdraw to the Finnish Skerries by an outflanking movement to the north.

2. The same considerations are to be applied to a possible shipping between Sweden and the Gulf of Finland. Despite that, a declaration of an operations area in the Eastern Baltic Sea is necessary.

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- Advantage: A. The submarines can sink any merchantman without regarding the nationality.
- B. The Swedish warships and planes proceed and fly on their own risk.

3. The merchant traffic between Sweden and Finland can be disturbed by minelaying operations on the routes through the skerries."

In the opinion of the Operations Division, Naval Staff, limitations are to be demanded for the operations area in consideration which include the presumable operations areas of our own naval forces, however, to the effect that the limits are not drawn too close in order not to decrease our own freedom of movement. Therefore, the Gulf of Bothnia is to be included in the operations area as a far reaching withdrawal of the enemy to the Gulf of Bothnia must be expected. A blocking of the waters northwest and west of Gotland can be given up under consideration of the internal Swedish shipping as no own operations are to be reckoned with here. To the west, the area is to be limited by the line Oeland - Ruegenwalde.

b. The Operations Division, Naval Staff has drawn the attention of the Quartermaster Division to the necessity that the ammunition reserve of one issue per ship, which is to be retained in compliance with directives, must be made for operations at a later date in the mixing proportion as to the required strength, whereby the ammunition stored in Norway may not be brought into account until the arrival in the homeland.

c. According to an information from the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, the Fuehrer asked the Navy to check whether it would be possible to establish a sea-cable communication to Libau in order to have a reliable connection with the Northern Army Group.

The Chief, Naval Communications Division, Naval Staff and the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters are dealing with the matter.

d. In order to secure the shipping in the Skagerrak and Kattegat, the Naval Command East ordered:

"1. Joint passage of two or three ships proceeding from the Baltic Sea Entrances to the ports in Southern Norway, and between those ports themselves.

2. Composition of joint passages for the shipping

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by guard ships or by the port commanders, respectively, under supervision of the Admiral, Skagerrak or the 8th Defense Division, respectively. In the Skagerrak, passages west of 10° East may be carried out at night only, and east of 10° East possible at night only.

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II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. The request for an assignment of strong naval forces as well as for an operation of ten submarines, turned in by the Naval Command Norway on 22 Oct., was substantiated by the following reasons:

"Increased mine-droppings in sea areas which were clear of mines so far and increased activity of the enemy air forces and submarines. The resumption of attacks by PT boats and the continuous threat by aircraft-carriers do not admit anymore that the convoy traffic is escorted in the required extent. The number of losses of escorting vessels in the Norwegian area is quickly increasing. Therefore, the assignment of new escorting vessels is urgent also with regard to the operation "Nordlicht", all the more as the supply of the troops and the other supply north of Mo depends almost exclusively on the Sea transport."

The Commanding Admiral, Submarines, Submarine Division, Naval Staff informed the Naval Staff by sending a copy of the following teletype:

"1. Up to further notice, no submarines will be assigned as the value of the reconnaissance work of submarines is negligible and targets worth to be attacked do not exist for the time being; besides, there are numerous submarines at sea in the extended naval area to which recourse could be taken if the necessity arises.

2. In the case that an assignment is precautionarily intended at a later date, the Commanding Admiral, Submarines, Norway will submit the operational plans."

The Naval Staff informed the Naval Command, Norway, with copy to the Commander, Submarines, Norway and Commander, Submarines, West, that the requests of 22 Oct. could not be met because of the lack of forces. A deduction of defense forces from the North Sea and especially from the Baltic Sea could not be accomplished due to the important requirements there. An assignment from the new production would be made as far as possible.

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Destroyers and torpedo-boats cannot be dismissed in the Skagerrak and the Baltic Sea. The remaining PT boat flotillas are needed in the area of the Netherlands and in the Eastern Baltic Sea, respectively. Moreover, there would be necessary an escorting vessel for the assignment of a further PT boat flotilla which is not available at present.

Judged by the war experience made so far, an assignment of submarines for the decrease of the threat from carriers would promise no success.

b. The Naval Staff informed the Naval Command, Norway on a teletype sent on 19 Oct. by the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command to the Mountain Army Command 20, with copy to the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway concerning the defense of the Reich Highway No. 50; it was pointed therein to the possibility that the Anglo-Americans carry out a landing operation between the North Cape and Narvik in connection with the advance movements of the Russians in order to shift the withdrawing route of the Army Command to Norway and, at the same time, to frustrate the breakthrough of Russian forces to the Northern Waters and up to Narvik. Copy of the relevant teletype as per 1/Skl I op 31940/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II a.

c. The Naval Command, Norway reported:

"Upon the departure of the last westbound convoy from Kirkenes at 1630 on 23 Oct., the flank defense from the sea for the withdrawal movements of the 19th Mountain Army Command will be started by forces belonging to the Admiral, Arctic Coast, brought into effect by the issue of the catchword "Polarlicht." Plan: Protection of the entrance to the Varanger Fjord by a patrol line of about 14 vessels, followed by an assisting group of one large minesweeper, the vessel K "3" and eight minesweepers or patrol boats (10). Command: Commander, 1st Coast Defense Unit.

At the same time, protection of the entrance to the Tana Fjord by the patrol line S consisting of six vessels, followed by an assisting group of one large minesweeper and eight minesweepers or patrol boats (9). Command: Commander, 2nd Coastal Defense Unit.

After the execution of these tasks, the Commander, 1st Coastal Defense Unit will take over the defense of the northern exit of the Lakse Fjord, and the Commander, 2nd Coastal Defense Unit the defense of the Porsanger Fjord in a similar manner.

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d. Concerning the question of subordinating air forces to the Naval Command, Norway, this headquarters replied to a relevant inquiry:

"1. Fundamentally, changes in the organization would not be suitable during the "Nordlicht" operations which were started already.

2. The naval operations would be supported best by the assignment of a sufficient number of planes and types, as well as by releasing the issue of aircraft-gasoline.

3. The personage of the Air Commander 3 would guarantee a sufficient consideration of the naval interests as far as a sufficient number of planes and gasoline quantities are available."

III. Subject: Area of the Naval Command, North:

From the information on the situation as given by the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters:

"Under the present tense situation, the Chief, Armed Forces Operations Staff reported to the Fuehrer that he could not suggest the deduction of the Naval Manning Division from Northern Holland as requested by the Navy. The Fuehrer was of the same opinion."

IV. Subject: West Area:

a. The Commanding Admiral, Naval Group West has proposed the following text to the Commanding General, Armed Forces West for the order concerning the new organization to become effective in the distribution of orders regarding the Naval Command, West:

"Effective as of 1200, 25 Oct., the encircled fortresses and the Channel Islands will be immediately subordinated to the Naval Command West (formerly Naval Group Command West), under the command of Admiral Krancke. The Naval Command West will be subordinated to the Commanding General, Armed Forces West as far as the battle on the land is concerned, and to the High Command, Navy as far as the remaining tasks are concerned. The Naval Command West will direct the supply and care of the fortress garrisons. Effective as of 1200, 25 Oct., all reports, requests and inquiries will be directed to the Naval Command West through the naval radio network only."



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b. The Naval Shore Command, Channel Islands reported to the Officer Personnel Division and Group West:

"The radio message transmitted on 22 Oct. from the Armed Forces High Command to the Officer Personnel Division (Subject: Appointment of the Naval Shore Commander as Chief of Staff, Commanding Admiral, Channel Islands) was submitted to the Commander on 23 Oct. with the request to issue a directive concerning the commencement of the duties as Chief of Staff. This day, an answer came by phone through the administrative officer stating the General would give me a call as soon as directives have arrived from higher headquarters, which have not been received so far. Further steps will be taken by the Officer Personnel Division.

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V. Subject: Southeastern Area:

a. The Commanding Admiral, Aegean reported to the Operations Division, Naval Staff and to the Group South:

"In the case that there has no decision been made concerning the evacuation of shipwrecked through a hospital ship until 0400, 25 Oct., it is intended to ask the British Commander in Chief, Eastern Mediterranean for the evacuation because of the danger of starvation. It is requested to forward the decision to the Naval Shore Commander, Northern Greece."

Upon an inquiry by telephone, the Group South reported that a positive answer had been given.

b. The Group South reported that the transfer of submarine and PT boats specialists from Skoplje had been provided and started as of 24 Oct., after the transfer of the Staff, Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea had been carried out.

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VI. By order of the Commander in Chief, Navy, the Operations Division, Naval Staff has issued a memorandum concerning the necessity to desist from a deduction of further workers in shipyards, and forwarded to the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, for the Fuehrer to the Chief, Armed Forces High Command, and to the Reich Minister Speer.

Order 1/Skl 32080/44 Gkdos. to be found in War Diary, Part B, Vol. V.

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Situation 24 Oct.

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Forty-five planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, sixteen planes at the 19th Group. At 1921, a British vessel was located in the grid square AL 9860.

2. Own Situation:

Two French fishing boats were unsuccessfully attacked by four enemy planes with bombs and aircraft armament.

Two harbor defense vessels carried out a supply passage from Alderney to Casquets. The battery "Annes" (Alderney) fired two covering salvos against a destroyer of the "Atherstone"-class in the grid square BF 3519 and hit the target. The target withdrew under a smoke cover.

No particular incidents were reported from the encircled fortresses.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters:

1. North Sea:

A. Bay of Heligoland:

During the night of 23 Oct., the escort and mine-sweeping duties were carried out as planned. One mine was cleared north of Vlieland.

In the minefield "K 2 a", further 164 KMA mines were laid.

From 1400 to 1533, several fast enemy planes were fired on by the Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery of Wilhelmshaven and Wesermuende. In the evening the Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery of Emden took enemy planes under fire.

B. Area of the Netherlands:

During the night of 23 Oct., the convoy proceeding from den Helder to Brokum was stopped and delayed by 24

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hours due to poor visibility. Due to the same reason, the mine-sweeping activity off IJmuiden and Hook of Holland was interrupted. At noon, strong enemy formations of entering and returning planes were taken under fire by our own batteries in the area of Northern Holland. A raid of fighter-bombers on the town area of Dordrecht did not cause any damage to the boats lying there. The defense carried out by warships in the harbor was effective.

During an air raid on Flushing on 23 Oct., the Eiland Shipyard was heavily damaged. A new construction fell from the stocks.

During an attack of fighter-bombers on Hellevoet - Sluis, a buoys-layer was damaged and driven ashore.

The battery of Western Walcheren was put into action against land targets west of Breskens. The batteries of Breskens and Southern Flushing were withdrawn to Nieuwe Sluis and put into action as infantry defense. At 1700, the enemy broke into the Fort Hendrik assisted by flame-throwers. The fights are still going on.

It has been reported on the operation of battle-swimmers against the road bridge of Nijmegen.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

In the area of the 18th Group, 39 planes were detected during action.

At 0930, the radar station of Vigra reported a target in 295°; the distance could not be determined; an aircraft-carrier was supposed to be the target.

The air reconnaissance reported one steamer of 10,000 BRT and one steamer of 3,000 BRT in Thorshavn at 1100.

Own Situation:

Area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast:

At noon of 23 Oct. the vessel K "3" was attacked near Kiberg by 50 enemy planes with bombs and aircraft armament. Little casualties were caused only. At 0729, on 24 Oct., the minesweepers M "361" and M "381" reported submarine alarm near Makkaner on

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account of the sighting of a periscope. At 0900, carrier-borne planes were sighted in the area of Hammerfest. At 1040, 20 planes attacked one of our own convoys northwest of Makkauer with bombs, torpedoes and aircraft armament. The patrol vessel VP "6111" was sunk, the crew rescued. Four of the attacking planes were shot down.

The command post of the Naval Shore Commander, Kirkenes was transferred to the minesweeper MRS "26" at 1700 on 23 Oct. The Commanding Admiral, Arctic Coast will move with his operations staff to the area of Porsanger at 2200 on 24 Oct. The radio traffic will be directed via the Naval Communications Officer, Tromsøe.

The 4th Destroyer Flotilla entered the Tana Fjord at 0400 after having carried out an operation.

Area of the Admiral, North Norwegian Coast:

At 1015, the Army Coastal Battery of Vigra and Bjoerne, north of Aalesund, was attacked in a low-flying raid by 24 - 30 carrier-borne planes with aircraft armament. At the same time, mine droppings in an undetermined number were reported in the area of Vigra - Bjoerne - Lepsoe Narrows. The battery of Vigra shot down two planes. Our own losses were little. At 1135, the battery of Vigra reported an aircraft-carrier visible in the gear in a distance of about 40 km. The Naval Shore Command has ordered the coastal alarm degree 2. At 1455, the raid on the Army Coastal Battery of Vigra was repeated in a low-flying attack by 20 - 25 carrier-borne planes. No losses were suffered. Two enemy planes were damaged. Towards 1500, allegedly 30 Mosquito planes attacked the coastal guard of Ulla, north of Lepsoe, with aircraft armament. The lighthouse was set afire. The Army Coastal Battery of Bjoerne observed planes entering the Harams Fjord, probably on a new mining operation. The Lepsoe Narrows were closed because of suspected mines. The convoys between Kristiansand South and Roervik were stopped from noon up to dusk.

Area of the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast:

The shipping between Stavanger and Egersund has been released again.

Twenty-two ships each were escorted to the north and south.

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III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

No new observations.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

On mineclearing duty, 24 boats have been put into action in the Baltic Sea Entrances, and three boats in the Nordmandstief. One mine was cleared in the northern exit of the Sound.

The GALSTER, the BEITZEN and the IHN have put to sea from Horten for escorting the 5th Transport Detachment of the 269th Infantry Division. The tanker IRANIA which burnt out on 23 Oct. due to a bomb hit contained 1,260 tons of Diesel oil and was escorted by two armed fishing vessels.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

On mineclearing duty, 49 boats were put into action. One mine was cleared off Travemuende. In the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal, two salvage ships have been put into action for removing the wreck of the STEINBRUCH.

The harbor tug PIONIER "5" from Swinemuende has been overdue since the morning of 23 Oct.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

The fierce and serious fights on the Sworbe Peninsula are going on. The attacking activity has been increased on both sides. Our own losses have been serious, those of the enemy have been high. All marine forces have been put into action in the main defense line, and reported strong losses. The operations detachment "Ostland" reported a strength of only 44 men yet.

At 1413, the east coast of the Sworbe Peninsula was fired on by 13 enemy boats. The enemy landed 1 - 3 km south of Vintri. Two of our own minesweepers, one motor-minesweeper flotilla, one group of armed fishing vessels and two artillery ferries were put into action as defense forces. The group of armed fishing vessels was fired on with four salvos by our own battery "Klein Sworbe" and suffered serious casualties.

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The fouling with mines in the Bay of Ahrensburg has been carried out as planned.

The following has been reported on the operation of the 2nd Battle Group: At 0700, on 23 Oct., the unit was standing in firing position off Memel and fired on 19 target areas from 0950 to 1400. The LUETZOW fired 106 rounds heavy artillery and 101 rounds medium artillery, the destroyer Z "28" 290 rounds 15 cm caliber, and the destroyer Z "35" 199 rounds 12.7 cm caliber. The fire was well aimed. The radio communication was disturbed by the Russians. The situation on the land and in the air was absolutely quiet with the exception of the battery "Nimmersatt" which fired unsuccessfully on the unit.

At 0530, on 24 Oct., the torpedo boats T "23" and T "28" joined the unit. At 0600, the unit went into firing position off the western coast of the Sworbe Peninsula and fired on all appointed target areas from 0708 to 1130. The LUETZOW fired 304 rounds heavy artillery and 330 rounds medium artillery, the destroyer Z "28" 195 rounds 15 cm caliber, and the destroyer Z "35" 320 rounds 12.7 cm caliber. The firing was well aimed. Due to low clouds no air reconnaissance was possible, therefore partly a curtain of fire was laid. The defensive fire of the enemy batteries remained unsuccessful. At 0830, an attack was made by ten Russian planes. The bridge on the destroyer Z "28" was hit. The damages and casualties admitted a continuance of the land target firing. At 1040, an attack of six Russian planes was dispersed by our own fighter defense. From 1126 to 1155, the attacks of the Russian planes were repeated. Casualties were caused by the fire from aircraft armament. Our own escorting fighters shot down three enemy planes. At 1130, the firing was interrupted and the unit withdrew to the west; subsequently the return passage to Gdynia was started. The 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla was released to Libau in the dusk. According to a report of the Naval Shore Commander, Baltic Islands the operation of the 2nd Battle Group has seriously disturbed the enemy preparations, well supported our own preparations for a counter-attack, and strengthened the morale of our own troops.

Two boats of the 14th Defense Flotilla were fired on by coastal batteries south of Libau. The Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery Detachment of Memel fired on enemy preparations and railroad trains with observed result. The arsenal area of Memel and the ammunition depot "Marabu" have been evacuated. The fort on the Nehrung was destroyed by enemy action on the stored ammunition, the equipment depot was mainly destroyed.

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Escorts and troop transports were carried out as planned and without incidents. The Northern Army Group was supplied with 573 tons of supplies, of which 435 tons of ammunition.

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IV. Submarine Warfare:

At 1023, on 23 Oct., the radio monitoring detected a periscope sighting report of a British merchantman in the southern exit of the Mozambique Channel. It may be one of our own submarines.

During the night of 24 Oct., the submarine U "1001" reported an encounter with operating guard vessels at an enemy tug southeast of Hangoe in the Gulf of Finland. Hits were made on the enemy. The submarine U "958" destroyed a large two mast sailing vessel with a cargo of ammunition northwest of Odensholm.

In the Northern Waters, 20 boats are at sea for attacking the expected QP-Convoy.

The submarine base of Hammerfest will move to Kilboten, south of Harstad, on 26 Oct.

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V. Aerial Warfare:

1. West Area:

A very busy activity of fighter-bombers and fighters prevailed during the day in the area of Belgium and the Netherlands. Only a few remote night fighters were reported during the night of 24 Oct.

2. Reich Territory:

Continuous sorties were made during the day by small fighter formations with a total of about 300 - 400 planes entering in eastern direction up to the line of Hamburg, Wittenberge, Muehlhausen, Frankfurt/Main. Single bomb droppings were reported near Kassel, Osnabrueck and at other places. Owing to attacks with aircraft armament on trains 62 railway engines were put out of action.

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From the south, two single planes entered the areas of Innsbruck - Klagenfurt - Linz.

During the night of 24 Oct. 80 - 100 Mosquito bombers attacked Hannover. Fifty-five remote night fighters dropped some bombs on Oberhausen, Muehlhausen, and Aschaffenburg.

Thirty planes entered the area of Aalborg - Kattegat for mining.

3. Mediterranean Theater:

No operations worth to be mentioned. The Air Force Command, Southeast reported a bad weather condition.

4. Eastern Area:

At the Eastern Front, 484 own and 1240 enemy sorties were reported; six of our own planes got lost while 27 enemy planes were shot down.

It has been reported on the enemy air activity in Norway.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and in the Danube Area:

1. Area of the German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

In the Straits of Gibraltar, a normal traffic of single ships was reported in both directions.

The usual activity of guard vessels was observed off the Riviera.

Own Situation:

Ventimiglia and vicinity were fired on by destroyers in the evening of 23 Oct., Bordighera at noon of 23 Oct. and in the forenoon of 24 Oct.

The enemy PT boat that was reported heavily damaged by naval landing craft during the night of 21 Oct. west of Sestri Levante has also sunk.

In the forenoon of 23 Oct., and in the evening, Savona was raided



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by enemy planes. The port battery reported to have shot down one plane. The battery in the Magra Mouth was unsuccessfully fired on from the land side.

The escort and patrol duties were carried out as planned during the night of 23 Oct.

2. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

It has been reported on the fight of the submarine chasers UJ "202" and UJ "208" which took place in the morning of 23 Oct. near the Main Island.

During the night of 23 Oct., a convoy consisting of the war freighter KT "6" with four naval landing craft and two auxiliary sailing vessels proceeded from Zara to Fiume. Four PT boats were put into action as escort of the convoy.

During the same night, a convoy of barges proceeding from Venice to Trieste was continuously attacked in vain by fighter bombers.

The Naval Artillery Detachment 632 reported to have shot down one enemy plane in Ravenna in the afternoon of 23 Oct.

After the weather condition has improved the convoy traffic along the east coast of Italy has fully been started again.

In the evening of 24 Oct., the minelayers KIEBITZ and LAURANA put to sea from Trieste with a motor minesweeper for carrying out a mine task.

An advance movement has been provided to be carried out by three PT boats from Sibenik into the sea area of Pasman for the night of 24 Oct.

The Naval Shore Commander, South Dalmatia arrived at the command post of Metkovic in the evening of 23 Oct. The Commander of the Naval Artillery Detachment 612 (Naval Rifle Battalion) has been received at Metkovic with more than 500 men so far.

According to enemy reports, a unit of British gun boats and PT boats attacked a unit of German infantry boats off Zara in the morning of 21 Oct. and sank two infantry boats, captured three other ones and 95 prisoners.

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Naval Staff informed the Admiral, Adriatic Sea of this report (with copy to the Group South) which cleared up the fate of the overdue infantry boat unit.

b. Aegean Sea:

The radar station at Cassandra sighted an aircraft carrier and two destroyers in southern direction at 0715.

A mining of the barrage gaps near the Cape Dermatha and near Atheridha Huk was provided to be carried out by a group of net-layers during the night of 23 Oct. A report on the execution has not been received yet.

The Naval Shore Command, Northern Greece took over the execution of the remaining tasks from the Commanding Admiral, Aegean at 1200.

The hospital ship GRADISCA was 13 nautical miles north of Samos Island at 2100; the hospital ship TUEBINGEN put to sea from Salonika at noon heading to Trieste with 1028 wounded.

Effective as of 24 Oct., the air traffic from Salonika has been stopped. A report on the withdrawal of naval specialists with a courier detachment of the High Command, Navy will follow.

c. Situation in the Danube Area:

A large convoy anchored at Mohacs under the command of the Chief, Danube Flotilla. The vessels lying there will be attached to the convoy, so that it will consist of altogether 10 towing ships, 3 guard boats and 1 bridging equipment. Two gun carriers, 1 naval landing craft, 3 guard boats and 5 mineclearing vessels have been provided as escort. The Southern Army Group, in agreement with the Air Force, has promised to support the breakthrough of the large convoy.

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VII. Situation in East Asia:

Particular reports are not at hand.

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Items of Political Importance:

No particular news.

Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff at 1115:

I. Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff:

The Commanding General, XX Army Corps will be relieved. The Coastal Defense Commander, Central Baltic Sea is of the opinion that now a better understanding of the question concerning the defense of Gdynia may be expected. The measures provided by the Naval Staff, therefore, should be postponed for the time being.

In a Restricted Circle:

II. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

A checked evaluation of the photograph reconnaissance of Toulon yielded that almost all vessels were wrecks. It cannot be talked of a mentionable occupation of the harbor.

According to a report of the Reich Security Head Office from Moscow, the battleship ARCHANGELSK allegedly was damaged and would need a repair period of 5 - 6 months.

The merchant shipping of PT boats between England and Lysekil is to be resumed in the beginning of November.

According to an Ostrow Report, heavy and heaviest artillery is being moved to France, apparently for a provided major offensive.

According to a report of the Admiral Nimitz, Japanese naval forces, among which battleships and cruisers, allegedly were attacked on 23 Oct. by carrier-borne planes of the 3rd U.S.A. Air Force during an eastbound passage through the Sibnyan and Sulu Sea (Philippines).

III. Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

a. Naval Command, Norway:

As it is considered necessary by this headquarters, the maneuverability of the TIRPITZ must be maintained within the speed as far as the constructional limitations permit, and within the preservation of full fighting power of the artillery. The Commander of the Task Force deems it possible to increase the speed

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up to 12 - 15 knots by carry out little constructional measures. The opinion of Mar. Ob. Baurat Krux with regard to this will be decisive.

The Commander, Task Force is expected in Koralle on 26 Oct.

b. According to a radio telegram of the Commander, Defense Area La Rochelle to the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West, that was read here, an agreement was reached with the local commander of the French upon a four days' notice providing that the French troops should not attack the defense area and, on the other side, German troops should not destroy the ports and town installations in La Rochelle and La Pallice.

#### IV. Army Situation:

##### Western Front:

The defensive battle of the 15th Army is going on with undiminished fierceness. At the southern front, north of Calmpthout, our forces succeeded in beating back the enemy attacks with the exception of small penetrations, while the enemy west of Woemsdrecht pressed back our own front up to 3 km to the west to a dike position. At the eastern front, the XII. British Corps broke through the front and entered the northeastern part of Hertogenbosch.

The continuous enemy attacks with fighter-bombers, the strong artillery gunfire and the superiority of the enemy as to the personnel and materiel have seriously weakened our own divisions. The fighting strength of the well battling formations was especially decreased by the serious casualties among the officer personnel.

In the bridgehead of Beskens, heavy fights took place again with the enemy attacking especially from the east; the fights resulted in several penetrations.

In the penetrated area of St. Die, the enemy continued his attacks in a strength of about a division with the assistance of tanks and succeeded in making further penetrations and gaining ground. Our own counterattack did not come through against the superior enemy forces.

##### Italian Front:

Fighting heavily and fiercely the enemy widened his penetrations wedgelike southeast of Bologna.

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Balkan:

In Greece, the withdrawal movements were carried out as planned up to the general line Salonika - Ochidra Lake.

The defensive fights between Skoplje and Beograd are going on. The enemy is establishing a concentration point with a Russian army of about six rifle divisions in the area of Kragejuvac in order to break through in direction to Serajevo or Montenegro.

From Beograd the enemy is following to the west only slowly.

Eastern Front:

In the Hungarian battle area, the enemy is aiming at a concentration of strong forces for an advance movement towards Budapest. At the same time, the enemy attempts by an advance movement from Debrecen to the north to occupy the crossings of the upper Tisza River.

In the area of Szolnok, the IV. Tank Corps was withdrawn to the west bank of the Tisza River.

North of Debrecen, the heavy and changing fights are going on in a mobile warfare. We succeeded in destroying parts of a Russian Cavalry Division and tank formation.

The withdrawal movements in Transsylvania are standing under a strong enemy pressure.

In the Beskids Mountains, weaker enemy attacks were beaten back. Our own attack was stopped under serious losses.

The enemy, after a strong drum fire and an action with more than 1000 planes, started again an attack from his bridgeheads on the Narev River and could gain penetrations up to a depth of 5 km at both points of attack. Fierce combat in woods is going on. These attacks might be the introduction of the long expected major offensive of the enemy.

The attempts of the enemy to break through south of Gumbinnen failed. The enemy interrupted the battle and attempted to evade to the east. Fierce fighting is going on around Ebenrode and Schlossberg.

Only local fights are taking place at the front of the fortress of Memel.

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In the area of the Northern Army Group, only local fights are going on at the land front.

The brave garrison of the Sworbe Peninsula, efficiently assisted by a task force of the Navy and by fighters, gained a special defensive success against a very strong enemy attack at the land front on both sides of Kaimri and against a single enemy landing attempt at the east coast.

Finland:

The march and withdrawal movements are further taking place as planned.

The XVIII. Mountain Army Corps is establishing itself in the Pahjoensuu and Raresuendo Position, the XXXVI. Mountain Army Corps in the area of Ivalo.

The XIX. Mountain Army Corps beat back strong enemy attacks against the southern wing of the Langfjorden Position, as is withdrawing towards Munkelven.

The forces put into action in the eastern part of the Varanger Peninsula are withdrawing via Vardoe to a road position near Ekkeroe.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

a. High Command, Air, Operations Staff, Naval Liaison Officer reports on a question concerning the declaration of operational areas, that operations of our own air force formations were not to be expected in the Gulf of Bothnia.

b. Operations Division, Naval Staff asks the Naval Command East for a report on the loss of the tanker IRANIA.

c. The Fleet Command submitted a memorandum, dated 19 Oct., concerning the operation of fleet forces for the defense of landings in the area of the Skagerrak.

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The stand or the decision, respectively, of the Naval Staff will be given by the order 1/Skl I op 3066/44 Gkdos. Chefs, dated 25 Oct. Copy in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

II. Subject: West Area:

a. Naval Command East reported:

Effective as of 1200, 25 Oct., the so far existing Naval Group Command, West will be disbanded, and the Naval Command, West established under the command of Admiral Krancke.

