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RESTRECTOR TRANSLATION NO. VII/84

AIR HISTORICAL BRANCH

Provene

RESTRICTED

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS

IN NORTH-WEST EUROPE.

JULY 1944

From a German Air Historical Branch (8th Abteilung) document based on Luftflotte 3 records.

RESTRICTED

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

24TH FEBRUARY, 1949

Summary of enemy operations in July 1944

Enemy air operations during the month of July remained on the same scale as previously, sorties only rising above the 5000 mark on the 6th, 8th, 12th, 18th and 25th July. R.A.F. units played a larger part as compared with the preceding month. In the attack on Caen on the 8th July, R.A.F. long-range bomber formations flying at low altitudes were used for the first time in support of the ground forces, holding down our own anti-aircraft defences with rocket bombs. Movement of supplies to the Normandy front was continued on a very large scale. For want of suitable unloading places the enemy was still compelled to disembark supply transport in the sea area off the beachheads and alongside temporary jetties, bringing equipment to land in small vehicles and lighters. Unloading places and temporary harbours are already in being off Courseulles-sur-Mer, Asnelles-sur-Mer, Vierville-sur-Mer, St. Laurent-sur-Mer and west of the mouth of the river Vire. Even at the end of July large ships were still only reported in isolated cases. According to wireless intelligence the daily supply traffic amounts to at least 9 convoys. Our own mining operations from the air during the month of July in the Seine bay were regularly spotted by the enemy. The lively minesweeping activity observed since the beginning of the invasion continued, many minesweepers being employed. Our own continual mining operations compelled the enemy formations to make repeated sweeps in lanes already cleared Further progress was made in building up the ground organisation in area. Already on the 10th July the following airfields of the allies and buoyed. the landing area. Already on the 10th July the following airfields of the were identified: Carpiquet, Martragny (completed), Plumetot, Bény-sur-Mer, Le Fresne, Creully, Crepon, Sommervieu (nearly completed); landing grounds near Asnelles-sur-Mer, Ouistreham and Brouay; airfields under construction near Ver-sur-Mer, Rots, St. Croix; recognised airfield installations near Bernières-sur-Mer, St. Honorine la Charconnerette, Sully, Arganchy, Ellon, Condé-sur-Seulles, Trévières, St. Laurent, Dreux, Jumeaux, St. Pierre du Mont, Criqueville, Cardonville, Montmartin en Graignes, St. Pellerin, Brévands, Vierville, Beuzeville au Plain, Emondeville, Picauville, Amfréville, Flottemanville.

The whole of the 83rd Fighter Group is believed to have been already brought forward; bringing forward of formations of the 85th Fighter Group could not be established yet. Of the 9th U.S. Fighter Command, Groups 48, 365, 366, 368, 371, 505, 354 and 363 have so far been brought forward. Night fighter operations over the landing area were flown by squadrons from Hunsdon, Maidstone, Ford and Hurn, and against V1 installations from Bradwell, Maidstone and Ford. So far no bringing forward of night fighter formations has been established.

1st July

In the night of 30th June / 1st July, with the exception of intruder activity, the only attack reported was that of about 130 four-engined aircraft which made an attack on the goods station and town of Vierzon. Owing to weather conditions, only a few sorties were made over the coast during the morning of the 1st July. From midday onwards airfields and railway installations were attacked by about 400 aircraft. About 1000 aircraft flew on fighter and fighter-bomber operations.

2nd July

During the night only single sorties over the coast were observed, presumably supplying the partisans. During the daytime enemy activity was still curtailed by the weather conditions. Shortly after midday about 650 aircraft flew in to bomb the V1 launching sites. The villages of Rinoq, St. Martin, Domleger and Gauchin were attacked. Altogether 1650 fighters and fighter-bombers were sent in, concentrating on the battle area east of Caen and on close range attack against bridges over the Orne south of Caen and against assembly areas around St. L3.

/3rd July

3rd July

Weather conditions again severely hampered operations. During the night only single sorties over the coast were notified (about 50). In the course of the day single sorties by about 200 fighters and during the evening by about 50 reconnaissance aircraft, some of which dropped bombs, were reported in the district near the coast.

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4th July

In the night of 3rd/4th July, as well as lively night fighter activity over the landing area and the Seine bay, about 70 aircraft flew in dropping bombs on railway installations and supplies for the partisans. The daylight attacks by about 850 aircraft were directed mainly against Luftwaffe stations and railway installations as well as individual targets. Altogether 2800 fighters and fighter-bombers flew in as escort, or making bombing and gunning attacks. Reconnaissance aircraft flew over the forward battle area and over the area Deauville - Mézidon - Argentan - Vire - La Haye du Puits.