Responsibilities: Command of the encircled sea fortresses in France and on the Channel Islands. Subordination of the Naval Command, West under the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West as far as the combat ashore is concerned, otherwise under the High Command, Navy. The remaining tasks of the Naval Group, West are to be carried out by the Naval Command, West.

b. The Fuehrer has ordered to organize a special formation in a strength of about two battalions for carrying out reconnaissance and special operations in the West Area. The formation is to be organized from volunteers of all parts of the Armed Forces and of the Waffen SS.

For further details see order 1/Skl 33106/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol II b.

III. Subject: Southern Area:

The Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff wired as follows to the Commanding General, Armed Forces Southwest who had inquired for an assessment of the enemy mineclearing operations in the sea area south of San Remo that was repeatedly reported by the German Naval Command, Italy:

It is believed by this headquarters that the observed mineclearing operations are connected with the coastal gunfire of enemy destroyers and cruisers, namely for the defense of a sufficiently large area also for outflanking maneuvers. There are no indications for landing intentions.

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Situation 25 Oct. 1944:

I. Area Naval Command East:

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Enemy Situation:

The air reconnaissance detected at noon of 24 Oct. one sailing vessel and about 110 boats at the eastern shore of the Bay of Riga. The occupation of the ports of Hainasch, Salismuende and Werder did not yield anything striking. No occupation was observed in Oesel and Moon. The observation was not complete. Apparently the breakwater is serviceable.

At 0236 on 25 Oct., a Russian minelayer was inaccurately located west of the Irben Narrows.

Own Situation:

Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

As a supplement to the report of the 2nd Task Force of 24 Oct., it was additionally reported that the destroyer Z "28" was hit by five bombs, none of which caused important damage. Some splinter damage was caused on the destroyer Z "35". Due to a breakdown of the recoil brake, a gun barrel when fired was thrown out-board with the breech mechanism. The LUETZOW reported five slightly wounded through the gunfire from planes.

The heavy and serious fighting on the Sworbe Peninsula is going on. The Commanding General, Northern Army Group and the Admiral, Eastern Baltic have gone by a PT boat from Windau to the Sworbe Peninsula.

During the enemy landing south of Vintri that had been reported on 24 Oct., our own air force sank one enemy vessel and damaged six. The Commander, 24th Landing Flotilla reported at 1750 on 24 Oct. that the enemy landing operation remained unsuccessful.

The air defense for the 2nd Task Force shot down six Russian planes on 24 Oct.

On 25 Oct., two minesweepers, five motor minesweepers and two artillery ferries were put into action for the defense of the Sworbe Peninsula; furthermore, there are 18 armed fishing vessels in operation for the defense of the Sworbe Peninsula and for submarine chasing near Ovisi. Fifteen naval landing craft disembarked ammunition, weapons and personnel on the Sworbe Peninsula. Three motor minesweepers evacuated wounded.



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The Group Huebner consisting of armed fishing vessels was attacked at 0814 by enemy planes with bombs and aircraft armament. The minesweeper M "3117" was sunk.

At 1605 the sighting of a periscope was reported by a group of armed fishing vessels in the western exit of the Irben Narrows.

The Northern Army Group was supplied with 2030 tons of supplies and nine motor trucks. Otherwise, the transports and convoys were carried out without any incidents.

Central and Western Baltic Sea:

On mineclearing duty, 40 boats and 1 mine-exploding vessel were put into action. The convoys were carried out without incidents.

In the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal, four convoys were sent to the east and west. During an enemy air raid on Neumuenster, carried out with 80 - 100 planes in the afternoon, the depot of the Naval Clothing Office was damaged. Besides, the raid was heavy. The traffic installations of this important railway junction were seriously destroyed.

Admiral, Skagerrak:

In the evening of 24 Oct. several small groups of enemy planes flew over the Skagerrak and Kattegat up to the Swedish coast, and probably dropped mines over the Kattegat.

During the night of 24 Oct., the 5th Transport Detachment of the 269th Infantry Division was several times approached by enemy planes between Oslo and Aarhus. The attack was hampered by barrage gunfire.

On mineclearing duty, 25 boats were put into action.

Three mines were cleared east of Frederikshavn, three mines in the Aalborg Bay and north of Seelandsrev, and six mines in the northern exit of the Sound.

The wreck of the tanker IRANIA has been anchored with the aid of a Norwegian tug south of Arendal. The steamer BIRKENAU (1,190 BRT) stopped at Helsingoer due to a fire in hatch 1.

II. Area Naval Command, Norway:

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Enemy Situation:

In the area of the 18th Group, 31 planes were detected during action.

According to radio monitoring, an eastbound convoy is to be expected at noon in the sea area between the Bear Island and north of the North Cape.

According to a report of a contact man, a convoy consisting of 45 freighters is said to put to sea on 24 Oct. from Glasgow to Murmansk. Cargo: War materiel, mainly tanks, heavy artillery and ammunition. At the same time, another convoy consisting of 28 ships is said to put to sea from Belfast with the same destination, loaded mainly with aircraft materiel and heavy motor trucks. The Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff does not deem the report believable in the given form, even if a stronger supply seems to be explicable on account of the urgently needed pre-winter supplies of the Russian front in Finland and Norway.

Own Situation:

Area Admiral North Norwegian Coast:

During an attack of 30 carrier-borne planes in the forenoon of 24 Oct., two planes were shot down by the Battery Vigra. The Norwegian steamer EIRA (132 BRT) was beached near Lepsoe after an air attack. Fourteen persons were killed, ten wounded. The coastal guard "Ulla" was set afire through the attack of 23 carrier-borne planes on Aalesund. It is supposed that mines were dropped near Lepsoe.

At 0215 on 25 Oct., the steamer WANGEROOG (2890 BRT) proceeding in a Kemi Convoy sank in the Stabene Narrows due to a mine detonation. The convoy traffic between Bodoe and Aalesund was blocked from dawn to 1130, and was released then as an action of carrier-borne planes was improbable due to weather reasons.

Area Admiral West Norwegian Coast:

During the night of 24 Oct., 25 enemy planes were reported in the area between Kristiansand South and the Skagerrak. It is supposed that mines were dropped near Egersund. The convoy route is partly blocked.

Area Admiral Arctic Coast:

It was additionally reported that during an air attack on a

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convoy on 21 Oct. the tug JASON was hit by three bombs and set afire. The tug sank on 24 Oct.

During the third attack on one of our own convoys on 24 Oct., two out of twenty attacking planes were shot down.

On 24 Oct., 30 planes were reported in four sorties in the area of Hammerfest - Silda. Mine droppings are suspected.

III. Area Naval Command North:

Bay of Heligoland:

The newly constructed steamer "908" sank on the Osterems River due to a mine detonation. Northwest of Terschelling, two mines were cleared by eleven minesweeping planes.

All anti-aircraft artillery sections, with the exception of Borkum, attacked entering and returning formations of enemy planes from 1215 to 1415. The naval anti-aircraft artillery detachment of Wesermuende reported to have shot down one four-engined plane. Some bombs fell on the island of Foehr, northeast of Wesermuende and near Otterndorf. Hamburg was lying under heavy and continuous air raids with several carpet bombings from 1300 to 1400. The naval installations reported little damage only. The Howaldt Works and Hamburg Motor Works were heavily struck, and reported strong fire damages. In the Buschmann Shipyard, the gun carrier "780" was sunk. The barracks of the Naval Fortifications Construction Battalion Harburg were heavily damaged.

Area of the Netherlands:

The convoys during the night of 24 Oct. were carried out as planned.

The mine task east of Wemeldingen was executed as planned.

In the northern Netherlands, passing enemy aircraft formations were attacked during noon hours by our own batteries. Approximately 40 bombs fell into the sea off Catricum. Probably emergency droppings.

Enemy PT boats were located and detected by gear from 1955 on.

At the land front, the strong enemy attacks on the southern bank of the Schelde River between Ostburg and the coast were continued. Boernehol is occupied by the enemy.

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No further details were reported so far on the operation of the Small Battle Flotilla "215".

A new operation for Dunkerque is being prepared.

IV. Area Naval Command West:

Enemy Situation:

Thirty-nine planes were detected during action in the area of the 15th Group, eleven planes in the area of the 19th Group.

According to radio monitoring, the Commander of the Task Force "125" reported on 15 Oct. to the Admiralty Command Posts in the Channel Area as a Shipping Notice West, that the removal of the shipping obstacles on the Seine River up to Rouen were finished and the river were navigable now for ships up to a draft of 18 feet.

Own Situation:

Four harbor defense vessels put to sea from St. Nazaire via Port Maria to Lorient.

The tanker MARY that had put to sea at 1810 on 24 Oct. from La Pallice to St. Nazaire with an armed fishing vessel is overdue.

At 0230, the island of Re observed starshells or grenades in the area of Lesables. The loss of the convoy has to be reckoned with. Both vessels had carried out the passage from St. Nazaire to La Pallice without incidents during the night of 19 Oct.

Local fighting was reported from the encircled fortresses.

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V. Submarine Warfare:

In the Northern Waters, 20 submarines have been put into action against the expected QP-Convoy, namely three boats in the northern exit of the Gorlo Strait on 69° north, two boats off the Kola Mouth, twelve boats in the patrol line from the grid square AC 8934 - 8514, and three boats from the grid square AC 5740 - 8110.

In the Gulf of Finland, the submarine U "1001" has shifted the attacking area from the sea area of Hangoe to the area north-east of Odesholm, as a stronger traffic has been reported there.

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No particular reports are at hand otherwise.

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VI. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

A fighter activity of medium strength was reported in the area of the Netherlands.

Reich Territory:

In the area of Western Germany, 200 enemy fighters were reported which advanced up to Bielefeld, Giessen, Frankfurt/Main, Stuttgart and Freiburg. In the covered areas, bomb droppings and single high explosive bomb droppings were reported. Four hundred four-engined bombers started from the South for an attack on Klagenfurt. No industrial damage was caused.

Due to line faults, no reports are at hand from Hungary.

At noon, approximately 1200 four-engined bombers of the 3rd U.S.A. Bomber Division flew over the coast. Hamburg was raided by 800 bombers, Neumuenster by 100 bombers, and Muenster, Hamm and other places by 300 - 400 bombers. Fighter formations flew ahead and immediately together with the bomber formations as well as to the south as defense screen up to the area of Hannover - Braunschweig.

At 1420, 300-400 bombers of the R.A.F. entered for making raids on Essen, Bottrop and other places in the industrial area of the Rhineland and Westfalia. For details about the damages see the Situation of the Day. In Hamburg, 16 industrial works were partly heavily damaged. It has been reported on the damages suffered by the Navy.

The raid on Neumuenster yielded serious effects.

During the night of 25 Oct., 125 enemy planes flew over Western Germany. No attacks have been reported.

Mediterranean Theater:

In the entire Italian front area, 1000 enemy planes were reported on 24 Oct. The attacks were directed against army targets and gun positions. Ten planes raided the port of Corsini.

Further operations remained without particular incidents.

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Eastern Area:

On 24 Oct., 520 own and 3535 enemy sorties with 5 losses on our side and 32 planes shot down of the enemy were reported from the eastern front, and during the night of 24 Oct., 44 own sorties and about 170 enemy sorties.

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VII. Area of the German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

At 1840 on 23 Oct., the battleship LORRAINE accompanied by a French destroyer put to sea from Gibraltar into the Mediterranean Sea. In the afternoon of that day, an auxiliary aircraft-carrier entered Gibraltar from the Mediterranean Sea.

In the forenoon of 25 Oct., another auxiliary aircraft-carrier entered Gibraltar from the Atlantic.

At 1100, on 25 Oct., a convoy consisting of 5 troop transports, 7 freighters, 6 tankers and 7 destroyers passed the Strait of Gibraltar heading to the Mediterranean Sea.

In the evening of 24 Oct., and during the night of 24 Oct., the usual activity of guard vessels was carried out by groups of boats in the area of Mentone - Imperia, partly within the barges.

Own Situation:

During the night of 23 Oct., the 1st Assault Boat Flotilla was put into action with 1 two-man assault boat and 20 one-man assault boats against the Gulf of Juan, near Cannes. Five detonations were observed, four one-man assault boats have sunk, the pilots were rescued.

No report has been received yet from seven other assault boats. The flotilla is at war readiness with one SMA and nine MTM, one SMA is out of war readiness.

In the forenoon of 24 Oct., Bordighera was taken under fire by cruisers, not by destroyers as was originally reported. On the afternoon of this day, Ventimiglia and the rear area thereof were lying under the gunfire of destroyers.

During the night of 24 Oct., the escort and patrol duties were carried out as planned.

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VIII. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

At 0810, the Battery Molunat reported eight enemy transports and landing boats near Mljet, and at 1000 the entering of the formation in Ragusa. At 1015, ten enemy planes were reported near Mljet. One of our own convoys was unsuccessfully attacked at 0100 by enemy PT boats while proceeding from Arsa to Fiume. The convoy called temporarily at Albona.

A northbound convoy also participated in the fight with PT boats in the evening of 23 Oct. near the Maun Island. The 10th Training Flotilla reported that the naval landing craft MFP "554" probably destroyed a motor gunboat by a hit from a 8.8 cm gun shell. The convoy succeeded in making hits on further motor torpedo boats and motor gun boats. The vessels of the convoy, too, were partly seriously hit and dispersed after the fight had been finished and the radio station on the command boat had broken down.

The vessel F "433" has sunk. The other vessels having taken part in the fight returned.

At 1120, the PT boat S "158" was sunk through an attack of Mosquito bombers carried out on camouflaged places in Sibenik.

No military damage was reported from the enemy air raid made on Civitanova in the evening of 24 Oct. and during the night of 24 Oct.

The Cavanella Lock (Po River) was heavily damaged during several attacks of fighter-bombers in the afternoon of 24 Oct.

It was reported as of 20 Oct. that a tug ran aground during continuous attacks of fighter bombers on the lighter traffic Po River - Venice - Grado. On 21 and 22 Oct., two tugs and three lighters sank. On 24 Oct., one freight barge was damaged.

On 25 Oct., two enemy planes probably dropped mines off Trieste; one plane was shot down by Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery. The Naval Battery of Southern Ravenna successfully participated in the fights on the ground. Three tank attacks and three Infantry attacks were beaten back, one observation post was destroyed.

During the night of 25 Oct., the battery was withdrawn as planned. During the same night, the minelayers KIEBITZ and LAURANA carried out a barrage operation as planned.

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With regard to the evacuation of Ragusa, it has been additionally reported that the break-through to the north had to be accomplished by crossing mine covered roads and enemy gunfire and air attacks; as the pass road at Neum was blocked for vehicles, the crossing was carried out under own losses on 22 Oct. after heavy equipment and motor vehicles had been destroyed. During that operation, a part of the 100 seriously wounded fell into enemy hands.

During the night of 22 Oct., a break-through to Metkovic was carried out in groups.

The routine steamer ISTO proceeding from Fiume to Veglia Island has been overdue since 22 Oct.

The 2nd Assault Boat Flotilla will move to Pola on 26 Oct. for operations in the Dalmatian Area.

b. Aegean Sea:

The Commanding Admiral, Aegean has asked the British Commander in Chief, Eastern Mediterranean by a radio message to pick up the shipwrecked from the islands in the Volos Bay. The radio message was acknowledged by the British. At 0853, Alexandria issued an order to the British warships for assistance.

The disbandment and evacuation of the radar station of Cassandra Huk is planned for the night of 25 Oct.

c. Situation in the Danube Area:

A large convoy has passed Baja with its last tow at 0700. During the breakthrough of Baja, the convoy was taken under fire by Russian anti-tank guns, tanks and mortars from the left-hand river bank, and by our own troops from the right-hand river bank. The vessels did not suffer any particular damage. Three men were killed, ten wounded, among which the Commander of the Danube Flotilla.

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IX. Situation in East Asia:

The Naval Attache, Tokio reported:

1. No surface vessels took part in the fights near Taiwan, only planes, namely 350 of the Navy and 150 of the Army. Two thirds of the total number were torpedo planes, the rest bombers.



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2. Almost all planes started from Kyushu and landed dispersed on Liukin, Formosa and the Philippines. Out of this reason, and since the planes belonged to parts of the Armed Forces, details cannot be obtained up to further notice. In this fact, and due to the circumstance that the Japanese attacks were mostly carried out at night, a reason might be seen for far exaggerated reports of success. The possibility of a double counting was admitted already.

3. Besides the temporary interruption of the communication with the Philippines Islands, which had been admitted as a result, it was the aim of the American warships to destroy the torpedo-carrying Japanese air force in order to be undisturbed as far as possible in imminent further landings of a decisive nature. Further details are not obtainable. So far, the loss of 70 planes has been admitted only on 12 Oct.

4. As has been reported today, no naval forces were put into action against the damaged American vessels.

5. No new information was given on the landing on the Philippines. The official authorities are keeping silent. The successes gained at Taiwan have caused a satisfactory and considerable increase of the morale to the different parts of the Armed Forces.

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Items of Political Importance:

No important incidents and reports.

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Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1115:

I. Subject: Situation in the North:

Naval Command, Norway issued the following order concerning the 4th Destroyer Flotilla:

"The 4th Destroyer Flotilla will withdraw to the west depending on the situation and own judgement. The task "Wetterleuchten" remains effective for the further execution of the operation "Nordlicht". The new position will be reported at any occasion. The Admiral, Arctic Coast will secure the fuel supply."

II. Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff:

Chief, Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division has contacted the Naval Command, Norway with regard to the requirements of hospital ships in Northern Norway. The steamer MONTE ROSA has been taken into consideration, as this ship with a capacity of 1200 - 1500 beds might meet the requirements.

III. Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division:

The operation of Linse Groups for Dunkirk has failed due to the lack of navigational skill and navigational auxiliary equipment. For a repetition, the transfer of three groups of the Small Battle Weapons Flotilla 215 by own power is provided to Flushing.

A brief report on the annihilation of the Small Battle Weapons Flotilla 213 in San Remo yielded that all equipment of the flotilla were kept in a flower hall which offered secrecy, admitted to make ready the Linse Torpedoes, was well camouflaged against the possibility of being looked into from the air or by forces attacking on the ground, and offered protection against surprise raids by gangs. A thinned-out position would not have offered any of these advantages. The destruction was caused by an accidental hit during the gunfire from destroyers.

In a Restricted Circle:

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IV. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

Contradicting Japanese and American reports on the operations in the area of the Philippine Islands do not give a clear picture. According to a Japanese Headquarters' report, the Japanese Fleet has been carrying out fierce attacks on the U.S.A. Operational Forces and transport flotilla since 24 Oct. So far, 4 U.S.A. Aircraft Carriers, 2 cruisers, 1 destroyer and at least 4 transports are said to be sunk, as well as 2 aircraft carrier, 1 battleship and 2 cruisers heavily damaged. Two Japanese cruisers and 1 destroyer are said to be sunk. Against that, Admiral Nimitz reported: In a naval battle, started at the Philippine Islands in the afternoon of 23 Oct. and still going on at present, airplanes from U.S.A. aircraft-carriers had sunk 1 Japanese aircraft-carrier, 5 - 6 battleships, 1 cruiser and several other warships. The U.S.A. aircraft-carrier PRINCETON had been sunk by her own crew after having suffered heavy damage.

According to a statement of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Navy, Admiral King, almost the entire Japanese Fleet were participating in the fights in the Pacific. It was striking that the Japanese Naval Forces had approached through the narrow waters between the islands where no space was available for maneuvering.

It might be taken as granted that an important and decisive operation is taking place at present in the sea area of the Philippine Islands. It remains to be seen whether the Americans will hold their position on the Philippine Islands for the duration, and what sacrifices both sides will have to make during the struggle for this key-position.

Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff gave the following information on the naval situation in the Northern Waters under the usual distribution:

"1. Different reports from contact men are predicting an out-flanking landing operation of the Russians during the German evacuation in the eastern part of the Northern Norway. The presence of seaworthy landing vessels, LST and LCT/LCI types, have not been detected so far in the Northern Waters. Otherwise, SU-vessels are available for possible landing operations;

a. For troops, and great number of small vessels covering a small range; for longer routes, war vessels named under 2., with the exception of submarines and PT boats.

b. A small Russian shipping space (approximately 30,000 BRT) is available only, if no additional shipping space is supplied by PQ-Convoys.

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2. On account of new observations through radio monitoring, the Soviet Arctic Fleet will probably have the following strength:

- 1 battleship ARCHANGELSK (ex Royal Sovereign)
- 1 cruiser MURMANSK (ex Milwaukee)
- 1 Flotilla Leader BAKU
- 21 destroyers: 8 GNEWY class, 3 NOWIK class (old), 7 probably old British CHURCHILL class, 3 unknown and newly shown up, one of which probably has approached over the sea route of Northern Siberia, approximately 40 submarines and 50 - 60 PT boats.

3. The assumption that the ARCHANGELSK (ex Royal Sovereign) were damaged and transferred to Soviet Russia is confirmed by a report from a reliable source of a neutral country. The repair works are intended to be carried out in Murmansk and will take several months. The Russian crew is onboard already, besides British instructors."

For information from assessment of the enemy situation as given by Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff to General Staff of the Army, Foreign Armies West on 25 Oct. see 1/Skl 32145/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II a.

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V. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The heavy fights in the bridgehead south of the Schelde Estuary are going on. Oostburg and Groede were occupied by the enemy.

At the isthmus of Bath, the 2nd Canadian Division succeeded in gaining ground to the west against the blocking front of the 70th Infantry Division by a strong concentration of forces.

The enemy made only local attacks against the front north of Antwerp which were beaten back in the main.

While the attacks of the XII. British Corps south of Hertogenbosch could be beaten back under serious losses on both sides, the enemy succeeded in occupying Hertogenbosch, with the exception of the western part, under the engagement of numerous flame throwing tanks.

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The continuous and strong decrease of the fighting strength will further result in a critical situation of the 15th Army. The perseverance of the 15th Army depends decisively on the transfer of sufficient replacements.

The Americans are forming a strong concentration of attack on both sides of Metz. It is assumed that the advance movement will be directed towards Merzig and Saargemuend, avoiding thereby the strongly fortified area of Metz - Saarbruecken.

In the battle area of the 19th Army, the enemy widened his penetrated area east of Epinal, repeating his attacks during the whole day and assisted partly by a strong artillery gunfire and single tanks.

According to statements of prisoners of war, the 4th American Army was transferred with 2 corps and 6 divisions from the U.S.A. immediately to France.

According to a report from a reliable source, heavy and heaviest artillery are being transferred with top priority to France for the attack on the west wall.

Italian Front:

Decrease of the fighting activity. Local attacks southeast of Bologna and southwest of Forli were beaten back in general.

Balkan:

Continuation of the fights on the Central Balkan, concentrated in the western Morava Valley. So far, all attacks were beaten back there.

West of Beograd, weak enemy attacks on the newly occupied positions.

Eastern Front:

Between the Tisza River and the Danube River, Hungarian formations pressed back the enemy a little.

German troops fighting in the area of Szolnok have beaten back attacks.

Between Debrecen and 70 km north at the upper Tisza River, the

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enemy continued his attempts to come ahead of our movements. The German troops maintained their close formation both in attacking and defending the enemy. An advance movement of the enemy caused a serious situation at Munkacs, all the more as Hungarian formations were standing there only. It cannot be surveyed yet whether the withdrawal of the Woehler Army Group from Transsylvania behind the Tisza River will be successful.

In the Beskids Mountains, the Russians penetrated our positions west of the Dukla Pass up to a depth of 4 km.

The battle at the Narev River has quite surprisingly calmed down again. Local fights mainly turned out in our favor.

While the enemy succeeded in gaining a deep penetration at Augustovo with concentrated forces of one defense division, the violence of the enemy attacks and their concentration continuously decreased at the inner wings of the 4th and 3rd Tank Army despite continuous and fierce local fights.

Ebenrode got lost after a fierce house-to-house fighting. Further to the north, the enemy stubbornly attacked up to twelve times, however, unsuccessfully. In Lithuania, fights of local importance took place only.

On the Sworbe Peninsula, enemy attacks were beaten back by knocking out eleven tanks.

Finland:

On 24 Oct., the strong enemy pressure on our reduced bridge-head-position in the area of Kirkenes was continued with undiminished strength. The enemy attempted by massing of forces to occupy Knew as fast as possible.

Along the Swedish border highway, the rear guard troops are standing 30 km northwest of Kolari. The 77th Mountain Division has reached the area of Karasvano while withdrawing, and the 6th SS-Mountain Division is standing north of Kittliae. The XXXVI. Army Corps is continuing its march movements in the area of Ivalo. The Finns are following hesitatingly only.

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Special Items:

I. Subject: Eastern Area:

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Naval Command East submitted a report of the Admiral, Eastern Baltic to the Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff that the directive concerning the detachment of vacant escort ships that might possibly be suitable for taking over personnel from transports could not fully be met, as twice the normal number of men are accommodated aboard ships by order of the Commanding General, Northern Army Group in order to meet approximately the transport requirements.

II. Subject: Northern Area:

a. Naval Staff gives the following assessment of the situation in the Northern Area:

"1. In the case that there has no agreement been reached on the spheres of influence respectively the occupational areas of Northern Norway between the Russians and Britons, it is possible that the Britons make a preventive landing in the area of Narvik. This, however, is not very likely as it was the tendency of the British politics so far to avoid trouble with the Soviets.

If, on the other side, agreements should have been reached - like those on the Balkan - leaving open the question whether the area of Narvik would fall into the British or Russian sphere, then a British landing is as likely in the area of Aalesund at this time of the year as in Narvik. The survey of the enemy situation together with air attacks from aircraft-carriers carried out lately in the area of Aalesund is remarkable as an indication for this possibility.

The so far observed attacking activity of the British leaves open the possibility that a harassing of our naval routes is intended exclusively.

2. A major Russian operation via the sea, in the back of the Arctic Front or against the West Fjord, is unlikely because of the time of the year and the weather, mainly because of the lack of sufficient transport shipping space (30,000 BRT are available only; this would be sufficient for the equipment of 4,000 men). However, the required tonnage could be made available by the British. There are no details available on special landing craft at the Russian coast of the Arctic Ocean. Up to 40,000 men with light weapons only could be transferred on the war vessels, however, for the most part the war vessels are not suitable for sea transports on long distances (PT boats, submarine chasers, guard boats etc.), but serviceable only for landing operations near to the front.

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3. Despite this assessment, we are forced to be on guard with military measures for any arising possibility. For details on our own forces and our plans with regard to reinforcements see l/Skl I op 31527/44 Gkdos. of 18 Oct. A definite concentration of defense forces has been established in the Arctic Area. No further surface forces can be transferred to Norway because

- a. the four destroyers in the Skagerrak must remain there for their respective tasks (escort of troop transports and minelaying operations),
- b. the remaining ten PT boats, at war readiness in the area of the Netherlands, cannot be deducted due to the situation there (operation in the Schelde Mouth),
- c. no vessels can be transferred under the present situation from the ships etc. being in action in the Baltic Sea.

4. For submarines, the concentration point of action of the entire submarine force is to be seen already now in the Northern Waters where 20 boats are at sea at present; under the newly started operation against a new PQ- or QP-Convoy, these boats are standing so closely to the coast that they may come into action, if necessary, against landing operations as quickly as from the ports; six other submarines are being repaired.

5. The greatest danger for our withdrawal movements in the Northern Area is to be seen in air raids from Russian airfields or from British aircraft-carriers, while the weakness of our defense against landings originates from the lack of air forces for reconnaissance and battle action."

The Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters and the Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy have been informed by teletype l/Skl 3384/44 Gkdos. Chfs. The order has been filed in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

b. The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff has approved of the request from the Commander, Submarines, Norway to re-name the Commander, Submarines, Norway to Commander, Submarines, Northern Waters, and has issued relevant orders.

c. Hydrographic and Meteorological Division, Naval Staff reported as follows to the Chief, Naval Staff:



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"Due to the extraordinary importance of the weather reports from the northwestern area, the Chief of the Meteorological Service of the Air Force has placed a four-men-station with a radio sounding set at the disposal of the Hydrographic and Meteorological Division, Naval Staff for operation in South-east Greenland. By that a weather-submarine will be spared for several months in the Atlantic. An execution of the task will be made by a submarine in the middle of November at the latest. Approval is requested for."

The Submarine Division, Naval Staff will handle the matter.

d. Naval Command East and Naval Command Norway are issued the following directive by the Naval Staff with regard to the dislocation of submarine chaser flotillas:

"The losses of submarine chasers suffered lately and the little efficiency of our own submarine chasing in the Arctic Area (proximity to the coast, currents, strong layings and different water temperatures, etc.), as well as the lack of submarine chasing forces and more favorable conditions in the Baltic Sea necessitate an examination whether an improvement in the present distribution of forces could be gained if an exchange at a suitable time would be made of the 12th Submarine Chaser Flotilla - now in the Arctic Area - against a flotilla of guard vessels or a minesweeper flotilla from the Baltic Sea. Assessment and proposal as to the exchange will be reported by wire.

Additional note:

To: Naval Command East.

The 12th Submarine Chaser Flotilla consists of 9 Submarine Chasers (FD) and war submarine chasers. The top speed is 12.5 nautical miles."

III. Subject: Southeastern Area:

Group South reported:

"1. Army Group E reports the following occupational strength on the islands (army):

a.	Crete	11,700
b.	Rhodos	6,000
c.	Leros	3,500
d.	Coos	1,000
e.	Milos	200

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2. Naval occupation as per report of the Commanding Admiral, Aegean:

- a. Crete 1,994
- b. Rhodos 96
- c. Leros 1,540
- d. Coos 35
- e. Milos 430."

This yields an occupation of

Crete	with	13,694 men,
Rhodos	"	6,096 " ,
Leros	"	5,040 " ,
Coos	"	1,035 " ,
Milos	"	<u>630 " ,</u>
altogether		26,495 men.

(Of this, 4,095 Navy and 22,400 Army).

IV. Chief, Naval Staff issued the following order to the Quartermaster Division:

"The defense of submarines within the Navy is not on the required level, especially not in the present stadium of war in which the enemy strongly attacks us with his submarines.

A corresponding organization is needed for this with a top authority - similar to that at the Admiral, Small Battle Units - dealing further with the matter.

Through our submarine warfare we have gained a lot of experience which practically is not being utilized. It is necessary to establish an office for that, either an inspectorate or an inspector at the Commanding Admiral, Battle Ships to be, or a personnel union of one office in the front area and in the High Command, Navy (see Admiral, Small Battle Units). The British have organized a huge office for the submarine defense, both in this war and in the last. What we have are merely a report center at the Quartermaster Division and the Submarine Defense School. This is not sufficient.

It is requested to examine the matter and to submit proposals. As far as the personnel is concerned, I am thinking of Schmidt, Eberhard who would be the proper man on this post in my opinion."

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Situation 26 Oct. 1944

I. Area Naval Command East:

1. Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

No particular observations.

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Own Situation:

Due to the defensive success gained on the Sworbe Peninsula on 24 Oct., only single enemy attacks up to the strength of a regiment were made which were beaten back. At dawn, eight enemy boats fired on the east coast south of Kainri, however, withdrew after our own formations were put into action. The particularly good defensive success gained by the Naval Artillery Detachment 531 under a loss of about 90 men has expressively been acknowledged by General Schirmer.

The Naval Artillery Detachment 532 and the Operations Detachment have been withdrawn from the main defense line. As far as determinable, the total strength of all naval units on the Sworbe Peninsula mounts up to 991 men.

At 1725 on 25 Oct. the Chief, 3rd Minesweeping Flotilla was put into action at the east coast of the Sworbe Peninsula for attacking the enemy boats, however, when firing star shells could not make out any enemy.

Two boats of the 5th PT boat Flotilla suffered fire and splinter damages during raids with bombs and aircraft armament on Zerel and Montu on 25 Oct. They suffered little casualties.

At 1530 on 25 Oct., the Commanding General of the Northern Army Group and the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea arrived again at Windau having come on PT boats from Montu.

At 0720 on 26 Oct., the 3rd Minesweeping Flotilla observed the dropping of single bombs or mines and the crashing down of one plane northwest of Ovisi.

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In the Irben Narrows, the sighting of a periscope was reported. A submarine hunt has been started by an armed fishing vessel.

An additional report on an attack of 15 enemy planes in the area of Windau, outside the town limits, was received as of the afternoon of 24 Oct. The anti-aircraft artillery probably shot down one plane.

The Naval Anti-Aircraft Detachment of Memel reported to have destroyed one gun. The port of East Memel is defended by a log and net barrage.

Troop transports and convoys were carried out as planned and without incidents. Among other things, eight tanks of the heaviest type were transported on four naval landing craft from Memel to Pillau. The Northern Army Group received 2,043 tons of supplies and nine motor vehicles.

Submarine torpedo tracks were sighted by a minesweeper belonging to the escort of a convoy at 0520, six nautical miles northwest of Memel, and at 1102, six nautical miles northwest of Polangen.

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2. Western and Central Baltic Sea:

Forty-six boats and one mine exploding vessel were put into action for mineclearing. One mine was cleared in the Bay of Kiel.

In the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal, the steam trawler STEINEUTT was salvaged and towed off. Effective as of 28 Oct., only ships of more than 1,000 BRT will be forced to proceed in a convoy through the canal. Otherwise, the traffic is not subject anymore to any restrictions on a larger scale.

At 1027, an unknown Russian vessel was taken a bearing from Pillau in 10°.

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3. Admiral, Skagerrak:

Nineteen boats were put into action for mineclearing. One mine each was cleared in the Bay of Aalborg, northwest, south and easterly of Anholt, and in the Samsø Belt.

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The 5th Destroyer Flotilla with three destroyers has entered the Oslo Fjord after having carried out an escort task.

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II. Area of the Naval Command, Norway:

Enemy Situation:

Twenty-four planes were detected during action in the area of the 18th Group.

According to radio monitoring, seven Russian destroyers were at sea in the area of Poljarnoje in the evening of 25 Oct. which received an urgent radio message with collective address at 0716 on 26 Oct. A connection with the expected QP- or PQ- Convoy is possible. According to dead reckoning, the expected PQ-Convoy should have passed 25° East at 1000. The air reconnaissance remained without success.

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Own Situation:

1. Area of the Admiral, Arctic Coast:

On 24 Oct., four sorties with 30 planes were reported in the area of Hammerfest-Silda. The dropping of mines is suspected.

At 0230 on 24 Oct., the Battery Mestersand at Kirkenes attacked enemy preparations and movements with observed result on both sides of the road from Tofte to Elvenes. In Kirkenes, the ore and coal quays and other quays have been destroyed effectively. All damaged and not serviceable vessels lying in the harbor have been sunk, while the offices and quarters of the Navy ashore were destroyed by fire. The withdrawal up to the narrowed position of Kirkenes has been carried out as planned. All attacks of the following enemy were beaten back under serious losses. The evacuation of Vardoe is scheduled to take place during the night of 29 Oct. One naval landing craft has been provided for the transport of the anti-aircraft battery.

The battery in the Boek Fjord was blown up on 23 Oct.

According to a report of the Commander, Submarines, Norway, four or five enemy vessels were fired on from a distance of 15 km in 360° at 0400 on 26 Oct.

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The 4th Destroyer Flotilla put to sea for an operation at 1600.

During an air raid on Kirkenes on 24 Oct. the vessel F "201" sank. On 25 Oct. the motor minesweepers R "250" and R "238" were damaged by bomb hits during air raids on the Baats Fjord. One of the attacking planes was shot down. In the Porsanger Fjord, two British submarine inertia contact mines were cut.

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2. Area of the Admiral, North Norwegian Coast:

In the forenoon, 14 enemy planes attacked naval landing craft, as well as a small convoy, batteries and oil tanks in the area of Sandnesjoen. The vessels F "236" and F "235" were damaged and suffered casualties. Besides that, the net tender "10" and the Battery Lunt were damaged. The oil tanks lost little quantities of oil.

In the afternoon, twelve single-engined enemy planes were active in the area of Narvik. The ships' anti-aircraft artillery shot down two planes. The convoy traffic between Bodoe and Roer-  
vik was blocked until 1600 due to the danger of aircraft-carriers.

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3. Area of the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast:

In the afternoon of 26 Oct., 30 Mosquito bombers set the Norwegian steamer BIRI afire that had run aground in the area of Lister.

The laying-out of the KMA barrage "WK 3" in the Okla Bay has been completed.

Three ships were escorted to the north, five ships to the south. Due to a line fault no reports on convoys were received from the area of the Arctic Coast.

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III. Area of the Naval Command North:

1. Bay of Heligoland:

During the night of 25 Oct., the escort and patrol duties were carried out as planned.

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For a supplementary report on the air raid on Hamburg of 25 Oct. see the Situation of the Day. According to that, serious industrial damages were caused. One Dutch steamer has sunk, four steamers have received medium-heavy damage, further numerous vessels were slightly damaged.

At 2210 on 25 Oct., the survey boat SUEDEEROOG sank after having been hit by a mine south of Sylt. One Mine was cleared at the light-vessel ELBE 1.

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2. Area of the Netherlands:

During the night of 25 Oct., all escort and mine-clearing duties were carried out as planned. The 1st Artillery Flotilla has carried out the fouling of Roompot. Between 2220 and 0100, the patrol position "CAIRO" beat back five attacks of PT boats. After having expended the star shells, the patrol boats entered Hook of Holland with little casualties. One enemy PT boat was damaged. At 0500, enemy PT boats were located at the position "ROM."

In Flushing, the mooring posts and quays at the eastern side of the port have been destroyed. The Battery East Flushing with three guns is again ready for action.

During the night of 25 Oct., a trawler and two motor barges transported 130 tons of ammunition to Cadzand.

The Battery Nieuwe Sluis will be evacuated by order of the Army during the night of 26 Oct., due to a withdrawal of the main defense line. The crew of the battery and 60 men of the staff-platoon of the Naval Artillery Detachment 203 will be put into action as infantry forces.

The batteries on the Walcheren Island were put into action against land targets south of the Schelde River. Continuous strong enemy attacks were reported from the bridgehead Schelde South. Oostburg got lost after fierce house-to-house fighting.

During the night of 26 Oct., an operation with a group of 12 Linse torpedoes is intended to be started against land positions on South Beverland.

The transfer of two groups to Dunkirk is supposed to be carried

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out as soon as the boats have been transferred from Rotterdam to Flushing and ten selected leaders have arrived.

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IV. Area of the Naval Command West:

Enemy Situation:

Thirty-six planes were detected during action at the 15th Group, nine planes at the 19th Group. One enemy vessel was located at 2135 in the grid square BE 3145.

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Own Situation:

The enemy broadcast affirmed that the tanker MARY and the armed fishing vessel FN "08" were destroyed by enemy naval forces. A part of the crew was rescued.

Three boats started from the Channel Islands and occupied Minquiers Island. The Island was free from the enemy. An observation post and a radio station were established.

Local fighting activity was reported from the encircled fortresses.

Another 800 persons were evacuated from the fortress Gironde North.

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V. Area of the German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

At noon, nine USA transports, ten USA freighters and nine escort vessels departed from the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic.

During the night of 25 Oct., and on 26 Oct., the usual activity of patrol boats was observed off the Riviera coast.

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Own Situation:

During the night of 25 Oct., three torpedo boats of foreign

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origin and four motor minesweepers carried out the mine tasks GEIER and MEISE south of San Remo.

No further pilots have returned from the operation of assault boats carried out during the night of 23 Oct. off Cannes. Seven one-man assault boats had been reported overdue.

The escort and patrol duties were carried out according to plans during the night of 25 Oct.

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VI. Area of the Naval Group South:

1. Adriatic Sea:

The air reconnaissance detected in the afternoon of 25 Oct. three sailing vessels boarded by 40-50 soldiers each in British uniform west of the island of Dugi-Otok. Two small war vessels, one PT boat and other vessels were standing south of the Hvar Island. Three enemy landing craft entered Ragusa.

During a raid of fighter bombers on 25 Oct. on Chioggia, a block ship was sunk.

The enemy is advancing slowly only at the blocking position south of Metkovic.

The withdrawal movement of the Army and Navy from Split was started in the afternoon of 25 Oct. and, after the demolitions in the town and port had been carried out as planned, was finished in the evening of 26 Oct. The evacuation goods were salvaged. The first reception point is Trogir. The mass of the Croatian garrison has deserted.

Enemy advance movements north of the Bay of Cattaro and at Podgorica as well as concentrated attacks on Danilograd were beaten back. The installations in the naval air port of Denevici (Bay of Cattaro) have been destroyed. The fuel depot at Lipci has been evacuated, the fuel lightered. Three launching barrels and torpedoes of the Battery Kobila have been destroyed.

Early on 26 Oct., four PT boats boarded by strong point personnel and materiel from Cattaro as well as by wounded from the PT boat S "158" that had sunk in Sibenik after a bomb hit entered Pola.

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In the evening of 25 Oct., two harbor defense vessels put to sea from Fiume to Malinsca boarded by 90 men who were provided as a blocking troop for a mopping-up action on the Veglia Island. A pursuit command troop of 210 men and a police force of 320 men have crossed with three Siebel Ferries from Fiume to Malinsca. The mopping-up action is to be started in the morning of 26 Oct. and is supposed to last eight days.

No particular incidents were reported during the night of 25 Oct., when one torpedo boat of foreign origin and one motor minesweeper north of Zara as well as two PT boats in the area of Sibenik escorted convoys.

The escort and patrol duties off the eastern coast of Italy were strongly hampered by the weather condition.

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2. Aegean Sea:

At 0654, the island commander of Milos reported an enemy landing and subsequently enemy air raids. South of the island, strong naval forces with one aircraft-carrier were sighted. At 1300, the commander reported continuous air and naval artillery attacks on the heavy anti-aircraft batteries. The southern and eastern part are occupied by landing details. The last radiogram of the island commander at 1800 read as follows: "Secret matters destroyed, security of the codes guaranteed. We'll hold up to the last. Long live the Fuehrer!"

According to a British broadcast report, Allied troops have landed on the Skopelos Island.

The hospital ship GRADISCA has entered Salonika. The Commanding Admiral, Aegean and his Staff have arrived at Vienna.

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3. Situation in the Danube Area:

No new minelayings nor losses through mine hits nor mineclearings were reported.

A guard boat and two naval landing craft were ordered, after having delivered a large convoy at Baks, to proceed downstream again with five tugs during the night of 25 Oct. in order to

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escort the towing vessels and tugs upstream that were still lying in the area of Baja - Apatin. Due to the fact that the tugs did not arrive, and on account of the enemy situation, the execution was delayed up to the night of 26 Oct. Meanwhile it was reported that all towing goods were sunk at Apatin, that Mohacs were lying under artillery gunfire and that the sinking of the shipping space there were started, furthermore that the remaining formation at the kilometer point 1462 were fired on by heavy tank and anti-tank guns, and that a further breakthrough were impossible. Heavy artillery gunfire was also reported by a convoy at Alexandrao proceeding upstream. On account of these reports, the operation has been given up for the time being. The large convoy is being transferred with all boats to Budapest under top priority. The approval that had been asked for blowing up the ships having remained in eastern direction depends on the assessment of the Naval Liaison Officer, Budapest who was sent to the spot.

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VII. Submarine Warfare:

According to radio monitoring, the PQ-Convoy is expected to be at noon approximately in the grid square AC 50. The Commander, Submarines, Northern Waters has put into action 18 boats of the Group "Panther" accordingly.

In the Gulf of Finland, the submarines U "475" and U "1001" collided during a submerged attack on three guard boats. Both boats reported to have suffered no serious damage. Actually, the operational areas of both boats were separated by a strip of six nautical miles width.

No particular reports were received from the other operational areas.

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VIII. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

An activity of medium strength by carrier-borne planes and fighter bombers was reported from the battle area of the Netherlands.

Reich Territory:

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In the early morning, approximately 1000 bombers with fighter escort entered the West German Area and raided Muenster, Hannover, Bielefeld, Minden, Leverkusen, Bingen and Ruedesheim as well as other places within the covered areas. Besides that, small formations of fast bombers or fighter planes attacked railway installations and trains in the areas of Bremen, Braunschweig, Mannheim, Darmstadt, Freiburg and Strassburg.

The raid in Bingen was directed against the Hindenburg Bridge which was hit. However, the interruption of the traffic was of a short duration only. Chiefly, reports on damages were not available yet because of line faults.

During the night of 26 Oct., 72 fast bombers and remote night fighters were reported in the areas of Sylt, Husum, Flensburg, Bay of Luebeck and Mecklenburg Bay, as well as in the areas of Berlin and Kuestrin, furthermore in the areas of Koblenz, Strassburg, Trier and Dueren without particular attacking activity.

From the south, single planes, among which flying fortresses, entered the Salzkammergut and the Innsbruck Area in daylight. The main station at Innsbruck was slightly damaged.

From the east, six single planes entered the area of Gleiwitz-Brieg without attacking activity.

Due to weather reasons, no own fighters were put into action during the day against the major sorties.

Mediterranean Theater:

No particular enemy sorties were reported. Our own planes were on reconnaissance duty on 25 and 26 Oct. Between Toulon and Corsica, a convoy consisting of 8 transports and 1 destroyer was reported without indication of the course.

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Eastern Area:

At the Eastern Front, 313 own and 1890 enemy sorties were reported on 25 Oct: three of our own planes got lost, while 19 enemy planes were shot down, 7 of which by anti-aircraft artillery. During the night of 25 Oct., 28 own and 110 enemy sorties were reported. During the night of 26 Oct., 50-60 planes from the east attacked Budapest. No details were reported.

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It has been reported on the enemy air activity in the battle area of the 5th Air Force.

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IX. Situation in East Asia:

No particular incidents.

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Items of Political Importance:

According to different press reports, the British and USA Governments have demanded of Turkey to open the Dardanelles in order to replace the difficult supply of Russia via Persia. It is expected that the Turks will agree on this step planned in Moscow.

According to Reuter, Churchill is said to make a proposal on 31 Oct. for the prolongation of the legislature period of Parliament by one year.

The inner political conditions in France and Belgium are showing increasing tensions.

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Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff:

I. Chief, Quartermaster Division:

a. It is impossible to meet the demand of Naval Staff, Operations Division of keeping the HANSA at war readiness, as 480 cadets have to be trained aboard this ship. No other ships are available for this purpose.

Chief, Naval Staff:

In case of need, trained men or the old cadets must be called back aboard, if the operation of the ship becomes unavoidable. The Chief of the Training Unit is to be pointed at this.

The question is being considered whether a training of cadets might be carried out on the LEIPZIG as a "servicable hulk", possibly also on the SEYDLITZ as a hulk. The Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament will find out what efforts are necessary for this purpose.

b. Concerning a 10% reduction of all formations in the homeland, the draft of a letter from the Commander in Chief, Navy to the Chief, Armed Forces High Command is submitted with the request to exempt the Navy from the planned reduction.

Chief, Bureau of Naval Administration, Naval Personnel Division reports with regard to the above that an approval be at hand

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already stating that the reduction would not apply to personnel provided for manning of ships.

II. Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament:

a. The Armed Forces High Command has asked the Navy for the supply of explosives for major demolitions to be made in Warsaw; it is being examined whether the explosives can be spared by the Navy. The ammunition train that blew up some days ago on a small station near Hannover was loaded with 200 torpedo warheads. It has become a tough problem how transports of such a high-explosive freight are to be forwarded through areas endangered by air raids.

b. The plant of Daimler-Benz has again been destroyed by enemy action, so that no motors for PT boats will be supplied any-more in November. Here, the great disadvantage may be seen that the entire production of motors for PT boats had to be concentrated in the area of Stuttgart. The resumption of the production is still uncertain.

In a restricted circle:

III. Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff, Operations Division:

a. The Naval Command East has agreed with the Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea that, for the time being, mine-barrages be laid in the Arensburg Bay only, while the Irben Narrows be still left open.

b. Report on declarations of operational areas in the eastern Baltic Sea as per protocol to be looked up in War Diary, Part C, Vol. VIII.

IV. Chief, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

The command of the TIRPITZ has reported the required strength of personnel for a restricted state of readiness of the battleship as of 22 Oct.

In the opinion of Oberbaurat Krux, a passage through the skerries can be made without hesitations. In a calm sea, a speed of 12 knots without pitching is admissible. For a speed up to 15 knots in a calm sea and without pitching, it is necessary that the bulkhead spaces of the bulkhead 202 be propped with a required time of about 14 days. The Commander in Chief, Navy has decided that the TIRPITZ be repaired as far as to make possible

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transfers on short and free sea routes. The other prerequisites necessary for this as to the materiel and personnel must also be met. Nothing is changed by that in the present task of the ship in the area of Tromsoe. The anti-aircraft and smoke defenses are to be established there as planned. However, the ship's anti-aircraft artillery will remain on board. Thus, the ship is not to be considered as a floating battery, but as a monitor. A relevant directive will be issued to the Quartermaster Division Naval Staff.

V. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff:

According to a report of the Reich Security Head Office, Prince Bernard was assured by General Eisenhower that the Yssel Line would be occupied still before the beginning of the winter. According to a report from a contact man (Josephine) major efforts are being made for attacking the Netherlands with air-borne formations. According to findings made by the Operations Staff Ic, Air Force, it is possible again to carry out air transports for a simultaneous operation of four air-borne divisions.

No clear picture has been gained yet of the operation at the Philippines.

Following the crossing of the Norwegian-Finnish Border by Russian troops, the Norwegian Exile-Government has directed a welcome message to the Russian Government. Besides that, an agreement was made between Russia and Norway concerning military cooperation and resumption of the Norwegian Civil Administration.

VI. Army Situation:Western Front:

On 26 Oct. the enemy continued to attack concentratedly the forces of the 15th Army standing south of the Waal River in fierce fights. The seriously weakened troops who could not be supplied with new forces and had to keep up the fight again and again out of their own strength were successful in holding up strong infantry and armored forces of the enemy in fierce counter-attacks south of Rosendaal. However, east of Tilburg and at Hertogenbosch our lines were penetrated again. The enemy aims at the occupation of the great bridges across the Waal River, and with that at reaching the first part of the intended encirclement of the forces standing south of the Waal River. In order to prevent the enemy from reaching this target it is intended to withdraw the front up to the line of Rosendaal-Breda-Dongen-Canal southwest of Hertogenbosch for obtaining new reserves.

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The enemy continued his strong attacks against the isthmus of Bath under a simultaneous landing at the southeastern corner of South Beveland and pushed back our own forces by several kilometers. While landing attempts east of Hoedekenskerke and in the port of Krujningen could be beaten back under serious losses of the enemy, the latter succeeded in establishing a bridgehead near Baarland.

Enemy tank preparations were detected in the area northeast of Luxembourg.

East of Luneville, the provided withdrawal movements of our own forces towards a further backwards consolidated position were carried out as planned.

In the penetrated area of St. Die, the fierce defensive battle is going on undiminishedly. While the attacks were mainly beaten back, the enemy succeeded at some places in extending his penetration to the east.

Italian Front:

At the southern front, local fights took place only because of permanent rain.

Balkan:

The withdrawal movements in Greece are carried out as planned. According to observations made so far, the British have landed in Greece with about three divisions which were transferred from Italy, Egypt and Palestine.

Between Skoplje and Beograd all attempts of the enemy to gain ground to the west could be beaten back under high and serious losses for the enemy.

Eastern Front:

In the area of Szolnok, the 4th German Tank Corps pushed back the enemy across the Tisza River. The seriously weakened Russian forces north of Nyiregyhaza attempted in vain to break through to the south. Russian diversion attacks in the area southeast of this town failed.

The withdrawal of the 8th Army is taking place as planned.

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The critical situation of the 1st Hungarian Army has grown worse through a Russian advance movement, from Munkacs to Ungvar. Without the additional transfer of German forces the stabilization of this front seems questionable.

West of the Dukla Pass the enemy broke through our own lines. Counter-attacks have successfully been started.

North of Warsaw, at the Narev River, only fights of local importance were carried out also yesterday. The attacks made under a considerable operation of artillery and ground-attack planes were mainly beaten back by the SS-Divisions standing there. In East Prussia, the concentration and force of the great Russian offensive further decreased compared with the previous days. In detail, however, the fights went on for every foot of ground. At Augustovo the German counter-attack for regaining the former position failed. Fierce fighting was also going on south of Goldap. The Russian attack was concentrated at the area east of Gumbinnen where the enemy again attempted to advance up to this town. With the exception of little ground losses, the German positions were held. Fierce and stubborn fighting went on for Ebenrode and Schlossberg. In the evening, the enemy was repulsed again from Schlossberg. Fights of local importance were reported from the Northern Army Group. All is silent on the Sworbe Peninsula.

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Special Items:

I. Concerning: East Area:

a. According to Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea; Army Group North intends to advance the main line of defence at Sworbe on 1 Nov. at the Anna cutting-off position on either side of Lou. (Operation Herbstnebel) Therefore further forces are being brought up. Attack support by the 2nd Task Force is requested.

Therefore, if need be Naval Command Baltic occasionally intends to withdraw the heavy cruiser HIPPER with her patrols from Fleet exercises on 29 Oct.

Naval Staff declares its consent with the planned employment of the 2nd Task Force in support of operation "Herbstnebel."

b. Effecting the directive issued by Operations Division, Naval Staff concerning equipment of ships with heavy ammunition to

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be held ready the following stores would yet allowed to be fired pending further notice:

1. 28 cm PSGR (Panzersprenggranate- armour-piercing shell) L/3.7 (tr. n. L-length of barrell in calibers) (M HB) (tr. n. M HB-Naval howitzer troop) with 680 rounds.  
28 cm SPgr. (tr. n. Spgr. -HE shell) L/4.2 BDZ (tr. n. BDZ-base fuse) (M HB) with 800 rounds.  
28 cm Sprgr. L/4.2 KZ (tr. n. KZ-nose fuse) with 180 rounds
2. 20.3 cm Spr. L/4.4 (M HB) with 1 300 rounds.  
20.3 cm L/4.7 BDZ (M HB) with 800 rounds  
20.3 cm Spr. L/4.7 KZ (M HB) with 140 rounds.

In these numbers the ammunition on ships, supply ships and in artillery arsenal is included. Ammunition still stored in Norwegian area is not included.

c. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff issued the following directive:

"Commander in Chief, Navy reports:

"Owing to sabotage in Denmark, five new constructions of merchantmen with 12 000 BRT had been sunk and moreover two war vessels and nine merchantmen with approximately 20 000 BRT had been damaged more or less during the last four months. These high losses will be unbearable for length especially after breakdown of shipyards in the Netherlands, Belgium and France. After all the situation concerning tonnage of German merchantshipping has been accentuated by strong growing enemy counter-action upon German ports and shipyards, so that transportation programme especially of the Armed Forces in Norway and at the eastern front could only be fulfilled with great difficulty. No essential increase in tonnage can be expected. Therefore, it is requested to do all one can in order to prevent tonnage in Denmark from sabotage. Therefore it seems necessary to confide a main office with this task simultaneously closely cooperating with political offices as political influence is expected with these military or police measures."

Additionally has been ordered:

1. Watching of war ships will be the task of the Navy. Protection of ships new constructions and merchantmen

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from sabotage will be the task of the Reich Commissioner for the execution of which the Senior SS and Police Officer, Denmark has been attached to him with his forces.

2. Commanding General, Armed Forces Denmark will be charged to support the demands of the Commander in Chief, Navy to the Reich Commissioner and to offer him assistance in personnel in order to execute a concentrated control in shipyards, ports, etc. insofar as not requiring any considerations politically and if possible with his forces."

Naval Staff dispatched this directive to Naval Command Baltic, Commanding Admiral, Skagerrak and Naval Command Norway for information.

II. Concerning northern area:

a. Armed Forces High Command Ordered:

"In case of withdrawing the units of coastal artillery east of Lyngenfiord particularly mobile special equipment (range-finders, range finding dials, photograph equipment, search lights etc.) have to be brought back. As far as ever possible this also will be effective concerning the batteries to be destroyed."