5th July

During the night about 600 four-engined aircraft made attacks to good effect on railway installations in the Paris area and southwards as far as the Loire. In addition about 70 aircraft made nuisance attacks and about 30 aircraft flew supplies to the partisans. During the morning about 180 aircraft made attacks on the Luftwaffe stations at Eindhoven, Gilze-Rijen, Volkel, Le Culot and Melsbroeck. About 120 aircraft bombed munitions dumps in the Creil area, and attacked Berthem and individual targets. About 500 aircraft flew into southern France from Italy dropping bombs on Toulon, Sète, Agde, Bézières and Montpellier. Some 250 Marauders made attacks on Emerous individual targets in the battle area. Altogether 3150 fighters were reported making reconnaissance flights and gunning attacks on airfields and individual targets.

6th July

Intruder activity in the Paris area was reported during the night, and bombs were dropped on the airfields at Coulommiers and Villaroche. In addition to this, about 500 four-engined aircraft bombed V1 launching sites in the night, and about 100 four-engined aircraft dropped bombs on the town and railway station at Dijon. Supplies were also dropped to partisans in Brittany and Belgium. In the forenoon some 1250 bombers again attacked V1 launching installations and the towns Lille and Armentieres, the airfields at Moorseele and Vitry-en-Artois, railway installations at Maintenon and the A.A. Artillery School at Chartres. Besides this about 1000 aircraft attacked railway installations near Chartres, Vierzon, Dreux, as well as Chartres airfield, the town of Gien, and the lock at Poses, as well as bridges and individual targets. A total of some 3300 fighters flew sorties as escorts, on reconnaissance and close combat operations during the whole of the day.

7th July

In addition to brisk night fighter activity, about 60 sorties were made over the coast to supply the partisans. After the increased operations on both the preceding days, activity decreased again owing to weather conditions in the invasion area. In addition to about 1450 fighters and fighterbombers which concentrated on the beachhead and south and south-west of Caen, about 650 bombers dropped bombs on the beachhead in the evening hours.

<u>/8th July</u>

8th July

During the night of 7th/8th July enemy sorties again increased. About 600 four-engined aircraft bombed railway installations, V1 launching sites, Venlo airfield, and individual targets. Besides which partisan supplies and night Fighter patrols were flown. In the morning about 1650 aircraft flew in to bomb the V1 launching sites, bridges and railway installations. Attacks were made on the railway near Vlakke, Etaples, Rouen-Le Havre, the town of Berthem as well as on the airfields at Poix, Conches, Laval, St. Andre and Marcilly. At midday and in the evening bombs were also reported to have been dropped by about 225 aircraft in the Nantes, Rennes and Châteaubriant area. In the course of the day about 3600 fighters and fighter-bombers carried out air cover and attacks on individual targets. Close reconnaissance made its main effort in the Caen area.

9th July

Apart from single sorties along the coast and fighter-bomber attacks in the Netherlands area about 100 aircraft were identified supplying the partisans. In the daytime enemy reconnaissance was concentrated on the Caen area and west of the Vire, whilst enemy fighter and fighter-bomber activities (about 1900 aircraft) were mainly in the Carentan-Périers-Lessay area. In the morning about 500 and at midday about 800 bombers flew in to bomb the V1 launching sites in the area Auxi le Château - St. Pol. - Cassel, as well as dropping bombs in the mouth of the Somme - Paris - Orléans - Caen area. The railway at Gien, Rennes, Orléans-La-Ferte, Linzeux and Sibiville and the Châteaudun airfield were attacked.

10th July

Activities during the night of 9th/10th July consisted of only single sorties over the coast, a little bombing and some supplying of the partisans. Enemy bombing operations in the daytime were very much restricted by the weather conditions. In the early morning hours about 150 bombers penetrated the area. between the Somme and Seine estuaries. The "Nordpol" (V1) installations and the railway between St. Pol and Frevent were damaged. Activities of fighters and fighter-bombers (about 650 aircraft) were mainly over the area to the south and south-west of Caen.

11th July

During the night only isolated coastal and intruder activity was reported. A few bombs were dropped without doing any special damage. During the midday period on 11th July attacks were made on V1 installations and on Toulon; towards the evening a further attack was made on V1 installations and also on the area behind the front line. In addition to the daily reconnaissance, about 1750 fighters and fighter-bombers made bombing and gunning attacks on bridges, railway installations, on Bricy airfield and on individual targets.