The order has been dispatched to the Naval Command Norway.

b. On 25 Oct. High Command, Air, Operations Staff ordered to Commanding General Finland:

1. Reconnaissance of Murmansk will be decisive for submarine employment and PQ spotting and QP assembling.

2. Execute adequate reconnaissance, if need be operating with BF 109 plane, Ba/R2 of the 1st Close Reconnaissance Airplane Group 32.

c. Additionally, Air Force Operations Staff reported that two torpedo groups of Bomber Group 26 are being transferred to Bardufos and Banak assigned to fight aircraft carriers escorting PQ-convoys.

d. Owing to request by phone from the Admiral attached to Führers Headquarters for Naval Staff's viewpoint concerning the fighting of enemy aircraft carriers in Norwegian area, Naval Staff wired to Admiral attached to Führer's Headquarters, Armed Forces

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High Command, Naval Liaison:

- "1. With remarkable exceptions appearance of carriers comes surprisingly as the carriers keep wireless silence and there is no air reconnaissance for early spotting.
2. Fighting of aircraft carriers in these area would only be possible with numerous submarines. If that ought not to be mere successes by chance then it would be necessary to send the boats out in right time (that is to say very early) against the carriers, because effect could only be expected when the enemy with his fast carriers will run in our submarine position. Owing to their surplus of speed no operating behind these carriers would be possible. Therefore, submarine operations against these carriers would only promise any results in case required air reconnaissance would be available. The only true employment of submarines in Northern Waters would be against enemy convoys. There would be no results if operating with these few submarines against fast carrier groups in this wide area.
3. In the present situation Naval Staff sees the only possibility of fighting such carrier groups with the Air Force."

III. Effective 4 Nov. 1944 Commander Destroyers ordered 8th Destroyer Flotilla (Narvik) to be parent flotilla for destroyers Z "25", Z "28", Z "29", Z "30". Branched off subordination as to discipline and supplies of these destroyers will remain just as before. The 8th Destroyer Flotilla (Narvik) will assume assignment of the former 5th Destroyer Flotilla (home area) thus being merged in 8th Destroyer Flotilla.

The following destroyers will be subordinated as to discipline and supplies in branched off manner to 8th Destroyer Flotilla: HANS LODY, STEINBRINCK, PAUL JACOBI, Z "39".

Destroyer Z "30" will remain with 5th Destroyer Flotilla as long as this flotilla will stay in present operational area. Assignment of 8th Destroyer Flotilla (Narvik): Taking care of vessels belonging to the unit of the Commander Destroyers lying in home area, supervision of training, Training Detachment of Commander Destroyers inclusively.

IV. Naval Command Norway points to experiences made in West Area and off Petsamo whereafter simultaneously infantry and artillery fighting is always to be expected in decisive moment so that either main battle and secondary weapons, anti-aircraft weapons

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inclusively, have to be manned at the same time. War emergency strength of battery crews does not suffice, even without considering casualties. Up to now infantry protection has been assigned by the Army and will, after reductions reported earlier and new ones which are to follow later become fully insufficient. Therefore Naval Command Norway proposes to admit personnel for infantry protection of naval batteries in war emergency strength, principally assigning one company for heavy battery and both one platoon for medium and light batteries. In the area of Naval Command rough counting comes up to 12 companies and 58 platoons.

Whether this application could be granted in our present situation of personnel has to be checked by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division.

V. Operations Division, Naval Staff dispatched its viewpoint concerning emergency armament programme to Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff. Copy of draught 1/Skl.Ia 32077 Gkdos. in War Diary Part B Volume V. Therein the present tasks of the Navy are named in sequence of priority:

1. Protection of the coasts of the Reich against enemy landing operations,
2. Protection of sea routes along the German coasts,
3. Protection and control of the western and central part of the Baltic Sea and of Baltic Sea Entrances as supposition for the possession of a base without no creation of a submarine force would be possible,
4. Establishment of an offensive submarine force,
5. Protection of the sea route to Norway and along the Norwegian coasts as supposition for the possession and defence of Norway.

In case the materiel situation would no more allow the completion of these tasks they have to be abandoned in reverse sequence of their priority.

VI. Summary of enemy informations gathered by Radio deciphering and Radio Monitoring during 16 to 22 Oct. see Radio Monitoring Report no. 43/44.

Situation 27 Oct. 1944

I. Area of Naval Command Baltic:

1. Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

On 16 Oct. at 0318 one of our own submarines sighted two very small vessels heading east in AO 0265.

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Own Situation:

At Sworbe all enemy attacks have been repelled with clearing up local penetrations. Commanding General of Army Group North acknowledged particularly good defence results of Naval Artillery Detachment 531.

The five Naval Artillery Detachments and the Staff of Naval Shore Commander operating at Sworbe have been reduced by considerable casualties to a total of 788 men.

Commanding General of northern Courland ordered all civil persons to be evacuated from Sworbe. Transfer is to be made with supply naval landing craft. All naval landing craft ready for sea, all armed fishing smacks available, artillery ferries and two mine-sweepers have been employed in Sworbe supply.

Naval landing craft F "843" with 80 tons of ammunition ran aground off Montu.

Escorts and troop transportations have been carried out without incidents. Liepaja has been supplied with 2 168 tons and Memel with 101 tons.

From 8 to 26 Oct. there have been evacuated from Ventspil and Liepaja into the Reich:

31 269 soldiers, 22 370 wounded, 4 091 prisoners of war, 28 195 evacuated persons; altogether 85 925 persons.

2. Western and Central part of Baltic Sea:

At 0935 the bearing of a Russian Minesweeper had been taken from Pillau.

Forty-two boats had been employed in minesweeping.

In the afternoon of 26 Oct. Commander of 3rd Torpedo boat Flotilla entered Gotenhafen with torpedo boats T "19" and T "21".

3. Admiral Skagerrak:

Fifteen boats have been employed in minesweeping, two mines were swept in Samsoe-Belt, one each in Grenaa and in Aalborg Bay.

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Patrol boat VS "828" has been damaged by mine in AO 4453, the Norwegian steamer NINA has been damaged in northern outlet of the Samsøe-Belt. The steamer is drifting westward without crew.

One hundred and ninety-seven KMA-mines have been laid south of Frederikshavn.

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II. Area of Naval Command Norway:

Enemy Situation:

In the area of 18th Group 28 planes in operation have been detected.

Own Situation:

Area of Polar Coast:

At 1000 a bombing raid by 13 bombers and eight fighters has been made without result on 4th Destroyer Flotilla. At 1500 the flotilla left for new operation.

The next raid by 24 planes in the same area on large minesweeper "26" led to the loss of this ship. One plane was reported to be shot down.

Area of Northern Coast:

On 26 Oct. the Naval Signal Station Roervik has been damaged by bombing and strafing. After being hit by a bomb the patrol boat VP "5722" burned out in Roervik. After being hit the seaplane tender KARL MEYER has been set aground burning, two planes were reported to be shot down.

In the morning of 27 Oct. one naval landing craft was slightly damaged by four attacking Spitfires. Four Spitfires attacking a convoy off Kristiansund slightly damaged the minesweeper M "433", one plane was shot down.

The Dutch motor ship SPIKE was attacked by 18 enemy planes and was set aground in damaged condition. In the second raid carried out by 15 planes on minesweeper M "433" this boat sunk. In a new raid on the convoy transport submarine U "1060" was directly hit in her conning-tower and stranded off Fleina.



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In the low level attack on Bodoë harbor carried out in the afternoon no important damage was done. Presumably mines were dropped northwest of Bremsneset.

According to aircraft carrier danger convoys between Bodoë and Roervik have been stopped from 0950 until 1700.

Area West Coast:

Nothing to report.

Twenty-one northbound and nine southbound ships were escorted. Owing to line troubles report from Polar coast is lacking.

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III. Area of Naval Command North:

1. Heligoland Bight:

During the night of 27 Oct. escort and defence operations have been completed according to plan.

One mine was swept in outer Weser River.

2. Holland Area:

During the night of 27 Oct. patrol boat group Rome was engaged with four PT boats between den Helder and Ymuiden. Torpedoes had been outmanoeuvred. One PT boat has been sunk, one has been shot ablaze, presumably she sunk. Damage of the other PT boats is to be assumed as fighting distance was very close. No breakdowns on our own side. In his brief report Commanding Admiral, Defences North reports that sinkings are not confirmed by Radio Monitoring.

With 84 KMA mines the barrage Kl has been laid off Ameland. Blocking and minefouling of the outer harbor of Wemeldinge has been carried out.

The convoy coming from Cadzand with 400 wounded soldiers entered Flushing without troubles. Also on 27 Oct. the batteries Flushing North, West and East as well as the batteries Domburg, Zeuteland and Dishoek were employed with harassing fire against shore targets south of Shelde-River and the harbor of Breskens.

Officer Commanding of 64th Infantry Division particularly acknowledged

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brave behaviour of Naval Artillery Detachments south of Schelde River. At withdrawal, equipment and ammunition of battery Nieuwe Sluis has been blown up. Change of position has been planned for battery Hamilton.

70th Infantry Division withdraws its main line of defence to the Southern Beverland Canal destroying the harbors of Hansweert and Wemeldinge at the same time.

Heavy artillery fire was imposed on the batteries in the area of Flushing.

On 26 Oct. at 2130 215th Flotilla of Small Battle Weapons put out for operation against landing position at South Beverland. All the boats ran aground at the sands off Terneuzen. Operation has been broken off. Enemy supply traffic has been established on Schelde River.

On 27 Oct. at 2000 215th Flotilla of Small Battle Weapons operates once more against crossing traffic at the Schelde River.

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IV. Area of Naval Command West:

Enemy Situation:

At 15th Group 61 and 19th Group 17 planes had been detected in operation. Three British vessels were detected in rendezvous area.

Own Situation:

The invested fortresses report local fightings.

Shore Commander Channel Islands reports to Naval Command West that up to now the staff of the Commanding General, Channel Islands consists of the staff of 319th Infantry Division where joint close leadership of the staff does not exist. Rear Admiral Huffmeier reports that still some more time would be necessary until this staff would work corresponding to his directions.

From eleven planes supplying the fortresses during the night of 27 Oct. five are missing. Two planes which were shot down have been observed from Dunkerque. At jumping over St. Nazaire a Naval Surgeon Lieutenant was killed by accident.

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V. Area of the German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

In the afternoon of 26 Oct. one transport and three loaded freighters escorted by three corvettes entered the Mediterranean through Gibraltar Straits. Coming from Gibraltar two transports, three freighters, one auxiliary aircraft carrier and three escort vessels joined the unit.

Both one transport coming from the Atlantic and the Mediterranean entered Gibraltar.

On 26 Oct. at 1800 the cruiser LA GALISIONIERE left the Mediterranean, Atlantic bound. In the morning of 27 Oct. one BOISE-class cruiser followed.

According to Radio Monitoring one dock-ship entered Marseille. Around noon, seven LST and the British war vessel GRUIHARD left Marseille. Two fighting ships entered.

In the morning of 27 Oct. one cruiser and one destroyer as well as three PT boats were sighted south of Mentone.

During the night of 27 Oct. guarding as usual has been established.

Own Situation:

Due to weather conditions escort and patrol duties have been impaired. In the morning of 27 Oct. the Radar Location set Bordighera had been fired at by reported war vessels. No damage was reported.

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VI. Area of Naval Group South:

1. Adriatic Sea:

In the air raid on Zara in the morning of 26 Oct. one infantry boat has been destroyed and two coastal defence boats have been damaged.

During the night of 26 Oct. partisan fightings are reported within the vicinity of Radar Location set Ostra at the inlet of Cattaro-bight.

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Minor own losses were reported at surprising attacks in the area of Cattaro-Bight and at the repulse of enemy thrusts on Danilovograd.

Owing to low level attack near Skutari six lorries, two trailers loaded with fuel and 25 000 rounds of rifle ammunition were destroyed during transfer of the Working Staff, Naval Shore Commander Albania. Total situation remained unchanged.

Naval Port Commander Metkovic and his personnel and anti aircraft weapons arrived at Mostar. The emergency battalion has been dispatched onward from Metkovic to Mostar.

According to report of the Tank Army High Command 2 numerous landing craft, eight transports of 2 000 to 3 000 BRT each entered Dubrovnik on 25 Oct. Two destroyers were sighted off the port. Five ships were cruising off Mljet.

On 26 Oct. construction squad belonging to Naval Communications Officer has been fired upon between Cilli and Tuffer. No casualties, fire was answered.

During the night of 27 Oct. escort duties were carried out without incidents off the Dalmatian coast.

2. Aegean Sea:

Fighting at Milos is going on.

According to observation report from Rhodes a light cruiser bombarded the Isle of Piscopi at 0605. At 0820 the cruiser entered Livadia-Bay.

3. Danube Situation:

At 1800 the head of the large scale convoy passed by km 1614.

In the morning of 26 Oct. naval landing craft F "1027", "1035" and River minesweeper FR "2" sunk off km 1462. Further reports are still lacking.

Otherwise nothing to report.

VII. Submarine Warfare:

Submarine U "518", operating off the American east coast,

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in brief report reports torpedoing of a freighter of 7 256 BRT in D C 1569 on 12 Sept.

In Northern Waters our own air reconnaissance detected no rough guide concerning the QP-convoy. Presumably the convoy passed over group RANTHER during the night of 27 Oct.

At 2331 on 26 Oct. submarine U "956" fired a "Zaunkönig" torpedo upon the advanced escort destroyer in AC 8314 and heard detonation after 56 sec. For 16 hours the boat was hard pressed.

In AC 5898 submarine U "365" fired a "Zaunkönig" torpedo upon a destroyer presumably belonging to a searching group and heard the detonation after nine minutes 40 sec. The fire caused by this torpedo was observed from another boat.

In AC 8214 submarine U "995" fired two "Zaunkönig" torpedoes upon another destroyer and heard detonations after two min. 19 sec. or four min. 50 sec. respectively, but did not hear any sinking noises.

Finally on 27 Oct. at 1415 in AC 8356 submarine U "295" fired a "Zaunkönig" torpedo upon a searching group and heard detonation after eleven min. 50 sec. Commander Submarines assumes three destroyers to be sunk and a further hit to be possible.

At nightfall, group PANTHER was transferred for 70 miles in direction 170 degrees in order to meet stragglers and a QP-convoy which is likely to leave.

Owing to bombing and running aground of submarine U "1060" twelve men among them the Officer Commanding, were killed in action; two men are still missing.

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#### VIII. Aerial Warfare:

##### West Area:

Minor enemy air activities only.

##### Reich Territory:

Eighteen single flying planes and fast bombers penetrated into Northern and Western Germany. In Berlin area one enemy reconnaissance plane was shot down by a Mosquito fighter.

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During the night 28 Oct. approximately 80 enemy planes continuously penetrated into West and Southwest Germany occasionally dropping bombs. Before midnight approximately 50 Mosquito planes attacked Berlin. A second raid occurred soon after midnight.

In Denmark area and in Baltic Sea Entrances 16 enemy planes presumably laying mines were detected.

Mediterranean Theater:

No particular operations were recorded.

Eastern Front:

On 26 Oct. 720 own and 2,180 enemy operations were reported, two planes were lost and 28 planes were shot down, seven of them by anti aircraft artillery.

Seventy-five own and 200 enemy operations were reported during the night of 27 Oct.

Enemy air activity in the area of 5th Air Force was already reported.

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IX. Situation East Asia:

Naval Attache Tokyo reports:

Still, the picture concerning Leyte fightings is not very clear. According to informations from Admiralty Staff Japanese naval forces met a US-naval squadron, set up east of Samar, which was strengthened by three aircraft carriers on 25 Oct. at 0700. The enemy was fully taken by surprise. The majority of the planes has been transferred from aircraft carriers to Leyte. Artillery engagement lasted until 0900, the Japanese lost two cruisers, one destroyer and certainly sunk four aircraft carriers, two cruisers and one destroyer.

On 25 Oct. Japanese planes coming from Mindanao and Luzon and assisted by carrier-borne planes attacked US cover forces and sunk one carrier and damaged two more cruisers seriously.

In regard to presidential elections US victory reports evidently were exaggerated fantastically.

Up to now Japanese carriers never came in touch with the enemy.

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The American operations were carried out by the 3rd. Fleet, which at first attacked Taiwan and then covered the actual landing and then brought up transports from New Guinea with 7th Fleet.

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Items of Political Importance:

In the House of Commons Mr. Churchill gave a long declaration on the discussions carried on by himself and Mr. Eden in Moscow. An essential part of these conversations was devoted to the Polish problem. The expressions carefully chosen by the speaker made clearly recognizable how great British apprehension was that Moscow with its Lublin Committee would finally agree with the eastern future frontiers of Poland. Detailed longer extract from the speech which was delivered on 27 Oct. will be found in Foreign Press report No. 302/44 of Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Joint Association Foreign Countries dated 28 Oct.

A debate giving good information on the efficiency of V1-bombing in London came off in the House of Commons. Thereafter 109,000 houses are said to be destroyed, 800,000 are needing repairs.

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Conference on the situation with the Commander in Chief, Navy at 1120

I. At the conference on the situation concerning West Area, charts were presented, wherein the danger of flooding of East and North Frisia was marked off in case the enemy would successfully attack the dikes just as on Walcheren.

Naval Command North has been informed. Nothing has to be arranged on the part of Naval Staff.

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II. Oral report of Chief of International Law and Prizes Section, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

a. Concerning the view point of naval war code on the capture of Finnish ships ordered by Armed Forces High Command which loaded with Armed Forces supplies have touched Swedish ports and are now beginning to return to Finland. According to prize regulations these ships could be captured and sunk as according to Russo-Finnish armistice these ships are under Russian disposition. Also there exist no scruple against sinking without warning because of their Russian subordination these are ships in enemy service of which may be assumed that they would resist vigorously to treatment according to prize regulations. In Foreign Office there was suggested that with diplomatic protestation and if possible with legal seizure leaving of ships should be prevented or postponed. Further proceedings contains War Diary Part C Volume VIII.

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b. Then oral report on the declaration of operational area in the eastern part of the Baltic Sea follows adequate summary in War Diary Part C Volume VIII.

Commander in Chief, Navy declares his consent and demands clear wording and reference that the Navy has no interest in Stockholm-Turku traffic.

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III. Naval Staff, Quartermaster General:

a. Naval Command North ordered twelve hours of basic training per week.

b. Owing to air raid the Mittelland-Canal was damaged and closed down. Nothing is known about possibilities of repair. The break down of this canal seriously impairs our possibilities of transports, especially regarding the communications with the Ruhr area.

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IV. Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament:

Explosives for Warsaw blastings in the possible amount of 120 tons were released to Armed Forces High Command.

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V. Chief, Bureau of Naval Administration, Policy Branch:

Reports of the result of his discussions concerning personnel with Naval Command North. Demands of the Naval Command were reduced very little but cannot be fulfilled as ever before. Commander in Chief, Navy decides that personnel which is needed for commissioning of ships has to be withdrawn from shore commands without further consideration.

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VI. Chief, Naval Staff expressed his doubts on the planned operation of 40 torpedo planes against protected carriers in Northern Waters. Operation against convoys themselves would have to be preferred.

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In a restricted circle:

VII. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

a. Commanding Admiral of the eastern part of the Baltic Sea points to the impossibility of supply transports to Sworbe as soon as freezing begins because naval landing craft, armed fishing vessels, motor minesweepers and PT boats would not be ready for action even in case of minor icing. Early facts of ice conditions have already been started during the night of 26 Oct. by 9th Coast Patrol Force.

The matter will be examined.

b. On 29 and 30 Oct. the Fleet carries out its planned exercises.

c. The Chief of Naval Liaison Staff Croatia conveyed a brief report on the situation expressing increased requirement of association with Germany in regard to imminent Russian danger. Concerning the Navy there is said: in consequence of the development of war activities, new constructions especially on the Dalmatian coast and on the Danube River and Save River were widely reduced. The establishment of Naval Artillery Detachments became questionable owing to the withdrawal from the coast. The planned transfer of six years volunteers to the Reich for training in Oct. did not take place. Only 26 aspirant officers have been sent to Stralsund. Embarkation of Croats in excess of authorized strength on ships of 11th Patrol Force had to be given up. On the other hand G "102" and three more coastal defence boats had been commissioned with Croatian crews. The same measure has been pretended for the group of motor minesweepers. After finishing their special training in the Reich 474 Croatian sailors returned. Copy of the report on the situation see Radiogram 2005.

d. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff issued a directive to 20th Mountain Army Headquarters and to Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway in order to adopt all measures which may be necessary, to recognize British landing operations around the area of Narvik or combined sea and air landing operations northwards of this area in right time or to intercept them when still at sea or to repulse them. British landing operations are considered to be possible on the plea to cut off German forces from northern area in order to meet the Russian advance to Narvik. Utilizing all possibilities of transportation available there is to evacuate to Reich area in following sequence: 6th SS Mountain

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Division, XVIII Corps Headquarters of Mountain Army Corps with its corps reserves, 2nd Mountain Division, 169th Infantry Division. The following troops have to be transferred to central and southern Norwegian region and are to be billeted as reserve troops of Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway: XXXVI Corps Headquarters of Mountain Army Corps, 163rd Infantry Division. Later evacuation of these troops to the Reich has to be considered with. Total responsibility for transfer of all these units bears Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway. The units to be transferred into the Reich have to be assembled in Jutland and to be refilled in short time.

Naval Command Norway directly received the order by copy from Armed Forces High Command.

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VIII. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division, Enemy Situation Branch:

Transfer of British submarines from White Sea to the Gulf of Finland on channel routes would not be possible since the water level of a lake which is very important for the transfer is too low. Not before spring flood has passed the tugging of submarines through this region would be possible. Therefore Commander in Chief, Navy states that from May 1945 the appearance of British submarines in the Baltic Sea may be counted on.

IX. Army Situation:

Western Front:

On 27 Oct. too, serious fighting at the entire front line of 15th Army was going on. With his strong infantry and tank forces the enemy gained terrain in thrusting upon Bergen op Zoom and Rosendaal and further to the north but was intercepted by out assault guns which made counter attacks. On either side of Alphen and Tilburg the enemy for a new time pierced the line of troops fighting there. Tilburg was lost. Hard fighting to intercept the enemy before the line Breda-Dongen are going on.

Generally, the attacks which the enemy carried out with unabated intensity in the area of Hertogenbosch could be repulsed.

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On South Beveland the pressure, increasing in the evening and extending to the north from Baarland beachhead was lasting on. The enemy succeeded in penetrations. New landing attempts off Hoedekenskerke were repulsed.

Our own rather extended attack operation in the area north of Roermond which was started to retain enemy forces and especially to discharge the 15th Army gained some terrain against surprised and in the afternoon recovered enemy.

Increased fighting activities east of Luneville.

Generally without success the Americans repeated their attacks near Rambervillers and east of Epinal. The village of Jussarupt fought for since long ago, was lost.

Italy:

Despite continuous heavy rain, numerous shock troop operations and bold counter attacks once more succeeded in local results. On the other hand the enemy confined himself to minor fighting activities.

The Balkans:

Usual fighting at the front in Macedonia and Serbia.

The 1st Mountain Division reached a mutual agreement of armistice with Cetniks formerly behaving as enemies.

Eastern Front:

Heavy fighting started in the area south of Szolnok. Enemy bridgeheads had been cleared up, but our own attack operations did not yield results at all places.

The enemy surrounded in Nyiregyhaza area desperately is defending himself. Attacks and enemy attempts to break through relieve one another.

With strong forces the enemy tried to pierce our front line west of Dukla pass. Despite strong enemy artillery fire and numerous ground attack airplanes penetration could be prevented in disabling several tanks.

With further abating fighting in Weichsel-Bug-Narew area the enemy continued his attacks in East-Prussia at numerous places with the focal point at Gumbinnen. But they were missing uniformity and decision.

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At the 4th Army the attack of Führer rifle brigade carried out to cut off the enemy in Goldap area met strong resistance after good results in the beginning. Strong enemy counter attacks repulsed our own forces to and beyond their line of departure. Also in the area of Gumbinnen strong enemy counter attacks repulsed our own forces to their jumping off positions. The enemy thrusting forward beyond our former main line of defence was pushed back in counter attacks. Also, near Schlossberg and Ebenrode stubborn fighting was going on.

At the Memel front line and in the area of Memel fortress the enemy was not active. Resumption of attempts to cross the Memel River and of the attack against the fortress area of Memel must be counted on.

After extraordinary strong artillery preparations the enemy started his expected large scale attack at the Army Group North in the area east of Autz and east of Preekuln with six to seven armies. Penetrations up to four km in depth could be sealed up in their essential part. More than 70 tanks were disabled.

On Sworbe peninsula our troops repulsed the enemy which attacked in battalion strength after hard fighting.

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Special Items:

I. Concerning East Area:

a. Commanding Admiral of the Eastern part of Baltic Sea reports that operation "Herbstnebel" was suspended. According to information from the Admiral attached to Fuehrers Headquarters this attack operation on Sworbe peninsula has been postponed until after 5 Oct.

b. At 1825 the Admiral attached to Fuehrer Headquarter communicates: at this moment Fuehrer ordered during the next days Army Group north retakes the bottle neck on Sworbe peninsula.

The operation is to be prepared with strongest short timed bombardment of Russian positions by both the battle units. Reported to Fuehrer that heavy cruiser PRINZ EUGEN is still ineffective and that presupposition for such an operation is to be strongest fighter protection. Fuehrer ordered that for this purpose adequate fighter squadrons have to be transferred into the area of Army Group North

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for short time only. In the evening of 29 Oct. General of the Air Force Pflugbeil and Vice Admiral Burchardi visited Colonel-General Schoerner. Therefore, preparational decision at Naval Staff and adequate directives to Vice Admiral Burchardi would be suitable for this date. Fuehrer attaches great value to the employment of greatest possible number of cruisers, destroyers and torpedo boats.

Chief, Naval Staff informed Commander in Chief, Navy. He agreed with execution of this operation by heavy cruiser HIPPER and one pocket battleship with four destroyers and torpedo boats under command of Commander 2nd Task Force. Sufficient protection against enemy air activities, submarines and mines is absolutely necessary.

c. On inquiry of Naval Staff at Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff concerning the orders for operational activities of the Navy against Finland, Finnish Armed Forces and Finnish merchantmen which are to be effective Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff decided:

"Attack operation of our naval forces against Finnish naval forces and merchantmen, which according to situation have to be captured or sunk is allowed. Swedish territorial waters are to be respected."

d. Naval Command East settled submarine chasing areas in the Baltic Sea. Control of closing down and release will be ordered by Commanding Admiral Eastern Baltic Sea and Commanding Admiral, Defences Baltic which have to be informed continuously by Commanding Admiral, Submarines, Commander Submarines Training on what submarine chasing areas are to be closed down or to be released resp.

e. The Fleet requested that the submarines operatively employed in the Baltic Sea too have to show the yellow markings during the next time just as it was ordered for submarines subordinated to Commanding Admiral Submarines. Commanding Admiral, Submarines supports the same opinion. Operations Division, Naval Staff acknowledges the Fleet's request as justified. Matters will be treated by Submarine Division and Naval Communications Division. Copy of draught 1/Skl I u 38897/44 geh. in War Diary Part C Volume IV.

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## II. Concerning North Area:

a. The following order of Naval Staff is communicated to

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Naval Command Norway, Fleet, Training Unit, Fleet; and battleship TIRPITZ:

"1. Readiness for sailing of battleship TIRPITZ within the limits of degrees of speed confined to hull construction and full artillery fighting capacity are to be maintained.

2. Commander in Chief, Navy ordered repairs to such extent that transfer of ship over short distances of open sea might be carried out.

3. Presuppositions according to materiel and personnel resulting from paragraph 1. and 2. are to be maintained or to be created resp. More on the matter in special writing.

4. The ships assignment and arrangements for berth defence (anti-aircraft artillery, smoke screen etc.) will not be affected by 1. and 2."

b. Naval Command Norway requested minelayer KAISER even after arrival of minelayer LOTHRINGEN to remain subordinated as to operational matters under Naval Command. In case of approval of this request it would be but possible to relieve minelayer KAISER by minelayer ELSASS later than in middle of December. Naval Staff asked for report at Mine and Barrage Trials Command if occasional effects would be created.

c. Within the limits of Geilenberg-Programme Reichminister Speer asked the Armed Forces High Command for evacuation of 18,000 prisoners of war with equipment from Norway. Armed Forces High Command decided that these 18,000 prisoners of war could only be evacuated after transfer of 269th Infantry Division and then on shortest routes.

Additionally to this, Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Coastal Defence Branch reports that the ships MOLTKEFELS and WINRICH VON KNIPRODE as well as ships of fast traffic organization would be available. As to High Command, Navy no more transporters could be made available, because at this time total transport tonnage is urgently needed in the Baltic States. If need be, Armed Forces High Command, Supply and Transportation Office Scandinavia has to approach Reich Commissioner of Maritime Shipping for disposition of further tonnage.

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III. Concerning Area of Naval Command North:

From Naval Staff Naval Command North and Commanding Admiral,

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Netherlands received the following order:

"1. Energetically Naval Staff attaches great value to early transfer of Linsen (tr. n.: remote controlled explosive motor boat) to Flushing for their further employment from this place.

2. Since local situation and prospective development cannot be foreseen from this place here, decision on the moment and the way of execution can only be made at the place itself. This has to be carried out with consideration to paragraph 1."

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IV. Concerning West Area:

According to report of Naval Port Commander Zeebrugge from 23 Oct. is to be seen that execution of port destruction of Zeebrugge was insufficient. Group West did not agree with the opinion of Naval Port Commander that reactivation would be possible within three months.

According to Radiogram of Fortress Commander Dunkerque the doubts expressed in its time by means of an aerial photograph that destruction of Ostende harbor too was insufficient was confirmed so that channel transportation between Ostende and Antwerp would be possible. Considering the disadvantages for conduct of war Fortress Commander Dunkerque deems it necessary to call Colonel von Herthlein to account.

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V. Concerning South Area:

German Naval Command Italy, with copy to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff receive the following Radiogram from High Command, Navy, Bureau of Naval Administration:

"In regard to oral report on the general situation Commander in Chief, Navy decided that all naval personnel originating in front-line contraction and losses of vehicles has to be brought up as soon as possible for exclusive and direct employment by Naval Staff. If there is no opportunity within areas coming in question in future time all have to be retransferred to Home area. Therefore, pending further notice requests to assign sailors for their employment on the shore can only be met in cases of emergency and then but temporarily. Army Commands involved in this matter are to be prepared



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carefully for this, so that they would be able to look for other replacements. Thereafter personnel already employed is to be relieved. This also would apply to Fortress Brigade 135 and would be necessary in regard to the Navy's own situation of replacements and assignments despite acknowledging the Army's case of emergency."

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VI. Copy of the discourses made by Commander in Chief, Navy on 19 Oct. to leading authorities of politics, science and economy on the rate of tonnage sinkings see l/Skl 32344/44 Gkdos. in War Diary Part C Volume IV.

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Situation 28 Oct. 1944:

I. Area of Naval Command East:

1. Commanding Admiral Eastern Part of Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Along the coast from Polangen to Pappensee air reconnaissance stated no ships assemblies. Six boats were lying at the berth of Polangen, nine ones in Svendtoje, one Km to the north of the port there were nine boats and one square pontoon at the shore. Fifty-six boats were stated between Liepaja and Karlebeck.

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Own Situation:

At Sworbe Peninsula strong enemy attacks have been repulsed. Naval troops have been employed in coastal defence. Owing to weather conditions proceeding of two motor minesweepers with Commanding General of Army High Command 16 from Windau to Sworbe Peninsula has not been carried out during the night of 28 Oct.

At 1145 on 27 Oct. a big fishing smack has been captured off the southern tip of Sworbe Peninsula.

During the night a Lithuanian steamer being in private charter escaped from the convoy touched the Isle of Gotland and was interned. On board there is official and private luggage of the Naval Fortress Engineer Staff Eastern Baltic Sea among them secret registers and restricted prints.

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In the afternoon of 27 Oct. Liepaja was raided with bombs and gunfire. The Air Force tanker VACUM capsized. Fire broke out in the forecastle of transporter GOTENLAND, steamer DEIKE RICKMERS was seriously damaged. Minor damage occurred on board of other ships. At the shore a ammunition transloading point has been hit, one ammunition train exploded.

Naval Battery Memel silenced the enemy battery at Starischken.

Convoys and troop transportation was carried out without incidents. About 5,223 tons of ammunition and 40 tons of other supplies has been brought to Liepaja and 148 tons of supplies to Memel.

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2. Central and Western Part of the Baltic Sea:

In the morning submarine U "778" reported air torpedo attack northeast of Bornholm carried out by a Russian plane. The torpedo has been out manoeuvred. Thirty-four boats were engaged in minesweeping duties. Two mines were swept in Fehmarn-Belt.

3. Commanding Admiral Skagerrak:

Thirteen boats were engaged in minesweeping duties. Five mines were swept off Anholt, both one in Samsøe-Belt and in Northern outlet of the Sound. The 6th echelon of transportation of 269th Infantry Division was carried out. On their return three destroyers of 5th Destroyer Flotilla were attacked by several single flying planes off Oslofiord. Bombs thrown three times missed their target.

In the evening of 27 Oct. one enemy plane was shot down by a subdivision of patrol boats southwest of Hanstholm.

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II. Area of Naval Command Norway:

1. Enemy Situation:

In the area of 18th Group 26 planes were detected in operation.

According to Radio Monitoring the Russian flotilla leader BAKU and destroyer "N" were out at sea. At 2152 Hammerfest took the bearing of a British vessel in 289°.

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The British Admiralty announced that a small squadron of the Fleet supplied the garrison on Spitsbergen with winter equipment and relieved troops at the same time.

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2. Own Situation:

In the morning of 27 Oct. minesweeper M "282" was attacked by 25 enemy planes. Statements of locality are lacking. In the morning of 28 Oct. 18 British planes raided port and roads of Loedingen with bombs and gunfire. One plane was reported to be shot down. In the afternoon 14 monoplanes were sighted off Svolveer. From noon to nightfall convoy traffic between Bodoe and Hammerfest is closed down owing to imminent danger from carriers.

Again Loedingen was attacked by 20 planes with bombs and gunfire in the afternoon. Report of damage not yet submitted.

Destroyer Z "33" entered Honningsvaag, destroyers Z "31" and Z "34" entered Lafjord.

Area Commanding Admiral West Coast:

During the night of 28 Oct. continuous penetrations into the area of Kristiansand have been reported.

Around midnight on 27 Oct. patrol boat V "5304" ran aground owing to jammed rudder which occurred after strong submerged explosion. The vessel has been towed off and set aground.

Owing to suspected mines Sognesjoen up to Felsfjord was closed down.

During the night of 29 Oct. air raid on Bergen was carried out. The submarine pen was hit, two armoured concrete ceilings were damaged. Submarines were not damaged. Further reports are still lacking.

Naval Command East ordered the transfer of 3rd Coastal Defence Flotilla into Norwegian area via Kristiansand only to Bodoe.

Twenty-three northbound and 17 southbound ships were escorted.

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III. Area of Naval Command North:

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1. Enemy Situation:

Ten planes of 16th Group were detected in operation.

Own Situation:

A. Heligoland Bight:

One mine was swept off Weser River estuary.

During the night of 28 Oct. convoy and escort duties were carried out without incidents.

B. Holland Area:

Owing to weather conditions assignments planned during the night of 28 Oct. were suspended. In three to 17 miles distance from the coast Radar set Katwijk located eleven fixed targets in AN 8555, 58, 59 and 82. In daylight one red white striped buoy was sighted. During the night of 29 Oct. laying of barrage SWK 11 a is planned.

In Amsterdam Wilhelm sluice of North Holland Canal again is ready for operation. Also the Docking Society of Amsterdam is in full action again.

Blocking of Flushing harbor by means of second line consisting of four inland vessels was continued.

Twenty LMB- mines were laid in the main fairway south of Flushing. One hospital ship proceeded from Dordrecht to Middleburg.

Naval batteries in the area of Flushing operated against shore targets on the southern bank of the Schelde River. The batteries and Flushing harbor are continuously exposed to enemy fire. From 0530 continuous bombing of all batteries of the Naval Artillery Detachment 202 situated on Walcheren and of anti-aircraft batteries East and West were reported.

The new battery position at Hamilton near Kruishoofd on the southern bank of Schelde River was lost. The embrasured guns in Cadzand have been blown up, as the enemy stands before the battery. Naval Artillery Detachment 203 operates with 2-15 cm guns from Cadzand and infantry squad. No more reports came in from batteries Breskens, Nieuwe Sluis and Hamilton.

At 0200 64th Infantry Division reports the enemy to be repulsed in counter attack off Cadzand. Excellently aimed gunfire of Walcheren batteries has the main part in this success.

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Employing 215th Flotilla of Small Battle Weapons against ferry transportation in the enemy bridgehead Southbeveland on 27 Oct. four Linsen (tr. n. remote controlled explosive motorboats) were fired. Thereoff one struck a loading jetty in full action. Destruction of two lighters has been observed. Another Linse hit the outer bulwark, a third hit a towed barge of 600 t. The fourth Linse detonated at the outer bulwark after fruitless attempts on towed barges. Four boats of Naval Special Command operating with them machine gunned enemy vessels. From four boats of Naval Special Command which were employed three returned and from six Linsen two returned. One subdivision stranded at Southbeveland. No casualties occurred.

Fifteen Linsen belonging to 215th Flotilla of Small Battle Weapons were transferred from Rotterdam to Dodrecht with own power. Owing to weather conditions further proceeding to Flushing was suspended, loading in barges has begun. Dunkerque operation depends on opportune weather improvement, because the front line will be withdrawn within the next days thus omitting the departure from Flushing.

216th Flotilla of Small Battle Weapons with 30 Biber (tr. n. a6.2 ton one-man midget submarine) started to proceed from Aalborg to Groningen.

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IV. Area of Naval Command West:

1. Enemy Situation:

At 15th Group 34, at 19th Group 17 planes were detected in operation. One British vessel was located in AM 9760 at 1302.

2. Own Situation:

Off Dunkerque three vessels were sighted 28 miles north-east on a westerly course and four vessels, presumably transports, were sighted 30 miles north-northeast on a easterly course. At the eastern part of the fortress' frontline the enemy penetrated four km in depth. Counter attack is still going on. There are high own casualties.

In Lorient two harbor defence boats operate in patrol of the area north and east of the Isle de Croix. Three harbor defence boats are carrying out transportation of personnel and materiel. Strong

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fortified enemy positions near St. Helene have been pierced and enemy positions to the north and south were rolled up in one of our own operations. Concentrated surprised fire of all naval anti aircraft batteries and naval shore batteries against enemy batteries and positions supported this operation.

Food supplies of Gironde Fortresses North and South have been estimated for certain until 1 Feb. 1945.

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V. Area of German Naval Command Italy:

1. Enemy Situation:

In the afternoon of 27 Oct. one transport with one destroyer left Gibraltar, Mediterranean bound. The bombardment of Bordighera which was reported on 27 Oct. was carried out by cruiser JEANNE D'ARC which also bombarded the hinterland of Ventimiglia in the afternoon.

2. Own Situation:

After weather improvement convoy and escort duties were started again in normal condition. In the morning of 27 Oct. again the battery Magra-Estuary fired harassing fire. During the night of 28 Oct. four mine carrying naval landing craft carried out minefield operation "Helmuth" east of Imperia according to plan.

A convoy of war transport proceeding from Spezia to Genoa protected by two submarine chasers and two motor minesweepers was attacked by two PT boat groups in pincer attack during the same night. Six torpedoes missed their target. Without damage the convoy put in.

The planned transfer of 264th Flotilla of Small Battle Weapons with 30 Marder (tr. n. one-man human torpedo) to Savona was postponed as the equipment has to be overhauled at Torpedo Command Venice.

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VI. Area of Naval Group South:

1. Adriatic Sea:

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Since 21 Oct. a special location set has been started south of Ancona that hitherto has been detected at times shortly before landing operations e.g. in Sicily, near Salerno and in Southern France.

The mopping up operation on Krk was carried out according to plan. On 27 Oct. engagements in the vicinity of Dobrinje were reported.

Quay accommodations Maddalena in Sibenice were blasted on 27 Oct. Since 1100 on 27 Oct. hospital ship FREIBURG proceeding to Durazzo is overdue. According to Radio Monitoring Alexandria repeated reports from Venice that German hospital ship TUEBINGEN, last position on 27 Oct. at 0800 in CO 1633 and German hospital ship FREIBURG position on 27 Oct. at 1200 1817 east are overdue. From British stations too FREIBURG was repeatedly called without result. According to other Radio Monitoring reports hospital ship BONN has been attacked by partisan boats on 28 Oct. at 1245 west of Pasman. At 1430 the ship entered Sibenice.

2. Aegean Sea:

According to British Radio reports British troops were landed on the Isle of Piscopi northwest of Rhodes by the cruiser SIRIUS. According to the same report presumably the Isle of Milos was bombarded on 27 Oct. by cruiser AURORA and convoy aircraft carrier EMPEROR.

Concerning the situation on Milos the Commander of the isle reports on 27 Oct. destructive bombardment of our own batteries on the elevation before Baryt-Bay from 0510 until 0600 and from 0640 continuous bombardment with ships guns by two cruisers and two destroyers of our batteries and cutting off position. From 0650 the batteries were continuously attacked by the enemy air force. Two 8.8 cm guns and command post of 15 cm guns were disabled. Minor own casualties. One carrier-borne plane was shot down by light anti-aircraft guns.

At 0700 hospital ship GRADISCA with 2100 wounded left Salonica via Suda-Coos Trieste bound.

3. Danube Situation:

The large scale convoy arrived at Budapest at 1600 with its last ship. Therewith twelve tugs, 57 barges, one crane and one sea serpent consisting of 25 bridge sections were brought back.

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VII. Submarine Warfare:

Naval Attache Tokyo reports that after thorough examination with Japanese Navy Penang operation is to be suspended. However, pending further notice the base is to be touched in cases of emergency only all the more since considering Nikobare operation and because no essential reinforcements for defence can be promised. Entering and putting out is to be carried out through Sunda or Lombok Straits.

From Kiel two submarines put out for operations in the Atlantic.

At 1428 submarine U "1001" in the Gulf of Finland reports a missing shot upon a group of patrol boats from the area northeast of Odensholm and at 1628 a missing shot upon another patrol boat. At 1441 submarine U "290" reports a missing shot upon a fast patrol boat north of Roogerwik. Presumably frequent missing shots of Zaunkönig torpedoes in the Gulf of Finland are to be traced back to the small size of targets which would not always guarantee the starting of the pistol.

In Northern Waters 18 boats of Group Panther have been assembled in echelon off Kola Bay at noon as it may be presumed according to Radio Monitoring that the greater part of the PQ-convoy which is searched for has not yet arrived. Proceeding to this position submarine U "425" reports at 1931 in AC 8245 several shadows and smoke, presumably the convoy. At 1958 the convoy was reported in AC 8248 on 130° consisting of at least twelve vessels. At 2030 in AC 8273 the enemy came out of sight in artificial smoke screen. Submarine U "425" supposes squadron of fighting ships. At first Group Panther was ordered to operate with highest speed on this reported target and to put up positions according to plan in case contact cannot be established.

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VIII. Aerial Warfare:West Area:

During early morning hours 2-300 British four engined bombers attacked the area of Schelde estuary. In the afternoon raids of 60 Marauder planes in the area northeast of Apeldorn and Deventer were reported.

In the Dutch battle area and in the area of Aachen 178 of our own fighters were employed in cooperation with the army. One enemy plane was shot down.

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Reich Territory:

Between North Sea and Lake of Constance penetrations of rather small fighter groups and of fast bombers were carried out all the day in the west of the Reich. Within the area involved gunfire and bombing raids were carried out.

Besides heavy attacks both of 2-300 bombers in a body were reported on Muenster, Hamm and Koeln-Bonn. The raids on Muenster and Koeln-Bonn are marked off as serious terror raids. The raid on Hamm was concentrated on the important railway junction. Details see situation of the day.

Against the penetration from the west about 120 of our own fighters were employed, which had no results. In the area of Muenster anti aircraft artillery shot down five planes.

Some four engined planes penetrated from the south into the area of Klagenfurt and dropped bombs. During the night of 29 Oct. in total about 300 enemy planes penetrated in small groups into the area between Heligoland, Hannover, Frankfurt, Strassburg, Stuttgart. Among them about 90 Mosquito planes dropped bombs in the area of Koeln.

Harassing attack from the south was carried out on Munich with eight or 10 planes.

During the night of 29 Oct. 20 enemy planes were detected in the Skagerrak, presumably laying mines.

Mediterranean Theater:

Owing to bad weather enemy activities were only weak on 27 Oct. No attacks were reported.

East Area:

At the eastern front on 27 Oct. 509 own and 2,705 enemy operations were counted; two planes were lost and 13 planes shot down. Twenty-five enemy planes were annihilated on the ground. During the night of 28 Oct. 21 of our own reconnaissance planes were employed. Seventy-five enemy planes supplying partisans and doing reconnaissance were reported.

The attack on Liepaja with approximately 80 enemy planes in the afternoon of 27 Oct. has already been reported, and likewise on the raid of carrier borne planes in the area of Westfirod especially on the harbor and ships in Loedingen.

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During the night of 29 Oct. approximately 20 enemy planes in the area of Oslofiord up to Kristiansand and about ten planes in the Oslofiord were reported to lay mines.

Between 0100 and 0245 3-400 four-engined enemy planes attacked Bergen in ten waves. Focal point of the attack was the submarine pen. No important damage was reported.

The operation of six BV "138" planes in search for carrier squadron off the Norwegian west coast yielded no result up to midnight.

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IX. Situation East Asia:

Nothing particular to report.

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Items of Political Importance:

The armistice between Russia, Great Britain and the United States on the one hand and Bulgaria on the other has been signed in Moscow on 21 Oct. The contents will be published seperately.

Evidently in proper term the Basler Nachrichten write in connection with Mr. Churchill's declaration on Moscow discussions:

"It would be not by chance that now with all might the discussion on a western European defensive alliance or on a western European block would start in the British Press and it would not be by chance that at the same moment the Anglo-Saxon policy begins to make the most amiable advances to the governments in Paris and Rome, neglected so long with their documents of approbation. The political mobilization of the European western parts under British patronage already preached by Marshal Smuts a year ago would now begin."

General Stillwell's discharge of office in Chunking China, which alledgedly was requested by Chiang Kai Chek in ultimative form points to serious difference between the Allied involved.

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Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy at 1100:

I. Within the limits of western situation:

a. Fortress Commander Dunkerque reported:

"Aerial supply during the last ten days (15 - 25 Oct.) amounted to 26 t herewith except 248 cartridges no artillery ammunition which however would be extremely important to hold the fortress as for that employment of modern weapons at sea or on the air does not come in question for us, request for examination if not an older but seaworthy trawler should jeopardize the crossing in bad weather. To my opinion preliminary condition: only direction finder, echo sounding apparatus, speed ten knots and arrival around time of high water as well as command by a courageous channel sailor."

Commander in Chief, Navy expects thorough examination of the possibilities for employing a seaworthy trawler or another ship. Bold venturing would be necessary to support the surrounded fortress and put up with great risk.

Naval Command West and North receive the same directive from Naval

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Staff with the order to report their plans immediately and with reference that highest speed will be necessary.

b. Naval Shore Commander Channel Islands reported the amount of supplies of the isles.

Within the present situation Commander in Chief, Navy considers the activities of Rear Admiral Hueffmeier to be particularly effective.

From a Radiogram issued by Naval Command West which was over read, there is understood that Naval Command, West in agreement with Commanding General, Armed Forces West cancelled subordination as to tactical matters and supplies of Channel Islands and of Fortress Commander St. Nazaire under Commanding General XXV. Army Corps and Fortress Commander Gironde North under Commanding Admiral Atlantic Coast. Former subordination as to discipline and supplies will not be affected by new regulations. Commanding Admiral, Naval Command West reserves to himself to order in case of occasional operations connecting as to tactical matters and to arrangements in stocks of food supplies to be necessary according to circumstances the subordination as to tactical matters and to supplies of St. Nazaire under Commanding General XXV. Army Corps or of Fortress Commander Gironde North and South under Commanding Admiral Atlantic Coast.

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II. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff:

Naval Command Norway applied for organizing a anti-aircraft protection in convoy harbors. The application is to be forwarded to the Air Force. Quartermaster General investigates how help could be given by own means.

In a restricted circle:

III. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division:

- a. Owing to weather conditions Fleet exercises were broken off.
- b. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff communicates:

The Fuehrer has ordered:

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"1. Removal of units and troops belonging to all Services and of SS Armed Forces from the Dutch area without approval of the Armed Forces High Command is prohibited.

2. 5th Parachute Division is to be transferred from northern Holland into the area southwest of Amsterdam and there to be organized further.

3. 9th Parachute Division is to be established in the area of northern Holland.

4. Employment even in parts of the parachute divisions being organized in the area of northern Holland is to be approved by the Armed Forces High Command. In case of enemy large scale landing operations from the sea or from the air they immediately will be at the disposition of Commanding General, Armed Forces West."

Operations Division, Naval Staff informs Commanding Admiral, Netherlands, Naval Command West and Quartermaster General.

Apparently more troops were withdrawn from Walcheren by the Army. Commanding Admiral, Netherlands raised objection to the Army Corps.

Commander in Chief, Navy orders communication to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff that he considers these withdrawals serious mistakes.

c. Chief, Armed Forces High Command communicates:

"The Fuehrer ordered the following organization of command for Norway. This will be effective by special order after evacuation of the masses of 20th Mountain Army to Lyngen-position:

1. Headquarters of Norway Army and 20th Mountain Army are to be united in a joint command (simultaneously Commanding General, Armed Forces High Command.) Thereby battle experienced parts (essentially tactical groups of general staff sections) are to be taken from the 20th Mountain Army Headquarter, those of supply organization (especially experienced in connection of sea and land transportation, in exploitation of Norway and in cooperation with the Reich Commissioner in Norway) (belonging to Quartermaster General Scandinavia) are to be taken from Army Corps Norway. The Army in Norway will be named 20th Mountain Army.

2. Colonel General Rendulic has been appointed Commander in Chief simultaneously Commanding General, Armed Forces Norway by the Fuehrer.

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3.           3.       The parts employed in the area Narvik-Lyngen belonging to 20th Mountain Army and the IXXIth Army Corps are to be collected as "Army Section Narvik" under Corps Headquarters of XIXth Mountain Army Corps. The Corps Headquarter is to be strengthened within the extent absolutely necessary by single exchanges and signal troops of 20th Mountain Army.

4.           4.       Commands of the Navy and Air Force:

Further formations and units of the Navy in Norway are under command of Naval Command Norway, those of the Air Force under command of Commanding General of the German Air Force in Norway. Within the limits of Fuehrer directive 30 they are subordinated to Commanding General, Armed Forces Norway. Within the area of "Army Section Narvik" Admiral, Arctic Coast (subordinated to Naval Command Norway) and an Air Commander (subordinated to Commanding General of the Air Force in Norway) who is to be established anew, are in command. They have instructions to cooperate with "Army Section Narvik" and are subordinated to this formation within the limits of Fuehrer directive 40.

The Commanding General of the Air Force in Finland will be disbanded.

5.           5.       As soon as possible suggestions for organization and set up and appointments of the most important posts for the new headquarters of 20th Mountain Army being at the same time Commanding General, Armed Forces Norway and staff of the Army Section Narvik are to be submitted by 20th Mountain Army Corps in cooperation with Commanding General, Armed Forces Norway. Exceptions from the organization and set up of a mountain army corps and of a mountain army headquarter have to be explained. Headquarters have to be kept as small as possible.

6.           6.       Conclusion of preparations for the new organization and set up and proposal to the moment of transfer of command and the locality of headquarters (as to military reasons the area of Drontheim would be the right place) are to be reported by 20th Mountain Army Corps."

d.           d.       With copy Naval Staff was informed by Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff of the following directive to 20th Mountain Army Corps:

"By reason of little willingness of the northern Norwegian population

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for voluntary evacuation the Fuehrer agreed with the suggestions of the Reich Commissioner for the occupied Norwegian territories and ordered that the entire Norwegian population east of Lyngenfiord have for their own sake, to be evacuated - by force - and all dwelling places to be burned down or annihilated. Commanding General, Northern Finland is responsible that the order of the Fuehrer is to be executed without consideration. Only by so doing it can be prevented that the Russian with strong forces and relying on the dwelling places and the assistance of the population acquainted with the locality will follow up our withdrawal in this winter and will appear soon off the Lyngen position. Pity with the civil population is out of place. There must be explained to the troops executing this, that in a few months the Norwegians would be thankful that one has saved them from Bolchevist and that the barbaric methods of aerial warfare against the German native country and its historical places brought harm a thousand fold upon our people in contrary to the humane methods of this evacuation and the destruction of living places in northern Norway which are necessary to our conduct of war and which, if neglected, would have to be paid with the life of our soldiers. Moreover the fishing population in northern Norway has enough ships tonnage in order to make way for the sea. A great part of the Norwegian small tonnage which is kept concealed at this time could be utilized this way and later on be used for our own needs in transportation. The danger of Norwegian partisans seems not to be at hand so far as the partisans cannot rely on houses during winter time."

Naval Command Norway will be informed by Operations Division, Naval Staff.

e. The reason of refusal of "Herbstnebel" operation is not perceptible. Possibly that has been done before the arrival of the Fuehrer order yesterday. Preparations of the Navy will be maintained.

Later on Admiral attached to Fuehrers headquarters communicates that Herbstnebel operation could only be carried out when more ammunition and a new regiment would have been transferred to Sworbe peninsula. The Fuehrer counts on the execution not before 5 Nov.

Thereupon, Naval Command East allowed the second Task Force to participate in the Fleet's exercises.

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f. According to preliminary report battleship TIRPITZ was attacked this morning by approximately 40 four engined planes with heaviest bombs. No direct hit. A close hit at port side aft, 800 m<sup>3</sup> of water are in the ship, no casualties, several planes shot down.

Adequate reports are communicated to Admiral attached to Fuehrer's Headquarters, Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Liaison, High Command Air, Naval Liaison, General Staff of the Army, Naval Liaison.

IV. Chief Naval Intelligence Division:

According to agents reports Allied Forces are said to stick to their plan to advance along the Frisian coast towards Hamburg.

The Foreign Office does not count on the interruption of Swedish connections with Germany. According to information of the Foreign Office political development in Finland comes to a peak.

V. Army Situation:

Western Front:

Again 28 Oct. was under the token of strong attacks against the shore front line of the 15th Army.

The new front line south of the Waal River was pierced by strong infantry forces supported by 50 tanks southeast of Breda. The 719th Infantry Division supported by all artillery forces available in the operational area began the counterattack with the order to restore the old front line and reached the road Tilburg Breda in the evening.

On South Beveland the enemy strengthened his forces in the beach-head but in further attacks reached but local results. On the swampy canal front line despite blasting all bridges the enemy advanced with infantry up to Biezelinge and Kapelle.

In the area of Roermond our own attack but slowly gained terrain against increasing enemy resistance.

In the Vosges Mountains fighting is going on at the known focal points.



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Nearly all new American troops detected within the last time are brought up to the area of Metz at this time. The beginning of an attack directly imminent now is not to be expected yet. It may be imagined that the offensive operation imminent here may be collated in timing with corresponding plans in the northern part of the western front. The striking strong increase of American troops is particularly remarkable. According to Foreign Army West the important supremacy of American forces already present now (36 US and 15 British Divisions) and further increase of American troops to be expected soon make it clear that the United States are greatly interested to finish the war in Europe as soon as possible with impressive American assistance.

Italy:

Own shocktroop operations were carried out with good results. Monte Marzanella was lost.

The Balkans:

Operations to capture the Isle of Milos were continued by the enemy.

The cover forces standing at the Gulf of Orfani and at the lower Struma River have been withdrawn to a barrier position around Salonica.

In Macedonia various transit roads were fought open and further barrier positions have been occupied at the eastern front to protect movements from Greece. At various places busy local fighting.

Eastern Front:

Still no fighting between Theiss and Danube.

An important increase of enemy pressure in the direction of Budapest is to be counted on with the arrival of two Russian mechanized corps in this area which is to be expected in short time. Another elite tank army also is at the disposition of the Russians there.

In the area north of Debrezen strong enemy attacks have been repulsed. Evidently one part of the fast corps surrounded in the area of Nyirigyhaza succeeded in breaking through to the south.