12th July

In the night the enemy made isolated coastal and partisan-supplying sorties, dropping bombs on Capennes. In the morning about 550 bombers operated between the mouths of the Somme and Seine, and bombs were also dropped on Nantes railway station, and on bridges in the Tours area and on individual targets; in addition about 500 four-engined aircraft came in from the south, dropping bombs on bridges and railway installations near Nice, Miramas, Nimes and Arles, and on the Luftwaffe station at Nimes. In the afternoon about 100 aircraft attacked V1 installations, Sézanne railway station, Nantes-Tollen, and the A.A. Artillery School at Chartres; in the evening some 400 aircraft attacked the railway station at Vaires, the "Leopold" depot and individual targets, while about 200 aircraft attacked the Luftwaffe stations at St. Trond, Beaumont, Nantes and Chateaudun. Enemy reconnaissance was directed against railway objectives and

/road

road traffic as far as a line Arras-Amiens-Cambrai-Aumale-Rouen-Evreux-Chartres-Chateaudun-Le Mans. During the morning and afternoon strong fighter and fighter-bomber formations (about 2400) were reported in the area of north and west France, and they made bombing and gunning attacks, especially in the landing area. In the afternoon unloading on a considerable scale off Bernières-sur-Mer was verified.

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13th July

About 25 enemy fighters and 700 bombers were observed during the night. Railway installations at Tours, Chalindrey, Athies and St. Pierre des Corps as well as an A.A. position and shipyard at Le Trait were attacked. Owing to weather conditions there were no bomber operations during the day. About 1200 fighters and fighter-bombers operated on patrols, shot down V1's and attacked individual targets.

14th July

Night fighter patrols and partisan-supplying sorties were flown by about 40 aircraft. During the day some 1000 bombers and 2500 fighters were on operations. In the area to the east of Valence over one hundred supply containers were dropped for the partisans. The airfield at Mons en Chaussee was severely damaged, and damage was done to an ammunition train near Nogental, to the Chateau-Thierry station and to a naval position near Cap d'Antifer. The fighter formations flew cover patrols, as well as making gunning attacks on individual targets and in support of the army.

15th July

Enemy night fighters of the 11th Fighter Group, Mosquitoes of the 100th Group, some fighter-bombers and reconnaissance aircraft were operating against shipping targets off Ostend, as well as about 800 bombers which made attacks on the V1 launching sites, Luftwaffe stations at Chièvres and Villaroche, railway installations at Chalons-sur-Marne and between Villeneuve and Triage, the village of Vallentin and the military camp at Bonneuil Matours. Enemy bomber operations during the daytime were only on a small scale owing to the weather. In the afternoon about 70 British four-engined bombers with fighter cover flew in and dropped bombs on the "Nordpol" installation and on Ableiges near Cormeilles airfield. Not until the late evening was a larger bomber formation (350) reported, making attacks on Rouen, Evreux airfield, A.A. positions near Dreux and on individual targets. About 2100 fighters and fighter-bombers were operating as escorts, on reconnaissance against railway traffic and airfields as well as in support of the army.

16th July

In addition to isolated night fighter, reconnaissance and armed reconnaissance operations against German shipping targets, about 500 bombers were reported during the night of 15th/16th July. Attacks were made on the Cormeilles airfield, V1 launching sites, railway installations at Châlonssur-Marne and Nevers, as well as on individual targets in the area round Lisieux, St. André, Vernon, Mantes and Rouen. During the day fighter and fighter-bomber sorties (1650 aircraft) only increased with the improvement in the weather in the late afternoon. In the morning about 170 twin-engined bombers made bombing raids on targets in the rear of the battle area, and in the afternoon about 100 four-engined aircraft attacked the V1 installations. Towards evening about 200 aircraft made attacks on targets behind the front. The Artillery School at Ohartres, the transformer station at Luisant, the Chartres-Illiers road and individual targets were attacked.

/17th July

17th July

During the night only a few patrols and aircraft dropping supplies for the partisans were reported. As a result of the improvement in the weather enemy activity increased in the daytime. About 750 bombers with a strong fighter escort flew in to bomb the V1 launching sites. The airfield at St. Dizier, railway installations at Belfort, the signals installation "Richard" and numerous individual targets were damaged. During the midday period of about 180 aircraft were reported making attacks on the railway to the west of Vitry, a port installation at Ijmuiden, on the troop training ground at Maily le Camp, and on targets in the St. Omer area, while about 200 bombers attacked railway installations at Avignon, Arles and Tarascon. Towards evening V1 installations in the Hesdin and Abbéville area were carpet-bombed by about 450 aircraft. Daylight sorties by enemy fighters and fighter-bombers on cover patrols and attacks on targets in the battle area amounted to about 2800.