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From the area of Ungvar the Russian tries to use the favorable occasion offered to him for a thrust in the direction of Kaschau in order to reach deeply behind our own defence lines on Theiss River in early times. Counter measures are started.

At the Carpathian front fighting is going on. One of our own attacks was pushed back to the original position.

Between the Carpathian Mountains and Weichsel River numerous further tokens reveal enemy attack preparations in direction Krakow-Neusandez. As far as ever possible own forces from other parts of the front lines will be released and brought up to the front lines in imminent danger.

Comparatively little fighting in the area Warsaw - Narew front might be traced back to the high losses during the last time. However it is to be counted on that the enemy is regrouping at this time filling up his formations and is bringing up strong forces in order to repeat his attacks in presumably short time and with increased pressure.

In East Prussia tank supported enemy attacks were repulsed south of Gumbinnen and west of Ebenrode. In the whole offensive activities at the Central Army Group abated at Narew River as well as in East Prussia.

The attempt of the enemy to pierce the front line of Army Group North was frustrated also in the second day of the defence battle despite the enemy's feeding the battle with new forces supported with strong tank forces and ground attack airplane operations as well as extraordinary high consumption of ammunition. The enemy succeeded in enlarging his penetrations south and east of Preekuln and near Autz.

Finland:

Movements of withdrawal proceed according to plan. Kirkenes has been evacuated and withdrawal to the western bank of Munkfiord was carried out. With the employment of cross-country forces the enemy attempts to cut off our troops from the roads. Along the Arctic Ocean the Russians press hard to Mautsi with new forces.

British Radio informations on the agreement of the Norwegian Government on behalf of the invasion of Russian troops and various other proclamations of the Norwegians have continuation of Russian operations against the northern Norwegian area to be expected.

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Special Items:

I. Concerning East Area:

High Command, Army communicates report of Army Group North that according to the opinion three big ships which are employed in transportation of wounded soldiers are unsuitable for this purpose as they cannot be loaded in one night thus causing blockings in the transportation of wounded. According to the opinion there flowing off of wounded soldiers would be guaranteed much better using several small vessels.

Operations Division requests Quartermaster Division, Coastal Defence Branch to investigate possibilities and to take up direct contact with Army offices involved.

II. Concerning Northern Area:

Naval Command Norway receives the following order from Naval Staff:

Transfer of precious, never to be replaced, PT boat tender V. WISSMANN to be carried out only by applying all possible measures of protection. If need be, delays in time to be put up with.

III. Concerning the area of Naval Command North:

a. Commanding Admiral Netherlands reported:

"Since the beginning of battle in Zealandian Flanders the Naval Artillery Detachment 203 consisting of five batteries performed a great work. In excellent manner the batteries supported the heavy struggling 64th Infantry Division especially after the enemy's penetration via Braakman near Hofdplaat. Finally the detachment acquired distinguished merit that the harbor of Cadzand which by means of foreshore obstacles, coastal mine barrages etc. had been made unusable could be touched again after capture of Breskens harbor because they took off the foreshore obstacles and mine barrages etc. so that with several supply convoys the Division was supplied with ammunition, which it needed to the utmost, and several hundred of wounded soldiers could be brought back. Finally after preliminary blasting the batteries were lost by capture of penetrating infantry troops and tanks, besides Naval Artillery Detachment 203 the 5th battery of Naval Artillery Detachment (Flushing-South) and anti aircraft platoon Breskens are worth mentioning. Especially the

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all round firing 5/810 at first proved good at the crossing operation of the 15th Army acting as anti-aircraft battery and later on in firing on ground targets. Only after expenditure of all ammunition and blasting the battery was lost when the enemy, attacking from Breskens, enforced the evacuation of the battery which was executed according to order of the fortress commander. But beyond the efficiency of materiel of Naval Artillery Detachment 203 and 5/810 against the superior enemy stands the boldest initiative confirmed by their soldiers which was a good example."

Operations Division, Naval Staff informs Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Naval Liaison; High Command Air, Air Force Operations Staff, Naval Liaison and High Command, Army, General Staff of the Army, Naval Liaison.

b. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff issues the following order:

"1. Fuehrer expects the 15th Army to hold with all its forces available the present main line of defence Bergen op Zoom - Breda - S' Hertogenbosch south of the Maas River.

2. In case that new and deep penetrations should occur within the course of further enemy attacks, so that the danger of annihilating sectional forces becomes imminent, the 15th Army at least has to hold large bridgeheads south of Maas River. Then the army's right wing fanning out to the west has to block the crossings to Schelde islands in order to prevent the defence of Schelde River from being broken up from the east.

3. The defence of Schelde estuary depends on the heavy batteries of the island of Walcheren. Therefore this island has to be defended with all forces fanatically. In case the 70th Infantry Division should no more succeed in holding South-Beveland within the length of time, the forces employed there on North-Beveland and Walcheren have to be withdrawn. The last heavy batteries of Breskens bridgehead having been lost, Breskens bridgehead has but little value for blocking Schelde estuary. There is to report if there is well founded chance to transfer important parts of 64th Infantry Division to Walcheren still now. If not, also the 64th Infantry Division has to hold its bridgehead up to the last.

4. Already now the Command of 15th and 1st Parachute Army has to be combined under Colonel General Student. The arrival of Staff Army Group H is not to be waited for. At first the most urgent personnel for command has to be assigned to Colonel General Student from Commanding General, Armed Forces Netherlands, 15th Army Headquarters and 18th Parachute Army Headquarters.

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5. In order to replace the losses of the heavy fighting 15th Army quickly, the establishment of 8th, 9th, and 10th Parachute Division is to be abandoned at first. The troops assigned to them already now, marching battalions (those stationed in home area inclusively) have to be brought up to the 15th Army by the Inspectorate of Parachute Army according to distinct orders of Colonel General Student. The number of forces available and the places to prepare for action have to be reported to Colonel General Student, Commanding General, Armed Forces West, and Armed Forces High Command immediately.

The 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 7th Parachute Division with the reserve forces assigned to them inclusively are not allowed to be touched.

6. From 30 Oct. 17 assault howitzers will be transferred to 15th Army Headquarters for support in materiel. More heavy equipment and weapons assigned to the 15th Army have to be taken from own stocks of Army Group B. The wants thereby developing in other formations of the Army Group will be filled up with increased allocations in November. The number of weapons which were transferred must be reported.

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Situation 29 Oct. 1944

I. Area of Naval Command East:

1. Commanding Admiral Eastern Part of the Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Nothing new to report.

Own Situation:

No particular fighting was reported from Sworbe Peninsula. Owing to bad weather conditions armed fishing smacks did not take up their positions.

Owing to close hit torpedo boat T "8" suffered engine damage in the air raid on Liepaja in the afternoon of 28 Oct. The boat is ready for 21 knots speed. Minor splinter damage and casualties occurred on board of torpedo boats T "3" and T "12" and minesweeper

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M "443". The steamer BRAUNSBURG with 300 t of petrol caught fire, the fire came under control. Steamer GOTELAND has been damaged, three planes were shot down.

At 2030 five troop transports escorted by four torpedo boats and two minesweepers proceeding from Liepaja to Neufahrwasser sunk at sea. Convoys and transportation were carried out without incidents. Liepaja was supplied with 1,787 t of provisions and 990 t of ammunition Memel with 197 t of ammunition.

2. Central and West part of the Baltic Sea:

Twenty-seven boats and one mine exploding vessel carried out mine-sweeping duties. One mine was swept in the Bay of Mecklenburg.

3. Admiral Skagerrak:

Sixteen boats were engaged in minesweeping. Owing to bad weather the unit laying KMA-mines was not able to work. East of Anholt two mines were swept. Action brief report of 5th Destroyer Flotilla on transport convoy on 28-29 Oct. see Radiogram 0145.

II. Area Naval Command Norway:

Enemy Situation:

Forty-three planes in action were detected in the area of 18th Group. Both one British vessel was located at 1000 in approximately AF 8116 and at 2033 in AN 2736.

Shortly after midnight of 29 Oct. our own air reconnaissance located several vessels approximately 200 miles NNW of Tromsø. Reich Security Central Office communicates a report of a trustworthy agent from 28 Oct. according to which Norwegian forces in Northern England and Scotland are lying in highest readiness and according to a suggestion of the Norwegian Military Attache would be employed next week already in Norway in an outflanking landing operation off Narvik in order to cut off German troops. According to records of General of the Army/Foreign Armies West there is one Norwegian Infantry Brigade and one Norwegian Parachute Battalion in Northern England/Scotland.

Own Situation:

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.Area Arctic Coast:

On 24 Oct. Naval Shore Detachments began their retreat from Kirkenes. The enemy immediately followed up our movements of retreat. A strong enemy attack was repulsed at the eastern bank of Langfiord. Seven mines were swept by a minesweeper east of Silda on 26 Oct. Owing to carrier activities convoy traffic between Roerwik and Loedingen, was blocked from dawn to noon, on 28 Oct. In the raid on Loedingen, already reported, the steamer KARMOEY (2498 BRT) was sunk by a torpedo. Four attacking planes were shot down.

The air raid on battleship TIRPITZ on 29 Oct. from 0847-0910 by approximately 40 four-engined planes with heaviest bombs was already reported. Owing to carrier activities convoy traffic Bodoe - Hammerfest was blocked until noon.

Area Northern Coast:

Three penetrations into the area of Bronnoey-Sound in early morning were reported. At this time presumably attack on stranded submarine U "1060" west of Bodoe occurred. At the same time motorship SPIKA in AF 6512 and patrol boat V "5703" was attacked without result.

With anti ground mine escort shipping route around Lepsøe was reopened.

During the night of 29 Oct. ten planes were reported in Oslofiord, in Oslo harbor minelaying planes were observed laying mines.

Thirty-seven northbound and 18 southbound ships were escorted. In the air raid on submarine pen in Bergen which was already reported pen B was hit by four bombs of 1000 kg. Concrete ceiling has not been pierced. Partition walls to workshops were destroyed by air pressure. No damage occurred to equipment and machinery. Also, no ships were lost.

Two guns were disabled in blocking battery Laksevaag. The British Radio confirms that the attack on Bergen was laid out against submarine pens.

III. Area Naval Command North:

1. Heligoland Bight:

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Four mines were swept off Weser estuary. Further 82 KMA-mines were laid out in K 2 a barrage off Juist. Night assignments during the night of 29 Oct. were carried out as planned.

2. Holland Area:

Owing to bad weather laying of SWK 11 a barrage was postponed to 24 hours. 9th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla ascertained unknown location targets off the Dutch coast to be three known wreck markings or approach buoys respectively. Presumably the rest of the locations are failures.

The group of minelaying ships for barrage SWK 11 a carried out its assignment during the night of 30 Oct. and after finishing came in touch with three enemy PT boats northwest of Schouwen. At that occasion one was set on fire. All other vessels entered Hook. Minesweeping was carried out off Helder and Ymuiden without incidents.

From 26 tugboats being at disposal for the operation of evacuation 14 are ineffective.

The batteries Ostkapelle, Domburg, Zouteland, Dishoek were attacked with bombs by enemy bombers. The main fortress in Flushing and anti aircraft batteries were attacked by fighter bombers. Three guns were disabled and one ammunition pillbox fell out. In Domburg one ammunition pillbox with 660 rounds exploded, one command post was disabled; the battery is not ready for action. Two more guns were disabled in the batteries Westkapelle and Dishoek. Two enemy planes were shot down.

After being hit by a bomb one harbor defence boat sunk without losses of personnel.

On 29 Oct. after breakdown of battery Flushing-North owing to fighter bomber attack there is no anti aircraft protection of heavy guns in the area of Flushing. Galgeput and Flushing harbor are blocked with 40 mines. For the night of 30 Oct. blocking of the harbor and destruction of the remaining part of the shipyard was ordered. The inner southern lock gate in Flushing was torn away. Thereby locking became more complicated again. Supply convoys between Dordrecht and Veere are proceeding as planned. The 5th convoy to Kadzand was carried out from Flushing to Kadzand. On 27 Oct. the radio station of 64th Infantry Division is established in the combat concrete shelter of Naval Shore Commander.



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Answering an inquiry on the situation at the southern bank of Schelde River made by phone Admiral Netherlands reports:

With remaining parts Naval Artillery Detachment 203 is holding the strongpoint while division retreats to the west; at 0533 the officer commanding Naval Artillery Detachment 203 reported:

"In the present strongpoint the detachment does its duty. Stocks of 15 cm ammunition are very low. The attack against this position is to be expected tonight. Request for artillery support at any time."

On inquiry Naval Shore Commander reported to Admiral Netherlands that owing to moonshine and small size of the bridgehead bringing up of reinforcements to the bridgehead or return of troops in case of evacuation would be difficult. Provided that no counter order comes in, evacuation of Naval Artillery Detachment 203 with nine officers and 243 soldiers is planned to be made with three fishing smacks. Otherwise it will be tried to bring 15 cm ammunition to Kadzand.

Operations Division, Naval Staff ordered not to evacuate the rest of the garrison and to attempt supply with ammunition during the night of 30 Oct. Naval Staff reported the situation to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Naval Liaison with copy to Admiral attached to Fuehrer's Headquarter and suggested the repeated reference of the Armed Forces High Command that bridgehead Southschelde must be held up to the last shot.

Admiral, Small Battle Units reports that owing to the situation at the front of Walcheren the operation Dunkerque cannot be carried out no more.

Therefore the 215th Flotilla of Small Battle Weapons will be authorized to attack in local operations with own initiative.

#### IV. Area Naval Command West:

##### Enemy Situation:

Forty-eight planes of 15th Group and sixteen planes of 19th Group were detected in operations. Two British vessels were located in AL.

In BF 3552 north of Cherbourg several freighters and Liberty ships on northern and westerly courses were sighted.

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Relieve of observation post on Minquiers was carried out by a harbor defence boat from Jersey.

Local fighting was reported from the invested fortresses. From St. Nazaire 9,500 inhabitants evacuated voluntarily. In the evening of 28 Oct. former main line of defence in Dunkerque was seized again.

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V. Area German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

In the morning of 28 Oct. seven US-transports, three freighters and one destroyer passed by the Gibraltar Straits Atlantic bound, from Gibraltar one auxiliary carrier and one transport with troops and three corvettes joined them.

Usual patrol activities off Riviera coast were reported.

Own Situation:

On 28 Oct. Ventimiglia and Hinterland up to Cape Nero was bombarded twice during the day by cruisers and destroyers. In the afternoon Naval Battery fired at the firing vessels with observed good efficiency the enemy ceased firing and made off under heavy smoke screen. In the afternoon of the same day Magra-estuary was attacked by fighter bombers without result, one plane was shot down. During the night of 29 Oct. escort and patrol duties off the western Italian coast were carried out as planned.

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VI. Area Naval Group South:

1. Adriatic Sea:

Owing to bad weather escort and patrol duties off the Italian east coast were suspended. No reports came in from hospital ships TUEBINGEN and FREIBURG.

Measures of destruction and minelaying were ordered for the harbor of Ravenna and the western part of Corsini-channel.

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2. Aegean Sea:

Commander of the Isle of Milos reports continuing of fighting activities and increasing current air raids on our own positions. Radar location set of 8.8 cm anti aircraft battery and one 2 cm gun were disabled. Minor casualties. Fighting spirit and carriage of the troops is excellent.

3. Danube Situation:

No report submitted.

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VII. Submarine Warfare:

No special reports were submitted from the Atlantic:

In Northern Waters no report came in from 18 boats of Group "Panther" and Kola-estuary.

In an attempt to salvage submarine U "1060" made by her own crew she was again attacked by two planes. The boat sank deeper and became waterlogged. Raid on submarine pen in Bergen is reported.

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VIII. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

There was very busy fighter bomber activities above the entire Dutch battle area. The continuous enemy attacks against defence positions and fortifications of Flushing and Rotterdam continued with about 400 British four engined planes.

During the night of 30 Oct. busy fighter bomber activities were reported.

Reich Territory:

Many hundred fast enemy bombers single proceeding and in formations penetrated into the entire western German area, dropped bombs and carried out machine gunning especially in west Rhenanian area.

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In the afternoon approximately 130 Marauder planes with fighter protection raided the area of Trier.

During the night of 30 Oct. 130 long distance night fighters and reconnaissance planes penetrated up to the line Wilhelmshaven - Ruegen - Braunschweig - Bayreuth - Strassburg - Stuttgart. Machine gunning and some bombing was reported.

Between 1900 and 2000 Cologne was attacked twice by 50 Mosquito planes. No own fighter operations were carried out on day and night.

Mediterranean Theater:

One hundred and twenty enemy planes penetrated via Innsbruck into Upper Bavaria to attack Munich. At the same time approximately 100 fighters assembled in small formations were standing east of the bomber route up to the area Nuremberg, Pilsen, Linz attacking traffic facilities. The raid on Munich with its focal point on the center of the town was called to be light. Six industrial plants were damaged medium heavy.

East Area:

On 28 Oct. 89 own and 1022 enemy operations were reported, four planes were shot down.

During the night of 29 Oct. eight of our own and 18 enemy reconnaissance operations were detected.

Approximately 30 bombers coming from Russia intervened in ground fighting in the area Budapest - Debrecen.

The attack on battleship TIRPITZ already is reported.

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IX. Situation East Asia:

On 25 Oct. Naval Attache Tokyo reported:

The US-counter attack on Tai Wan served to cut the connexion Japan - Philippines, to the destruction of torpedo carrying air force and to diversion from Philippine landing operation. The connexion by air was but interrupted for a few days. According to statements of a German naval officer who was able to land again in Taihoku already on 17 Oct. after coming from Hongkong

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damage on air force facilities there are medium sized, damage on other air ports obviously much greater.

Approximately 350 planes - 2/3 of the total stock of Japanese torpedo carrying air force were employed in home waters. From that 60% were lost. Particularly disadvantageous is the fact of nearly complete annihilation of the great aircraft office in Tatao which was the center of the entire supply to the southern area. From Japanese the diversion was admitted to have succeeded. Landing operations on Leyte occurred very surprisingly while celebrating victory in Tokyo. Landing operations were expected to take place on North Celebes and Moluceas. Even under high danger the Americans reached their aim. Practically two divisions landed without losses, a third is in reserve. Out of eight airfields being on Leyte, already two had been captured by the Americans. With the enemy's supremacy in the air it dared to be very difficult for Japanese to dislodge the enemy from Leyte.

In the landing operation south of Tacloban with more than 80 transports the entire US-Fleet seems to be engaged with. Seven battleships and seven big carriers as well as numerous destroyers were stated. The next aim seems to be Zebu.

On the opportunity of the attack against Taiwan the Japanese Fleet was not at sea, the greatest part was lying in the Inland Sea. The Attache has the impression that for the present the fleet would not be employed at all but only on direct attack on the homeland.

According to another telegram of the Naval Attache from 28 Oct. there were no details to be had on successes of the Japanese Air Force up to this time.

It is striking that in press reports numerous sinkings of ships were caused by planes flying against them. From that good results in night attacks could be explained.

According to another telegram of Naval Attache the Japanese think the British Attack against the Nicobar Islands from 17 - 19 Oct. to be a mere action of propaganda in order to meet their liabilities to the Americans.

According to Japanese statements the following British fighting ships are now in the Indian area:

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Five or seven battleships among them the RENOWN, VALIANT, QUEEN ELIZABETH, RICHELIEU, and HOWE, three big aircraft carriers thereof one ILLUSTRIOUS, two FORMIDABLE, four or eight auxiliary aircraft carriers among them UNICORN, SCHAH and BEGUN, furthermore three British, three French or Italian heavy cruisers resp., ten British, one Italian and two Dutch cruisers, 20 - 30 British and six Dutch submarines and aircraft tender ALBATROS were mentioned.

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Items of Political Importance:

The Bulgarian conditions of armistice have been published. Generally they correspond with the liabilities imposed to Romania and Finland but do not contain any territorial clause.

The Russian pressure on Iran is increasing. Cooperation with the Government of Said was declared to be impossible.

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Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy at 1115:

I. Chief Operations Division, Naval Staff:

a. Owing to weather conditions exercises of the Fleet have been postponed for a new time. Now the beginning is planned from noon 31 Oct.

b. Tonight, Chief, Operations Staff of the Army, urgently requested support for fighting at Sworbe peninsula by 2nd Task Force regarding the threatening development of the situation. Long distance phone calls between Operations Division, Naval Staff; Naval Command, East, General Staff of the Army, Naval Liaison revealed that Army Group North does not consider the employment of 2nd Task Force to be very decisive. Consequently Chief, General Staff of the Army did not maintain his request for employment which may be traced back to the bad reports of the Army Group having come in yesterday. Naval Command East and Fleet were informed by phone that the operation has been suspended.

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II. The report on damage caused by close hit already reported came in from battleship TIRPITZ. The ship took approximately 850 m<sup>3</sup> of water. Both the steering compartments became waterlogged. Both the compartments are under control. According to examination of the skin plating compartment 1 has partially gaping cracks of about 14 m in total length at port on the fifth frame, in compartment 2 four cracks of 11 m in total length and three holes of one to four meters in square. According to examination by diver the rudder and propellers have no damage, in manual operation the starboard rudder is difficult to move. The port rudder is jammed. The cause of trouble is suspected to be at the steering gear. Probably one shaft support of port shaft has been displaced.

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At any rate mobility of the ship is very questionable. One has to wait to see how far the damage can be repaired. Considering the mode of attack battleship TIRPITZ reports that the approach was made in wide formation which under influence of heavy and medium heavy gunfire widened more and more. The attack was made in rather small swarms altogether from forward direction. Except the close hit numerous heaviest bombs came down in the vicinity of the ship. According to the opinion of TIRPITZ command the approach and return was made from Great Britain touching Sweden via Central Norway. A surprise attack has been avoided by our own war lookout favoured by best conditions of observation. In case of more camouflaged approach a surprising attack would be possible at any time despite war lookout owing to present conditions of anti aircraft reporting system.

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III. Commanding Admiral Netherlands requested for order if the rest of Naval Artillery Detachment 203 in strength of nine officers and 243 rank and files is allowed to be fetched from Cadzand with three fishing smacks. Commander in Chief, Navy decides that fetching has not to be made because each day will be important in which Schelde estuary could be blocked longer. So long as the guns in Cadzand are ready to fire, fighting must be continued there. Already on 29 Oct. Naval Staff forwarded adequate order to Commanding Admiral Netherlands. In mean time order of the Armed Forces High Command has been issued according to which the transfer of 64th Infantry Division to Walcheren will come in question (see War Diary 29 Oct.). Therewith yesterday directive of Naval Staff has become obsolete. Therefore Commanding Admiral Netherlands with copy to Naval Command North receives the directive to proceed according to order of Armed Forces High Command.

Naval Command North submitted conclusions on the situation referring to the defence of Schelde estuary. Owing to disabled guns during the last days the readiness of defence was restricted. Consequently to the flooding of Walcheren the withdrawal of infantry units the shore defence of the Army has been weakened considerably. The situation in the bridgehead Schelde-South is very critical. Its loss has to be counted on within the next time. Withdrawal of our own front line beyond South-Beveland Canal and enemy landing operations in Southern Beveland would restrict the defence of upper Wester-Schelde River.

Minefouling of Wetser-Schelde River is completed except the route of communications between Walcheren and bridgehead Schelde-South. Mine defence of East-Schelde River is going to be set up.



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The supply of Walcheren from the sea and by inland waterways is intact. By means of small ship tonnage supply of Schelde-South bridgehead via Cadzand is going on as planned. Owing to damage at the locks in Flushing, Walcheren Canal can only be used under certain conditions. In the whole, Naval Command North considers the situation to have accentuated considerably. Naval Command North estimates that the enemy will need approximately six weeks to capture Walcheren and to sweep the Schelde River, so that the use of Antwerp harbor would be possible in December 1944/January 1945. Considering the fact of nearly entire elimination of our Air Force Naval Command sees a possibility to strengthen the defence in carrying on the supply on waterways and in the operations of PT boats and small battle weapons against enemy supply boats proceeding between Thames River and Flanders and on Schelde River.

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IV. Naval Staff, Quartermaster General:

a. According to information of Chief, Armed Forces High Command the Fuehrer considered railway construction in Northern Norway to be urgent as ever before.

b. The erection of batteries on Borkum is examined by Quartermaster General Naval Staff together with Naval Command North.

c. Quartermaster General forwards a memorandum concerning an emergency program of armaments which was set up by reason of the judgement of Operations Division and Submarine Division, Naval Staff. The memorandum is thought to serve as documentation for Commander in Chief, Navy in his visit to Fuehrer Headquarters.

The Commander in Chief, Navy takes the stand that the present program of armament of the Navy already represents the utmost of an emergency program. In no account no doubts are allowed to raise concerning the resumption of submarine warfare. No preparations have to be made in this direction. Commander in Chief, Navy will point to Chief, Armed Forces High Command that the directive of Armed Forces High Command concerning emergency program of armaments would be misunderstood in this connection.

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In a restricted circle:

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V. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division:

Again official US-report claims good results from Japanese naval forces at Leyte. Japanese forces are said to have consisted of two battleships, YAMASHIRO and FUSO, two heavy cruisers, two light cruisers and ten destroyers. Thereoff one heavy and one light cruiser and six destroyers are said to have been sunk immediately the other two cruisers and four destroyers seriously damaged and annihilated later on by the air force. Moreover 20 Japanese planes are said to have been shot down.

Reuter communicates a Finnish Radio report on resumption of shipping with Finnish ships between Sweden and Russia.

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VI. Army Situation:

Western Front:

In south-western area of the Netherlands hard fightings are going on with unabated intensity. Dry and clear weather favoured enemy fighterbomber activities and paralyzed all our own movements.

At South-Beveland the enemy succeeded in piercing the frontline near Gravenpolder and in capturing Goes farther to the north. In order to be able to block Schelde estuary from the north with certainty, strong forces of 70th Infantry Division are going to be brought on Walcheren under defence to the east.

Extending his penetrations at the shore frontline of the 15th Army the enemy pierced our lines with infantry and tank forces east of Bergen op Zoom, near Roosendall, Sprudel, Breda in northern and north-western direction. Southwest of Hertogenbosch enemy attacks at the canal front could be intercepted near Kaatsheuvel.

In order to prevent the front dilacerated on numerous places from being rolled up furthermore and therewith parts of the 15th Army from being annihilated, retiring to a line more to the rear was ordered.

North of Roermond our own attack achieved some results after hard fighting. Since the beginning of the attack 85 enemy tanks were disabled there.

With the date of 30 Oct. Army Group General Student (later Army

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Group H) assumed the command of 15th Army, Parachute Army Headquarters 1 and Commanding General Armed Forces Netherland.

Creating of a strong enemy focal point of attack in the area at both sides from Metz is going on under constant strengthening with new American troops.

Hard and eventful fightings in the Vosges Mountains are going on without important changes in front line.

According to Foreign Armies West the present strength of the British Field Army amounts to 69 divisions and is with that only six divisions under those of the British Field Army of the year 1918. Considering the strength of the Air Force today the British exertion of troops therewith lies far beyond that of the world war. Therefore, new drawing up of further divisions cannot be expected no more. In the contrary, existing formations and troops were disbanded in order to fill up other formations with battle experienced reserves and to maintain their required strength.

No records were forwarded on behalf of the planned employment of 14 divisions still to be expected in Great Britain.

Italy:

Owing to bad weather conditions minor local fighting only.

The Balkans:

Movements of withdrawal in Greece according to plan.

Strong enemy pressure between Skolpje and Belgrad is lasting on without achieving much results.

Furthermore the aim of Bulgarian and Russian forces is to interrupt the still existing south-north connection of the Army Group E and to decentralize the German formations being in the Serbo-Macedonian area. No set up of strong forces beyond this to the west into Croatian area cannot be detected at present.

Eastern Front:

Between Theiss and Danube River the enemy pushes the weak resisting Hungarian troops further to the north. These attacks might be taken as preparations for a Russian large scale attack in direction to Budapest.

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The attempt of the enemy to push in the rear front of the 8th Army with three Tank Corps, two Mechanized and Motorized Corps, three Cavalry Corps and one Infantry Army has been intercepted in the course of withdrawal movements from the area Grosswardein and Transylvania. The enemy suffered high losses in personnel and materiel. With the course of battle favourable to us the withdrawal of the 8th Army in the rear of the Theiss front line was achieved according to plan.

In the area west of Ungvar Russian attempts of breaching our lines in direction to Kaschau are lasting on. Counter attacks of German troops were successful.

Several Russian attacks at the Carpathian front between Ungvar and Dukla pass were repelled.

All quiet on the Narew front, also in East Prussia. There, bitter fighting east of Gumbinnen.

Though the enemy increased his pressure of his large scale attack with strengthened employment of materiel and bringing up of new forces at the section of Army Group North, the Army Group repelled all attempts of breaching at the places of attack southeast of Liepaja and on both sides of Autz in hard fighting. Some enemy gain in terrain could not be prevented. Our own losses are serious.

The enemy attack again started at Sworbe Peninsula was repelled.

Finland:

At the Swedish-Finnish frontier our own forces are ready for defence in the area of Munio.

Strong enemy reconnaissance thrusts against Ivalo-defence position were repelled. More Finnish attack operations could be counted on after bringing up a new Finnish division.

In far north our own forces are ready for defence on Munelven River.

In the evening Commander in Chief, Navy accompanied by Admiral assigned for special work, proceeds to Fuehrer Headquarters.

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Special Items:

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I. Concerning East Area:

Regarding to the present situation Naval Command East agreed with the execution of naval reconnaissance as intended by 6th Air Force and pointed out that at present relations of forces and fuel situation would not allow to fulfill the requirements set up by the Navy. Generally, the Navy would have to ask for continuous survey of wide spread areas and photographic reconnaissance of Baltic, Finnish and Russian ports. The present reconnaissance executed in one flight per day and night would not meet the requirements of the Navy. Naval Command thinks better utilization of forces by shifting the focal point to day's reconnaissance to be promising more results and particularly refers to the value of port reconnaissance shortly before evening twilight. In regard to the development of the situation in the Baltic area the present condition is not bearable for length. Therefore, it is desirable to increase the forces of naval reconnaissance because otherwise during long nights surprising appearance of enemy large surface forces is to be counted on even in areas close to the coast and on convoy routes up to Danzig Bay. As matters stand total supply traffic to Army Group North would become questionable thereby. A glance into enemy plans can only be reached by intensive, continuous reconnaissance with planes equipped with photographic gear, even by night. Finally Naval Command states that fighting of enemy surface forces appearing surprisingly with forces of the Navy would be questionable.

Operations Division, Naval Staff wires to High Command Air; Operations Staff, Naval Liaison that nothing has to be added to the statements of Naval Command East. As long as operational restrictions at 6th Air Force are lasting on, operational employment must be concentrated on reconnaissance on day. Particular references are made to the fact that our own naval forces can only operate with promising success when findings of reconnaissance will come in early.

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II. Concerning Northern Area:

Commanding General Mountain Army Headquarters 20 issued the executive order concerning the evacuation of northern Norway. Copy of adequate teletype as per 1/Skl 32482/44 Gkdos in War Diary Part C, Volume IIa.

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III. Concerning Naval Command North:

Operations Division, Naval Staff suggests at High Command, Air Operations Staff to create closest cooperation of leading staffs of the Air Force with those of the Navy in case of enemy landings in the Bight of Heligoland by which all preparative measures in farthest extent could be executed before the time of enemy attack. Naval Staff requests High Command, Air Operations Staff to give the order already now to the Corps Staff which is provided for operational command of the flying formations under the command of Commanding General of the German Air Force in Denmark to assume preparative work for joint operation of the Air Force and Navy in a protected command post being situated in closest distance from Naval Command North. Simultaneously there is suggested to assimilate the operational and area frontiers of this staff to those of Naval Command North in order to simplify the command and work of the staff.

Copy of teletype 1/Skl 32487/44 Gkdos. in War Diary Part C, Volume IIa.

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IV. Concerning South-Eastern Area:

On 26 Oct. Quartermaster General, Naval Staff ordered that with date of 31 Oct. Submarine Base Pola has to be disbanded and so far as needed installations and personnel of the base has to be transferred to the Unit of Small Battle Weapons. The rest of the personnel thus being released is at the disposition of Commanding Admiral, Submarines.

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V. Information on the situation from Operations Division as usual was made with 1/Skl I b 32529/44 Gkdos. Draught in War Diary Part B, Volume V.

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Situation 30 Oct. 1944

I. Area Naval Command East:

1. Admiral Eastern Part of the Baltic Sea:

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Enemy Situation:

At 2044 on 29 Oct. a minesweeper sighted torpedo tracks southwest of Liepaja in AO 9321. At 2320 one of our own convoys reported a submerging submarine twelve miles southwest of Polangen.

Own Situation:

On Sworbe Peninsula repeated attacks in strength of a regiment with tanks and ground attack airplanes were repelled except to a local penetration. Around 1000 the main line of defence was our own again.

In the morning of 29 Oct. three Russian boats fired at Vintri, fourteen patrol boats fired at the coast in AO 6514.

Up to now Special Operations Detachment Baltic Countries lost eight officers, fourteen non commissioned officers and 323 men. The detachment only consists of the staff without orderly officer, two section leaders and 45 men.

One group of armed fishing vessels operated in submarine chase at the west and east coast of Sworbe Peninsula off Ovisi. One group of armed fishing vessels stays in readiness in Irben Straits. Off the Gulf of Finland four of our own submarines stand at their positions.

Increasing enemy activities along the shore line of the Haff (tr. n. fresh water lake) in Memel area could be taken as preparations for an operation against the Nehrung (tr. n. narrow tongue of land separating a small bay from the Baltic Sea.).

Convoys and escorts were carried out without incidents. To Liepaja 2,569 t of provisions and 685 t of various supplies were brought to Army Group North.

2. Central and Western Part of the Baltic Sea:

Naval Attache Stockholm reports that the Finnish steamer CASTRO left Karlkrona, the steamer HAVNIA and HILDEGARD left Kalmar.

Off Hela submarine U "1132" was machine gunned by two enemy fighters.

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At 0740 troop transport BREMERHAVEN (5,354 BRT) was detected by enemy reconnaissance aircraft. At 0940 the ship was attacked by planes southwest of Memel. Bombs ignited both the coal bunkers. The ship got out of control and was towed. Owing to extending fire rescue of the crew was prepared in the afternoon by minesweeper M "155". For assistance heavy cruiser LUETZOW. The steamer ISAR, boats of the 2nd Torpedo boat Flotilla, several submarines and minesweepers, three patrol boats, training boat FUCHS, aircraft tender WEDEL, three crash boats and one Do"24" aircraft were sent out. The transport was occupied by 1235 wounded, 867 soldiers and 680 evacuated persons.

A minesweeper reported minelaying by aircraft in AO 9380.

Thirty-five boats and one mine exploding vessel were engaged in minesweeping. One mine was swept in Kiel Bay. Suspecting mine-fouling arose in the western part of the Baltic Sea and in the Bay of Luebeck after penetration of single flying planes in the evening of 29 Oct.

3. Admiral Skagerrak:

Three destroyers of the 5th Destroyer Flotilla escort the additional 7th Transport Squadron for 269th Infantry Division. At 1435 after transferring the convoy to a mine exploding vessel it was detected by enemy reconnaissance east of Frederikshavn. One object mine or torpedo was dropped in distance of 8,000 meters.

Eighteen vessels were engaged in minesweeping. Two mines each were swept off Frederikshavn, in Aalborg Bay and in Samsøe Belt, one mine each off Anholt and off Seelandsrev.

The squadron laying KMA-mines put out to continue its task.

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II. Area of Naval Command Norway:

1. Enemy Situation:

At 18th Group 41 planes were detected in operation.

At 0630 a Russian plane reported three destroyers in AC 7374 heading 250°. In the morning the Russian destroyers K and N, during the day the destroyers M and R and in the afternoon flotilla leader BAKU were observed at sea in Archangelsk area. Moreover Radio Monitoring detected British vessels in North sea area.



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2. Own Situation:

Area Admiral Arctic Coast:

In the afternoon of 29 Oct. Kiberg was evacuated. Following up of the enemy on national Highway of the Reich No. 50 was postponed by blasting the street.

In the morning of the same day 25 planes in Narvik area and in the afternoon one plane in the area of Tromsø were reported. Owing to suspected minelaying Sandesundet was blocked.

The 4th Destroyer Flotilla of which destroyer Z "38" and "29" arrived at Honningsvåg at 0600 left this harbor at 1100.

Area, Admiral North Norwegian Coast:

There were reported: twelve Mosquito planes in the afternoon of 29 Oct. in Alesund area, 24 unknown planes in the same area in the morning of 30 Oct. and fourteen unknown planes off Stadlandet in the afternoon.

Area, Admiral, West Norwegian Coast:

Two midget submarines were sighted at 2215 on 29 Oct. in AF 8578 near Naval Battery Nordfiord. Submarine chase yielded no result.

Busy enemy air activities were reported from afternoon 29 Oct. to the morning of 30 Oct. in the area of Naval Shore Commander Bergen. In the morning of 30 Oct. two combined bomber formations stood in the area of Harstein up to Stadlandet, in the afternoon 15 Mosquito planes were in the outlet of Sognefiord. Thirty-eight ships were escorted to the north and 15 ships to the south.

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III. Area Naval Command North:

1. Heligoland Bight:

Convoy and minesweeping duties were executed as planned during the night of 30 Oct.

In the morning of 30 Oct. Naval Anti Aircraft Battery Norderney fought 20 Beaufighter planes. In all sections of Heligoland Bight

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Naval Anti Aircraft Batteries fired at enemy planes from 1300 up to 1420. Approximately 150 high explosives dropped into the water southwest of Heligoland, approximately 80 high explosives off Cuxhaven the majority into Elbe River. Owing to small bombs the dike south of Nordenham was damaged. Terror raid on Hamburg was reported from 1300 to 1400. No damage was made on naval offices and installations.

2. Holland Area:

During the night of 30 Oct. convoys were carried out as planned. In the PT boat engagement northeast of Schowen during the night of 30 Oct. not one but two PT boats were set ablaze.

From noon on passing enemy formations were fought by naval anti aircraft batteries in northern Holland.

The batteries Zouteland and Dishoek operated on shore targets south of Schelde River. All batteries on Walcheren and near Flushing were subdued to fighterbomber attacks and partially to enemy harrassing fire.

The blocking of Flushing's outer harbor was completed. The annihilation of all installations of the outer and inner harbor were carried out except those of the locks. The destruction of Flushing shipyard was postponed for 24 hours. The port of fishery is still intact.

Northeast of Walcheren two auxiliary minesweepers struck our own KMA-mines.

Owing to bad weather conditions Small Battle Weapon Flotilla 215 is not employed. Eight boats were transferred from Dordrecht to Veere. All the boats were repeatedly attacked by fighterbombers.

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IV. Naval Command West:

1. Enemy Situation:

At 15th Group there were 36 planes, at the 19th Group were 18 planes detected in operation. Four British vessels and one American vessel was located in rendezvous area. Observation post on Minquires found out that St. Malo area was controlled by corvettes.

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2. Own Situation:

During the night of 30 Oct. minesweeper M "4020" and one armed fishing vessel carried out a control run in the area north and east of Ile de Croix. Three armed fishing vessels carried out transportation of personnel and materiel between Lorient and St. Nazaire.

Local fighting was reported from surrounded fortresses. On 21 Oct. the former Group West reported that Armed Forces High Command ordered to examine if laying in stocks for the Atlantic fortresses extracted from the Hinterland would be possible by joint large scale operations of the three fortresses. Admiral Atlantic Coast had the order to make a proposal to Joint Operation and to a leader responsible participating the fortress commanders Gironde-North and South. In case of need motorized forces and fuel were to be supplied by air.

On 30 Oct. Admiral Atlantic Coast reported that an operation aiming at the task of fetching provisions from the area of Marennes in large scale cannot be authorized because probably no stocks would be there in the area mentioned above and difficult conditions of terrain would not allow to move fast with large troop bodies. Landing of forces from Oleron in the section of Marennes does not come in question owing to strong enemy counter actions which are to be expected and in view of difficult conditions on the fairways and unsuitable transport tonnage. Bringing up forces from the area of La Rochelle is not possible because possibilities of defence of the wide forefield would become questionable. The only operation promising success would be the area Saujon - Raintes - Rochefort for what strong motorized forces and fuel are lacking for an operation to be planned over several days and to be accomplished with success. The assumption has to be that the bridge near Saujon which is occupied by the enemy must be forced open and that it has to be found out where big stocks are lying which would pay the operation. Large scale sorties have to be avoided in order to maintain the possibility of defence of the fortresses. Therefore only minor local operations which are to be carried out surprisingly are recommended.

Naval Command West agreed with the opinion of Admiral Atlantic Coast and considers lacking of sufficient motorized forces and fuel to be the main obstacle for far reaching operation of large scale. This also is decisive for the judgement of similar operations from other fortresses. Naval Command reports that by means of single operations carried out within the limits of forces available already all possibilities of extracting provisions from

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the fortresses' forefield are utilized in limits obtainable and thereby food supplies were continuously increased. During the seven weeks from 2 Sept. supplies of La Rochelle only reduced by ten days while those of Gironde - North and South increased both from 70 to 100 days. From basic date further successful food operations were carried out.

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V. Area German Naval Command Italy:

1. Enemy Situation:

At 0200 on 29 Oct. the convoy UGS "57" passed Gibraltar Straits east bound in strength of 69 freighters, eleven tankers with a destroyer and nine corvettes. On 30 Oct. at 1845 three presumably troop transports, fourteen freighters, one auxiliary cruiser, three corvettes and one submarine put out Atlantic bound.

In the morning of 29 Oct. three minesweepers with sweeping gear protected by three destroyers were reported off Mentone. During the night of 30 Oct. radar detected usual patrol activities by groups of boats. A group of presumably PT boats standing on and off east north east off Corsini showed off to the south after being fired upon by naval battery.

2. Own Situation:

According to improvements in weather conditions on 29 Oct. raids of fighterbombers in the area of Po-Canal were resumed. Again the northern locks of Cavanella-Etsch were seriously damaged. One lighter sunk.

During the night of 30 Oct. convoy and escort duties were carried out as planned at the Italian west coast.

Naval batteries in Magra-estuary and southeast of Spezia surprisingly fired upon partisan base northeast of Carrara with good results.

Three naval landing craft carried out the mining operation "Traute" south of Rapallo. Measures of destruction in the harbor of Rapallo and in the western part of Corsini-Canal were completed.

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VI. Area Naval Group South:

1. Adriatic Sea:

In the afternoon of 29 Oct. five destroyers and seven freighters heading southwest sailed off Dubrovnik, one freighter and two sailing ships with troops heading southeast sailed in Mljet-Canal according to air reconnaissance. In the evening of 29 Oct. partisans of unknown number landed on the east coast of Cherso. Counter-measures are initiated. According to Radio information further troops captured Split.

No reports came in from hospital ships FREIBURG and TUEBINGEN. On 28 Oct. hospital ship CRADISCA reported the last time. Presumably all three ships were taken by the enemy.

According to Radio monitoring reconnaissance plane sighted hospital ship BONN at 0412 on CJ 2399 heading 30°.

2. Aegean Sea:

The harbor of Salonica was mine-fouled and destroyed. From the evening of 30 Oct. position Naval Shore Commander Northern Greece south of Veles.

The fighting on Milos is continued. On 29 Oct. two enemy planes were shot down. An attack on the 8.8 cm battery from the south was repelled with minor casualties. One gun was disabled. In the morning of 30 Oct. harassing fire of one of our own 15 cm batteries was laid on Baryt Bay. During the day fire of ship guns and continuous air raids were made on our own cutting-off position and batteries. Slight damage, no casualties.

3. Danube Situation:

As was reported additionally the rest of the large scale convoy had to seek shelter behind an island on its way from Mohacs to Baja because of tanks, grenade throwers, anti tank guns and machine guns which proceeded with them on the shore. Further advance upstream was impossible owing to enemy anti tank guns and tanks which took position ashore and owing to damage effected on own vessels, disabled weapons and lacking ammunition. As the Russians were expected to cross the river, river gun boats, F "1027", F "1035", FR "2", one towed barge and one combined operation boat were sunk near km 1465.

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VII. Submarine Warfare:

No reports were submitted from Group "Panther" off Kola estuary. In the evening of 29 Oct. and during the night of 30 Oct. busy British Radio communications were detected. At 2346 on 29 Oct. air reconnaissance sighted several vessels in AB 9224. Therewith the possibility of a new PQ-convoy is at hand. In the evening of 30 Oct. our own air reconnaissance took off for reconnaissance of Bear-Narrows.

At 0312 transport submarine U "1061" was attacked by enemy planes in AF 8785 and at 0524 in AF 8792. The boat put in in Maaloey seriously damaged.

Nothing special to report from other operational areas.

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VIII. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

Besides medium to minor fighterbomber and fighter activities in the Belgian/Dutch area penetrations of 70-100 four-engined bombers via Schelde River were reported in the afternoon without carrying out attacks. In the afternoon 50 British four-engined planes attacked Walcheren with high explosives.

Reich Territory:

From 1115 approximately 900 four-engined American planes with fighter escort penetrated into the northwestern German area from the west via Texel. Presumably owing to unfavorable weather conditions the raid was not carried out as planned. In the area north of Osnabrueck approximately 300 four-engined planes returned to the west. Around 1315 Hamburg was attacked by 300 four-engined planes in a medium sized raid on industrial and traffic facilities. At the same time 300 bombers attacked Muenster and Hamm. Damage was made in industrial works and particularly in railway and track facilities. All through traffic in Hamm and Muenster was interrupted.

The bombs which were dropped in the area of Cuxhaven have already been reported.

From 1100 further 100 four-engined planes of the Royal Air Force

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with fighter escort penetrated into the area Cologne - Wesseling - Knappsack and attacked. The hydrogenetic plant Wesseling suffered minor damage. Reports from Cologne and Knappsack are lacking owing to interrupted phone communications.

With approximately 50 Mosquito planes each Berlin was raided in two raids between 1840 and 2350 during the night of 31 Oct. No industrial damage. Thirty to forty fast bombers attacked Karlsruhe, 5 - 600 British four-engined bombers attacked Cologne. Details are still lacking. Besides this approximately 120 long distant nightfighters and fast bombers were busy in the western part of the Reich with a branch up to the area of Stettin.

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Mediterranean Theater:

In enemy attacks against railway materiel 18 locomotives were damaged, one destroyed. Otherwise no particular operations.

East Area:

On 29 Oct. 160 own and 1505 enemy operations with nine planes shot down without losses were reported on the eastern front, during the night of 30 Oct. there were 17 own and 50 enemy operations.

Strong own air reconnaissance activities in Northern Waters yielded no results. Attack activities of the enemy on the Norwegian west coast were already reported, also enemy air raid on transport BREMERHAVEN northwest of Pillau.

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IX. Situation East Asia:

In the afternoon of 29 Oct. Naval Attache Tokyo reports:

"1. Situation grew much clearer. Greater naval engagements only occurred on 25 Oct. and that was:

a. East of Samar Islands details already reported. The 1st Japanese Task Force involved came from Mindoro Island and pierced into open sea unseen through San Bernadino Strait.

b. Second Japanese Task Force consisting of four battleships and eight destroyers penetrated into Leyte Bay at 0300

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coming from Mindanao waters attacked transport and cover forces off Dulag and put out at the same route at 0600. Night and dawn engagement. Japanese lost two battleships and two destroyers.

c. Third Task Force coming from Inland Waters met the American Task Force 300 miles east of Luzon at 0700. Thereby Japanese lost one aircraft carrier, one cruiser.

2. Total result see conclusion of official report of Armed Forces High Command from 24 to 26 Oct.

3. Since 26 Oct. minor air activities only. On 27 Oct. no more than 50 carrier-borne enemy planes appeared in total. Therefrom heavy losses may be traced back.

4. As already reported seapower in Leyte-Gulf is in the hands of the enemy.

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Items of Political Importance:

A declaration of the Government in the Swedish Reichstag emphasized the plan to maintain neutral attitude. With reference to the fate of Norway and Denmark strong anti German atmosphere of the Swedish people was expressed.

According to Swedish press reports Norwegian troops are to participate on the side of the Russians in the conquest of Norway.

Proclamations given rise to the celebration of Russian October Revolution are full of bleeding outbursts of hate against the German people. Anglo-Saxon military assistance was acknowledged.

Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff at 1115:

I. Within the Limits of West Situation:

In case navigation difficulties could be overcome, Naval Command North considers rupture of the blockade for supply of Dunkerque to be successful only in bad weather and dark nights with a sea-going vessel. For that northeast weather conditions are required but there is no clue to that during the next two weeks. Therefore only occasional operations may come in consideration.

Furthermore the following must be considered: penetration with a group of five powerful minesweepers type 40 upto off Ostende with advanced PT boat protection on a route of difficult navigation conditions. From there return of three minesweepers, proceeding further with two minesweepers loaded with 80 tons upto Dunkerque. The operation requires one third of minesweepers type 40 available with a crew of 500 men. Return of both the transport minesweepers is not likely. The operation may only be accounted for if the amount of ammunition to be transported would be of decisive importance for the fortress to carry on and would be considered as essential obstruction of far reaching operative measures of the enemy. Thereby the employment of more PT boats and submarines would have to be checked once more.

Regarding to the bottleneck of minesweepers Operations Division regards the last proposal as doubtful and recommends to prepare the attempt with seagoing vessels as suggested above and to have it executed at suitable weather conditions.

Chief, Naval Staff agrees. Adequate orders were sent to Naval Command North, with copy to Commanding Admiral, Defences North, Admiral Netherlands, Naval Command West.

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II. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

a. Naval Command East referred to the consequences of icing for supplying Sworbe Peninsula (see War Diary 29 Oct.). Up to now ice - not shelf ice - appeared in Irben Straits on 23 Nov. as the earliest date. In a severe winter time icing of the coast of Sworbe peninsula begins on 21 Dec. medium sized icing begins in the beginning of January.

b. Armed Forces High Command requested a judgment of Naval Staff concerning the defence of Pola.

Naval Staff intends to send the following teletype:

"1. After breakdown of Dalmatian bases importance of Pola for waging naval war increased maintenance will also be necessary for fighting enemy supplied in case of enemy landing operation on Istria.

2. For the possibility of employing naval forces occupation of the Army and establishment of battery defence for Pola is required so that abandonment of Pola would not be necessary as soon as minor enemy operations would start or as soon as enemy large scale operations against the areas of Trieste and Fiume would be detected.

3. After exhaustion of naval forces no doubts would exist from the side of the Navy to abandon Pola and to return the troops to the main line of defence."

Chief, Naval Staff agrees.

c. At 0855 Admiral Netherlands wired to Naval Command North and Operations Branch, Naval Staff concerning the evacuation of troops from Cadzand bridgehead:

"1. Naval Artillery Detachment is fully separated from other troops.

2. The 64th Infantry Division reports: berth facilities established on the strand north of Knokke 500 meters east of breakwater Pl 60. Berth is marked to the east with green, to the west with red and in the middle with elevated white light. At this place there is a gap within the coastal mine A barrage equipped with snaglines.

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3. Naval Shore Commander can only dispose of a few fishing smacks with that no essential parts of 64th Infantry Division could be carried away. Time for going and coming eight hours.

4. With northeastern winds now blowing there is a surging sea. According to the opinion of Naval Shore Commander Cadzand harbor is the only one fitted to fetch the rest of Naval Artillery Detachment 203.

5. Situation of Naval Artillery Detachment 203 requires immediate decision."

After further inquiries of Chief, Naval Staff by phone with Chief of Staff, Naval Command North during the conference on the situation Naval Command North made the following decision:

"1. For the time guns are ready to fire and ammunition is available the personnel required for the guns and their defence has to remain at Cadzand. Soldiers of Naval Artillery Detachment 203 who will be available beyond this task could be evacuated, the rest not before the readiness of guns has ceased.

2. Since no important sections of 64th Infantry Division could be retreated to Walcheren as it was reported from there the evacuation of the Army cannot be made by reason of Fuehrer order."

The Admiral Fuehrer Headquarters will be informed by teletype instead of Admiral for special employment.

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In a restricted circle:

III. Army Situation:

Western Front:

In Southwest Holland our troops fighting south of Maas River generally succeeded in retreating to the planned line and to form a continuously occupied front line until evening under high casualties. At the entire front the enemy follows to the north. Reinforcements may expect the strong attacks to be continued for 31 Oct.

On South Beveland the 70th Infantry Division retreated the bulk

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of its forces to Walcheren and there holds a local bridgehead east of the dike of Arnemuiden.

Generally, our own attack north of Roermond reached the aim which was set. Partially the troops there were engaged in serious defence battles. This attack succeeded in withdrawing British forces which up to now were operating at the front of the 15th Army to this front. In general, a shift of forces from the southern front of the Army Group B to the north can be observed at the enemy.

At the 19th Army the enemy continued his attacks in the front section east of Rambervillers up to east of Bruyeres with partially strong forces on numerous places. He was able to reach several penetrations which, however were cut off. Fighting is still lasting on.

Italy:

Owing to improved weather conditions fighting activities at the entire front increased with focal points in the valley of Serchio, near Poretta and strengthened continuation of attacks in the area southeast of Forli. There, after heavy fighting a penetration was reached which could not be cleared despite employment of the last reserves.

The Balkans:

On the isle of Piskopi fighting is still going on with Greek troops commanded by the British.

For long days the possession of the isle of Milos is heavily fought for. No new reports are submitted.

Near Salonica the 41st Fortress Division with subordinated formations is transloaded in order to be carried in express transport to the front of Mitrovica.

Up to now enemy attacks near Kraljevo were repelled. In bitter fighting a front gap near Cacak was closed.

Coming from the east and west Tito-Division approach Serajewo.

The area of Trogir and Sibenik was evacuated.

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Eastern Front:

Between Danube and Theiss River the enemy continued his attacks to the north with 12th Infantry Division and one mechanized corps and reached Kalcosa close east to the Danube River. Serious fighting is going on for the possession of Kecskemet. German counter attacks are started. Enemy attempts to cross the Theiss River south of Szolnok were repelled.

In the area of Nyireghaza withdrawal movements of the 8th German Army are going on as planned.

West of Ungvar enemy spearheads were repelled and the area of penetration was contracted by German counter attacks.

Between Ungvar and west of the Dukla Pass Russian attacks are going on. German troops began numerous counter attacks and generally maintained their position.

In Narva bridgeheads the battle was kindled to new vehemence. The enemy operated with numerous tanks. With own losses of terrain all attacks were repelled.

At the Army Group North on the fourth day of the defence battle the enemy continued his large scale attack against the 18th Army with the biggest employment of materiel ever applied up to now, even with strengthening his forces with the 5th Tank Guards Army. The enemy's use of artillery ammunition was estimated to approximately 42,000 rounds. The battle developed to a tank battle of large scale. Despite heroic resistance of the infantry dwindled in day long battle, the enemy was able to penetrate our own front line in the section east of Preekulen and northwest of Vainode. New defence front lines lying some km in the rear are going to be prepared.

Also in the area of Autz the enemy large scale attack operations supported by strong tank forces and unabated ground attack aircraft activities. This lead to some penetrations up to four km in depth west of Autz however, hard struggles succeeded in frustrating the enemy breach on 30 Oct. and in maintaining the connexion of the front line as well.

During the last two days the Army Group disabled approximately 150 enemy tanks.

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Special Items:

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I. Concerning East Area:

a. The Admiral attached to the Fuehrer Headquarter reports:

"In consequence of my oral report concerning the possibility of a connexion to Liepaja with sea cables the Fuehrer decided that at first it has to be tried to manage if with Radio telewriter as it was planned by Chief, Naval Communications Division."

Therefore the question of cable lay out has to be followed up in future. Naval Communications Division has been informed.

b. On 29 Oct. Chief, Naval Staff wired to Chief, General Staff of the Army, with copy to Naval Liaison attached to General Staff of the Army, Naval Command East and Coastal Defence Commander, Center:

"I request to incorporate war port and Naval Fortress Area of Gotenhafen into the defence system of Westpreussen as independent fortress. Naval Staff has to demand that in case of enemy attack shore defence of Gotenhafen maintains the use of this base, decisive for naval warfare, as long as possible. According to my opinion Gotenhafen is not well protected alone by Weichsel position. Therefore an independent shore defence will be necessary."

c. Concerning anti submarine defence of forces of the Fleet Naval Staff issues the following directive to Naval Command East, the Fleet, Second Task Force, with copy to Training Unit, Fleet, Commanding Admiral, Defences Baltic:

"1. The demand of the Fleet for disposition of submarine chasing forces for the defence of the Fleet exercising at sea is acknowledged.