18th July

In the night of 17th/18th July patrols and single coastal sorties with bomb attacks on the Luftwaffe station at Coulommiers and on A.A. positions along the Seine were reported, as well as supply runs for the partisans and an operation against German shipping targets in the Ostend-Calais sea area. From the early hours strong bomber (about 2000) and fighter (3400) formations supported the enemy offensive in the Caen district. Fighter and fighter-bomber ground attacks, concentrated in the area to the east of the Caen - Mézidon - Falaise line, near St. Lo, south-east of Périers and on the Châteaudun - Le Mans - Laval line, were directed against tanks, vehicles, bridges, supply dumps, troops, anti-aircraft positions and field ammunition dumps as well as against railway installations and the Luftwaffe stations at Coulommiers, Châteaudun and Marcilly. Bombers attacked the Coulommiers airfield, Vaires railway station, and railway installations in the Conflans and Rouen area.

19th July

In addition to partisan supply runs, night fighter patrols and attacks on shipping in the Ostend-Dieppe sea area, strong bomber formations with fighter escort attacked the V1 launching sites, railway installations and the Luftwaffe stations at Florennes and Juvincourt. As a result of the bad weather there was only slight activity in the invasion area. Not until the afternoon did about 100 bombers make attacks on the V1 launching sites and on the vehicle repair depot at Orleans. In the evening about 100 aircraft attacked the Creil area and some 200 bombers dropped bombs in Brittany. Damage was done to the Rennes airfield, railway installations at Mantes and the town of Nantes. From midday until the twilight hours fighter formations carried out lively patrol and fighterbomber activity in the battle area and over areas behind the line.

20th July

During the night a few enemy aircraft made supply runs for the partisans, minelaying sorties, night fighter patrols and some nuisance raids, dropping a few bombs on the Luftwaffe station at Le Culot, and in the Cosne area and to the north of Rouen. Owing to weather conditions, enemy activity during the day was only on a small scale. Railway installations at Chaulnes were attacked by some 110 aircraft in the Chartres area. 180 aircraft with fighter escort which flew over the rear areas during the afternoon made attacks on individual targets, and about 300 aircraft bombed V1 installations. Close support activity was very small. Some 1500 fighters and fighter-bombers thrusting forward into the battle area as far as Bourges - Nevers - Angers, successfully attacked the waterworks at Orléans.

21st July

A night attack by about 350 bombers on the area Scheldt Estuary - Mons -St. Omer and Dieppe resulted in no serious damage. In addition partisan supply runs, night fighter patrols and reconnaissance operations were observed. Owing to a further deterioration in the weather and a trough of low pressure over Normandy the enemy only put some 50 fighters and fighterbombers into operation during the day.

22nd July

In addition to night fighter patrols, partisan supply runs and slight nuisance activity when bombs were dropped in the Etampes and Orleans areas were reported. During the day little activity until the afternoon and evening, when some 350 bombers with fighter escort attacked the V1 launching sites in the Hesdin-Abbéville area and rear battle areas as far as the Loire. Altogether about 600 fighters were reported.

23rd July

A few aircraft flew night patrols, partisan supply runs and an operation against German shipping targets in the Ostend sea area, as well as some nuisance activity when bombs were dropped in the area south-west of Paris (Etampes, Orleans). During the morning some 100 bombers with fighter cover bombed the V1 launching sites in the Neufchatel-Dieppe area. During the evening, some 400 bombers with fighter escort severely damaged airfields at Couvron, Juvincourt, Athies and Creil. A total of 1350 fighters and fighter-bombers were operating during the daytime as escorts and on some larger sweeps in Brittany and the rear areas, making bomb and gunning attacks on individual targets. These damaged the airfields at Laval, Nantes, Villacoubley and Connantre and severed the Evreux-Conches railway line.

24th July

About 60 night fighters flew on patrols and on defence against V1's, and also a few aircraft supplying the partisans and attacking German shipping targets in the Ostend-Fécamp sea area. 150 aircraft dropped bombs in the area Aumale-Neufchätel-south-east Lé Treport, about 50 aircraft in the area from Paris as far as the Loire and several 100 aircraft over Brittany and as far as the Bordeaux area, and caused only slight damage. In the morning V1 installations were attacked by about 100 bombers. At midday about 250 fourengined aircraft with fighter escort flew in from the Italian area and made attacks mainly on the Luftwaffe stations at Valence, St. Martin and Nantes. Of the 1400 bombers which flew in during the afternoon, about 500 attacked artillery positions and the main battle line west of St. Lô, while about 280 twin-engined aircraft made attacks on targets in the rear of the front during the evening. Some 2200 fighters took part in escort duties and fighter and fighter-bomber sweeps during the course of the day.