2. Defence will be the task of those Coast Patrol Forces in the area of which training is executed as per orders of Naval Command East.

3. Disposal of some suitable vessels which should be used with priority for this task and which have to be employed by Coast Patrol Forces (Naval Command East) on request of the Fleet is to be desired.

4. As now the military situation in the Baltic Sea

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requires permanent employment of all forces suitable for convoy and anti mining duties, continuous disposal as per figure 3. would not be possible so that arrangements according to circumstances would be required.

5. Report plans to Naval Command East."

d. Owing to discussions between Chief, Naval Staff and Commanding Admiral Naval Command East this one submits the following teletype of the Commanding General, Armed Forces Denmark to Armed Forces High Command Operations Staff concerning the question of coastal defence of Jutland:

"1. By order of High Command, Navy, Naval Command East ordered to bring up 28 coastal batteries of all calibres for the defence of the eastern coast of Jutland and of the islands of Zealand and Fyen against a British Fleet breaking through Skagerrak and Kattegat. After discussion with Admiral Kummetz the judgment on the situation of Naval Command East and High Command, Navy is so that the concentration of enemy landing operations may be expected in the Danish area at the east coast of Jutland (Albaek Bay) and on Zealand and Fyen by reason of favorable conditions of the sea. Especially in coming winter months as weather conditions almost exclude enemy landing operations on the west coast of Jutland at this time.

2. In contrary to this Commanding General, Armed Forces, Denmark is of quite different opinion who now as ever considers the focal point of defence to be at the west coast of Jutland. Troop organization and completion of coastal fortifications meet this stand which up to now was also admitted by Admiral Skagerrak (focal point the port of Esbjerg).

3. After taking cognizance on the planned employment of 28 coastal batteries of the Navy in the eastern area only Commanding General, Armed Forces, Denmark made a counter proposal to insert six of the 28 batteries in places of the west coast not sufficiently protected, thus concentrating the focal point like defence on the west coast of Jutland. (Skaw, Loenstrup, Lemvig, defence area of Esbjerg-Fanoe, Isle of Rom.) Selection of the six batteries to be withdrawn was proposed in that manner that the overlap of the remaining 22 batteries at the east coast of Jutland and at the northern coasts of Zealand and Fyen may be maintained in future and no important weakening of the defence may arise.

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4. Furthermore, Commanding General, Armed Forces Denmark supports the stand that with 28 or 22 naval coastal batteries at the east coast without powerful formations of the Army in sufficient strength one only can speak of light defence of the coast. According to local conception the batteries are not able to carry out the defence alone essentially in case of large scale landing operations all the more since up to further notice installation of batteries could only be made in field manner.

5. A conference which took place on 30 Oct. between Commanding Admiral, Naval Command East and Commanding General, Armed Forces, Denmark resulted no solution of the urgent question of Denmark's defence.

6. Therefore, decision of Armed Forces Operations Staff is requested if:

1. hitherto existing consideration concerning west coast as focal point be maintained and in consequence of this six batteries be employed in concentrating the defence of the west coast at the places suggested above or

2. if new reflections of High Command, Navy - Naval Command East be supported. In case of figure 2. immediate employment of Army formations (approximately two permanent divisions) at the northern coasts of the isles of Zealand and Fyen and at the east coast of Jutland (focal point north of Limfiord) would be necessary. But these forces are not available for Commanding General, Armed Forces Denmark."

Judgment of Commanding Admiral Naval Command East will follow.

e. Concerning preparations for destruction in Danish ports (see War Diary 22 Sept.) Naval Staff sent the following teletype to Armed Forces High Command, Naval Liaison, Admiral attached to Fuehrer Headquarters with copy to Naval Command East and Admiral Skagerrak:

"1. Ports of Aalborg and Aarhus cannot be missed for supply of Norway and submarine warfare. Within preparations of destructions for case A explosive charges had been installed at Quais and other facilities necessary for shipping in both the ports. These ones endanger the ports in a high manner as air raids and sabotage may lead to the fact that these ports may be destroyed untimely by ignition of the explosive charges.



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2. According to report of Admiral Skagerrak the demand to ascertain the entire destruction of ports in A-case can only be fulfilled when explosive charges remain installed. As long as the demand is maintained the ports therefore are continuously in danger.

3. Naval Staff deems it necessary to eliminate the danger for vital sea supply and therefore considers to install the explosive charges only to that extent that loading and unloading will not be endangered. Therefore, the risk has to be taken as minor disadvantage that in case of need despite careful preparation the installation of the explosive charges may not be possible in time. Adequate orders to Commanding General, Armed Forces, Denmark are requested; according to our opinion details are to be settled by local offices."

Again the subject was ventilated by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Coastal Defence Branch.

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II. Concerning Northern Area:

a. Naval Staff decides on application of Naval Command Norway concerning the situation of minesweeping in Oslofiord (Copy as per 1/Skl 32538/44 Gkdos. in War Diary Part C Volume d):

"1. Assignment of 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla and of twelve armed fishing vessels to Oslofiord was issued among others on 16 Sept. The group of armed fishing vessels V "238", "39", "40", "42", "43" subordinated to Naval Shore Commander Oslofiord at this time approaches the Area of Denmark. Naval Staff estimates that after arrival of this group relief of the straining situation in minesweepers at Oslofiord will come. Further assignments from other areas will not be possible.

2. In case channel sweeping in Oslofiord should not be possible with local vessels after strong enemy mine fouling, additional employment of vessels belonging to 8th Coast Patrol Force must be done. Sent adequate requests to 8th Coast Patrol Force (Admiral Skagerrak) according to circumstances."

b. Naval Command Norway reports on request of Chief, Naval Staff (see War Diary 19 Oct.):

"1. Reinforcement of coastal and anti aircraft artillery by:

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A. Supply of more especially heavy but easy transferable batteries (e.g. 21 cm K 39).

B. Improvement of night and fog location in inshore waters.

C. Supply of a new anti aircraft detachment for anti aircraft protection of new submarine base Kilbotin (near Harstadt).

D. Strengthening of battery emplacements by replenishing infantry protection.

E. General increase in priority of Norway area in allocating the output of arms and equipment.

F. Improvement of ruined officers personnel state at coastal batteries.

G. Accelerated replenishing of 40.6 cm ammunition shortage in Narvik area. There are 70% lacking.

2. Reinforcement of coast patrol forces and of operative naval forces repeatedly was asked for.

3. The laying of new and reinforced mine barrages has already been asked for at other authorities, is going to be executed at this time.

4. Adequate development of war settles the dislocation of PT boats. Ports in Polar Region Roesneshamm on Ringvasoey, Svolvær or Bodo, in the area of Admiral Arctic Coast Drontheim/Uthaug, auxiliary berth Roervik, Sandesjoen.

5. Also, operational ports of small battle weapons depend on the situation of war. Assignment will follow after thorough examination and discussion with operational commander of Small Battle Weapons Flotilla 215.

6. Strengthening of army formations especially in the areas between Soerfold and Drontheim and in the region of Lofoten Islands.

7. Reinforcement of air forces, urgently fighters."

Fully acknowledging these demands Naval Staff points to Naval Command

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Norway that further important allocations of forces and arms for defence beyond those already executed or those still going on resp. would hardly be possible by reason of exertion of all strength.

The plans as per figures 4 and 5 are agreed with.

c. With copy to Naval Staff Commanding General 20th Mountain Army Headquarters informs Naval Staff of orders to Corps Headquarters of 71st Army Headquarters, Commanding General of the German Air Force in Finland and Admiral, Arctic Coast. Among others there is said:

"1. Diminishing of enemy pressure against rear guards of 36th and 19th Mountain Army Headquarters yet dares not to be valued that the Soviets gave up their plan to rush through to Narvik. For the future continuation of sovietic operations via the area of Ivalo and from Kirkenes in direction to Lakeselv may be counted on. Following of Finnish forces via Muonio in direction to Skibotin may be estimated. Sovietic march through Sweden may be possible. Landing operations at main road No. 50 are probable. If and how far such Sovietic operations run counter to Anglo-American plans must be waited for. It may be possible that if need be they will induce the British to a combined sea and air operation against the area of Narvik. But a British attack on Narvik may also be possible as action independently from Soviet-Russian operations.

2. Therefore the Fuehrer ordered that 20th Mountain Army Headquarters in cooperation with Commanding General, Armed Forces Norway, High Command, Navy and High Command, Air has to take all precautions which seem to be suitable to frustrate a British landing operation against Narvik.

3. Heretofore is required:

By 71st Army Headquarters . . . . .

By Admiral, Arctic Coast:

a. Reinforcement of sea air reconnaissance and patrol duties in order to recognize and defend planned landing operations already at sea.

b. Army Headquarters request for information on organization and assignments of naval forces in the area of Narvik.

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By Commanding General of German Air Force in Finland:

a. Increase of long distance air reconnaissance over the area of Narvik.

b. . . . .

4. . . . .

5. . . . .

6. The Fuehrer demands that no unit neither on shore nor in inshore waters nor on airfields would be surprised by the enemy. All competent authorities in command are requested to recognize that at present more than ever the northern Norwegian area lies in the visual range of the Soviets and Americans. Without doubt our enemies know the severity of movements from northern Finnish/northern Norwegian area into the area of Lyngenfiord-Narvik. In the wide area we must be ready to fight and defend at any time."

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III. Concerning Western Area:

Naval Staff informs Naval Command North, Naval Command West and Admiral Netherlands on the following order of Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff:

"1. With date of 15 Nov. Commander in Chief, West will be supplied with Army Group H (former Army Headquarters 16) with signal regiment and supply troops inclusively.

2. Regulations of organization for regrouping the Army Headquarters 16 into Army Group will be issued by General Staff of the Army, Organization Department.

3. Appointment of personnel - Commander in Chief:  
Colonel General Student.

4. Commission: By Commander in Chief, West Army Group H is to be installed for command of Army Headquarters 15, Parachute Army Headquarters 1 and Commanding General, Armed Forces Netherlands."

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IV. Concerning Southeast Area:

On 31 Oct. the following report is submitted on the operation of the currier echelon belonging to High Command, Navy in Southeast Area:

Up to now the employment of four Ju "52" planes was completely successful and satisfactory. The planes were in continued operation. At this time one Ju "52" plane has to stay in Steinamanger because it cannot take off. After accomplishing the evacuation from Salonica operation from Skolpje and Pristina to Vukovar on the Drau was ordered. Allocation of a Ju plane not used in the area of German Naval Command Italy is planned. Summary of performances in transportation will be laid down after bill of lading has come in. In case of bad weather conditions employment will last on still more eight or ten days presumably.

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V. Instructions of supreme staff headquarters of the Navy by Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff from judgment of the enemy by General Staff of the Army Foreign Armies West and Air force Operations Staff from 26 Oct. and from judgment on the situation of Air Force Operations Staff, Foreign Affairs Section, Foreign Air Forces West from 30 Oct. are to be found in l/Skl 32256/44 Gkdos. or l/Skl 32613/44. in War Diary Part D Volume 8a.

Reference: to increase of enemy supply traffic to Marseille and to further increase of enemy aerial warfare against Reich territory.

Among others Naval Intelligence Division submits the following in its brief reports on the enemy situation from 28 Oct.:

Extracts taken from speeches of Churchill and Alexander delivered on 29 Sept. or 7 and 21 Oct. 1944:

Reports of the Allied Headquarters Southeast Asia on attacks in Nicobar area, and common declaration of Roosevelt and Churchill on submarine warfare in Sept. 1944, laid down as per l/Skl 39472/44 geh. in War Diary Part D Volume 8a.

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Situation 31 Oct. 1944:

I. Area of Naval Command East:

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1. Admiral, Eastern part of the Baltic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

According to Radio Monitoring a Russian vessel was sailing in 3° off Pillau at 0853, a Russian minesweeper in 7° off Pillau at 1447 and 18.5° off Stolpmuende.

Own Situation:

No new reports were submitted on Sworbe Peninsula. Supply traffic to this place developed as scheduled.

On 30 Oct. at 2106 minesweeper M "328" sighted a submarine in AO 9321. This was the same area where torpedo tracks were sighted in 29 Oct.

In the air raid on Liepaja harbor and roads which was executed by 120 planes in the afternoon of 30 Oct. with bombs, torpedoes and gunfire fires arose on the steamer AUGUST (900 BRT) and steamer BUKAREST (4,475 BRT) which could be extinguished. Further ships suffered minor damage. Nineteen attacking planes were shot down thereof three by anti aircraft artillery.

At 1300 on 31 Oct. five PT boats are employed from Windau with mining task off Nargoen-Kopli, four PT boats with free torpedo chase in the area of Hangoe.

Convoys and troop transportation according to plan.

Army Group North was supplied with 420 tons of ammunition, 25 t of different equipment and four guns to Liepaja.

2. Central and Western part of Baltic Sea:

In AO 9548 transport BREMERHAVEN burned out entirely. At 0730 on 31 Oct. the ship sunk in AO 9466. Out of 3,100 men approximately 2,800 were rescued. Three hundred and seventy are still missing.

At 0815 Russian Mosquito planes attacked the steamer KUERASSIER belonging to 23rd Submarine Flotilla with bombs, gunfire and torpedoes northwest of Bruesterort, but did not succeed.

Twenty-eight boats and two mine exploding vessels were engaged in minesweeping duties. Sucking dredger LIEBAU 1 struck a mine north of Pillau and was damaged then towed in. Also in Kiel-Canal escort duties carried on without incidents.

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3. Admiral Skagerrak:

Fourteen boats were engaged in minesweeping. One mine was swept off Anholt.

In the morning of 30 Oct. minesweeper M "548" sunk in Aalborg Bay after striking a mine, casualties. South of Frederikshavn 200 coastal mines A were laid in double line.

After executing 7th transport with 269th Infantry Division, destroyer GALSTER entered Frederikshavn.

Destroyers BEITZEN and IHN are leading a return convoy to Oslofiord.

II. Area of Naval Command Norway:

1. Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

2. Own Situation:

Area of Admiral Arctic Coast:

On 30 Oct. ten submarine oscillating contact mines were cut in the inlet of Stjern Sound. On board of naval landing craft "295" carrying the rest crew of large minesweeper "26" a detonation occurred in the harbor inlet of Hammerfest, presumably by bazooka. Four men dead, 16 seriously wounded.

On 31 Oct. Vardoe has been destroyed and evacuated, harbor blasted and alarm barrage was laid out.

Defence of Varangerfiord has been accomplished by 1st Coastal Protection Unit. The unit took over for defence of Laksefiord.

In the outlet of Laksefiord two submarine chasers were attacked by submarine without result.

At 1400 destroyers Z "34" and Z "33" left Tana for operation and returned at 2030.

On 1 Nov. Admiral Arctic Coast transfers to the area of Alta with his staff, headquarters at Finsnes.

Command of battleship TIRPITZ submitted additional reports on damage. Copy as per 1/Skl 32699/44 Gkdos. in War Diary Part C Volume IIa.

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There is desired:

- a. Sealing of rudder compartment producing safety in operation for starboard rudder.
- b. Installation of required reinforcements port aft upon facts to be revealed later.

Presumably repairs to strengthen foreship will be concluded approximately on 5 Nov. Assumption for the repairs to be continued will be quick supply with working material which after ceasing of supplies and by reason of additional repairs which became necessary since 15 Sept. are nearly exhausted.

Area of Admiral North Norwegian Coast:

At 1409 a patrol boat reports submarine alarm in AF 3675. At 1000 blocking of Bodoe/Soerfolla has been released.

Area of Admiral Oslofiord:

Up to now nine mines were swept in Oslo harbor. Besides six mines were discovered at shore near Drammen equipped with timing sets for 14 or 43 days resp.

Thirty-one northbound and 21 southbound ships has been escorted.

III. Area of Naval Command North:

1. Heligoland Bight:

In the evening of 30 Oct. sectional anti aircraft detachments fought returning planes from Berlin.

2. Holland Area:

Situation at sea without particular incidents.

During the night of 1 Nov. convoy "1311" Hook van Holland-Helder is planned with strong escort.

27th Minesweeping Flotilla operates in channel sweeping and mine-sweeping.

In the afternoon battery Zouteland was attacked by enemy planes



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without result. The batteries Dishoek and stronghold Flushing fired a sudden concentration at 1825 on South Schelde. In the evening the batteries Dishoek and Zouteland maintained harrasing fire on shore targets with 20 rounds each. Repeatedly the batteries were raided by fighterbombers. From time to time battery Zouteland was under enemy fire.

In the morning anti aircraft battery Flushing had two guns ready for action, two more in restricted readiness only.

At 0700 the 70th Infantry Division crossed the narrows at Arnemuiden with the last soldier in direction to Walcheren. The dike has been blasted. After strong artillery fire the enemy advanced to the western banks of Uitwatering Canal in strength of one platoon.

Employing its 15 cm guns in direct firing the stronghold of Naval Artillery Detachment 203 repelled enemy attacks. The batteries Zouteland and Dishoek supported this fighting by firing at shore targets. At 1800 strength of Naval Artillery Detachment amounted to six officers and 86 men. All the guns are disabled. Supply or evacuation of soldiers is no more possible because the base can no more be reached by sea.

From 1900 on 29 Oct. power plant Flushing is not ready for service. Now the isle depends upon self supply of power and auxiliary lighting. After installation of all the charges blasting of shipyard, already ordered was revoked.

Up to 31 Oct. in the morning the special operations Staff Becker ferried the following troops:

Across the Waal River from south to north 1135 soldiers, one tank, two treckers, 45 lorries, 50 motor cars, 154 horse teams, 326 horses, from north to south 1362 soldiers, 42 lorries, 31 motor cars, 184 horse teams, 144 horses, 184 bicycles, across the Maas River from south to north 417 soldiers, 3 lorries, 7 motor cars, 3 guns, 42 horse teams and 53 horses.

215th Small Battle Weapons Flotilla plans operation against the western area of Wester Schelde during the night of 1 Nov. then withdrawal of Flotilla materiel on barges and withdrawal of remaining personnel.

212th Small Battle Weapons Flotilla completely arrived at Groningen. From 261st Small Battle Weapons Flotilla the first echelon arrived at Groningen. Position of second echelon Zwolle.

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IV. Area of Naval Command West:

1. Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

2. Own Situation:

Local fighting was reported from the surrounded fortresses.

In the area of St. Nazaire harbor defence boats fired at enemy positions east of Cordemais with good results. The enemy responded the fire without results.

In the evening of 30 Oct. anti aircraft artillery on Jersey shot down a enemy transport plane proceeding from Paris to Cherbourg. Another American plane was shot down by naval anti aircraft artillery St. Nazaire.

Naval Command West informed the Commanding General, Channel Islands that up to now the British Government refused to supply the civil population with provisions. Naval Command West sets the goal to catch the connection with the next harvest by severe control of food for the troops and civil population in order to ascertain the isles ability to carry on until the end of 1945. Again Naval Command West requested at high authorities for full right to have recourse to grains, potatoes and live stock. According to orders from Armed Forces High Command no objections are to be made against the taking of provisions from stocks of the country in so far as this could be done without particular hardships for the population.

To fortress Commander Lorient, Commander in Chief West expressed his thanks and acknowledgments to all involved for a shock troops operation well prepared and boldly carried out to enlarge the north-east forefield.

V. Area of German Naval Command Italy:

1. Enemy Situation:

No new reports submitted from Gibraltar area. According to report of Naval Attache Lisbon 76 US-ships loaded with war materiel bound for central Mediterranean and 15,000 men bound for Italy were lying in Casablanca on 5 Oct. On 11 Oct. four US-transports put in with coloured troops bound for Italy and Jugoslavia.

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Allied convoys bound for the Indian Ocean are to be expected. From 7 - 9 Oct. in total 400 US bombers took off in Casablanca, Italy bound.

On 12 Oct. 18 British ships with war materiel for Mediterranean ports were in Gibraltar. On 6 Oct. a convoy consisting of more than 60 US merchantmen passed Gibraltar with 50,000 men and a big cargo of rocket weapons.

The Attache reports further that all troops being available in Great Britain were transferred to France. In Bristol a US convoy of 100 merchantmen with approximately 100,000 men mostly negroes is said to have arrived on 7 Oct. furthermore 50 transports with tanks for France on 11 Oct.

2. Own Situation:

At noon of 30 Oct. Cape Mortola and the Hinterland of Ventimiglia in the afternoon Ventimiglia and Hinterland was shelled by cruisers and destroyers.

Owing to machine gunning by a plane, a lighter sunk in Po di Goro on 29 Oct.

During the night of 31 Oct. convoy and patrol duties were carried out as planned.

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VI. Area Naval Group South:

1. Adriatic Sea:

Two enemy PT boats were fired on by naval artillery detachment twelve miles west of Lussin. The boats shoved off.

In the morning of 30 Oct. a torpedo boat, two submarine chasers and war transport "6" arrived at Fiume with the rest of personnel of Naval Port Commander Zara with arms and equipment. After having been blasted Zara was evacuated.

Torpedo boat "20", submarine chaser "202" and "208" left Fiume in the evening of 31 Oct. for PT boat chasing and bombardment of the isles of Silba and Olib southeast of Lussin. A convoy consisting of four naval landing craft and ten combined-operations-boats with troops from Zara on board entered Sibenik. The convoy was escorted by four PT boats.

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No reports were submitted from hospital ships FREIBURG and TUEBINGEN. According to report from Naval Port Commander Rhodes hospital ship GRADISCA was sighted at 0200 in the area of Calchi-Scarpanto isles heading southeast, presumably on course to Alexandria.

Via Naval Liaison Army Group E communicated its thanks to the Navy for the excellent performances done by hospital ship TUEBINGEN and GRADISCA which at difficult conditions of withdrawal from the Aegean coast relieved Army Group E from taking care of 3,500 wounded to be brought to the rear.

2. Aegean Sea:

Fighting activities are going on on Milos. Our own 8.8 cm and 15 cm batteries as well as the northern part of the cutting off position was fired on by enemy ship guns and planes without causing much damage and casualties. One destroyer was forced to shove off due to our own fire. One of our own 15 cm batteries shot harrassing fire on Baryt Bay and narrows.

Naval Battalion 609 arrived at Kraljevo.

3. Danube Situation:

Nothing to report.

Summary on the situation of Inspectorate of Minesweeping Duties Danube from 31 Oct. see Radiogram 2140.

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VII. Submarine Warfare:

In Northern Waters submarine U "310" reported two destroyers at 1836 heading northeast and submarine U "968" three PT boats at 2140 in AC 8462.

Owing to busy wireless traffic Commander, Submarines Northern Waters estimates a soon starting of QP-convoys.

In the Gulf of Finland submarine U "475" sunk a small destroyer of 150-200 ts north of Odensholm. Then the boat got 12 depth charges.

Otherwise nothing to report.

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VIII. Aerial Warfare:

West Area:

In Dutch battle area medium strong enemy fighterbomber and reconnaissance activity was reported.

Reich Territory:

In the afternoon 150 British bombers with fighter escort penetrated in two groups and raided Botrop in joint attack.

Around noon 20 Mosquito planes attacked Aarhus. Houses were damaged in the section of the university.

Besides this, in the course of the day, continuous penetrations of small planes and minor fighterbomber formations up to the line Bremen, Giessen, Wuerzburg, Colmar were attacked, in the area inflected the planes attacked.

During the night of 1 Nov. approximately 50 Mosquito planes carried out raids in the area of Colgne. Then several hundred of four-engined bombers made a large scale attack on Colgne while 20 Mosquito planes executed harrasing activities in the area Liege - Koblenz.

Between 1900 and 2200 two raids of Mosquito planes was carried out on Hamburg.

Besides this approximately 100 single flying planes carried out gunfire raids in Reich territory up to the line Hildesheim - Kassel - Munich- Lake of Conzanz with focal point of attack at Scheinfurt, Saarbruecken, Wuerzburg and in the area of Augsburg.

Mediterranean Theater:

No operational reports worth to be mentioned were submitted.

East Area:

On 30 Oct. the following operations were reported on the Eastern front: 289 of our own, 2,160 enemy operations, four planes lost and nine planes shot down, during the night of 31 Oct. there were 54 of our own and 30 enemy operations.

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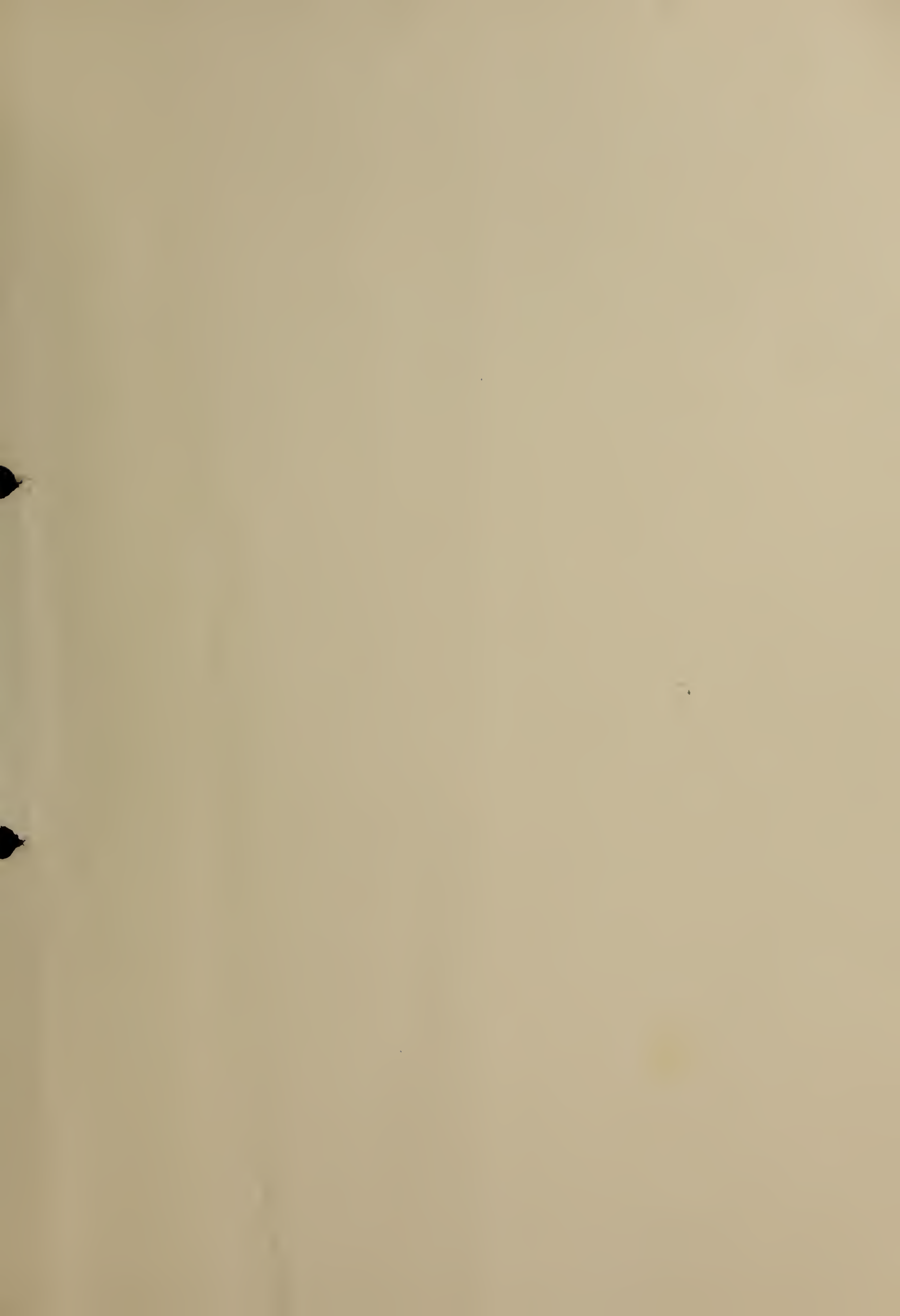
IX. Situation Eastern Asia:

Nothing to report.

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