25th July

40 night fighters, 1 squadron supplying the partisans, and 16 aircraft attacking German shipping targets off Dunkirk and Calais were identified. In addition some 400 bombers were reported as attacking the V1 launching sites and the Valence airfield during the night. As a result of favourable weather conditions, enemy operations increased sharply on 25th July. During the morning about 2000 bombers made attacks in the invasion area on the main battle line and artillery positions to the west of St. Lô, as well as attacking the V1 launching sites. In the afternoon some 450 bombers were reported as making attacks on railway installations at Chartres and Maintenon and on the airfield at St. Cyr. The strong force of about 4000 fighters and

/fighter-bombers

fighter-bombers in support of the army offensive was directed in the Caen and St. Lo.areas against tanks, artillery, A.A. positions, troop movements, bridges, supply depots, and the Luftwaffe stations at Grevillers and Poix-Nord, as well as against numerous individual targets.

26th July

During the night the enemy flew supply runs, nuisance raids and night fighter patrols. As well as these, about 200 bombers were reported, a few bombs being dropped on the V1 launching sites and on the Luftwaffe station at Coulommiers. Owing to bad take-off conditions there were no sorties by fourengined aircraft during the day. Some 600 twin-engined bombers operated against railway installations and movements of supplies. Altogether 3100 fighters and fighter-bombers took part in escort duties, an attack on the Luftwaffe station at Valence, and in considerable fighter and fighter-bomber sweeps in the invasion area.

27th July

In addition to patrols, night fighter operations, supply runs for the partisans and minelaying operations in the Heligoland Bight, about 300 bombers were reported, a few bombs being dropped. During the morning some 250 bombers with fighter escort flew in the Scheldt Estuary - Liege - St. Omer area, making attacks on the Bruxelles-Malines railway, the signals equipment office at Vilvorde as well as on V1 installations. In the evening hours some 80 bombers attacked V1 launching sites in the Amiens - Aumale area. In the course of the day some 2000 fighters were observed on escort duties, close reconnaissance and attacks on airfields (Cormeilles, Dreux, Alencon and Romilly), railway installations (Wambaix and Marcilly) and individual targets in the St. Lô and Caen battle area.

28th July

About 100 aircraft were in operation supplying the partisans, bombing by single aircraft (Etampes railway station and A.A. positions) and attacking German shipping targets in the sea area off Dunkirk and Dieppe. During the morning some 200 bombers with fighter escort were reported, but no bombs were dropped. About 350 bombers attacked V1 launching sites. 400 twin-engined bombers attacked individual targets in the battle area and in rear areas. Some 2000 fighters were reported on armed reconnaissance, fighter escort and cover, as well as on fighter-bomber and rocket-firing operations.

29th July

150 aircraft supplying the partisans, single night fighters, with a few single bombs dropped on the V1 launching sites, were reported. Some 150 bombers with fighter protection in the area Scheldt Estuary - Paris - Seine Estuary severely damaged the Luftwaffe station at Juvincourt and caused minor damage to the airfield and town of Couvron. In the evening the V1 installations were again attacked by 100 four-engined aircraft with fighter escort. Enemy fighter and fighter-bomber activity was slight during the morning and only increased with the improvement in the weather in the afternoon. In the course of the day some 1500 fighters were employed in attacks on observer posts, guns and movements on the roads, as well as on considerable fighter and fighter-bomber sweeps as far as north of Paris and in the Seine-Loire-west Brittany area, and on escort duties.

30th July

During the night of 29th-30th July no enemy operations were reported other than 20 aircraft on supply runs to the partisans and on intruder raids, 20 Mosquitoes in an attack on the Luftwaffe station at St. Trond, and 15 aircraft

/attacking

attacking shipping targets. During the morning about 950 bombers escorted by fighters flew in to support the British 2nd Army in the Caumont battle area. Attacks by about 200 bombers in the afternoon were directed against rear areas as far as Le Mans - Dreux - Chartres. Towards evening 50 bombers and strong fighter formations carried out ground attacks in the Châteaudun area; in the course of these considerable damage was done to Villers-Cotterets, Vendome and Romilly railway stations, to the Angerville - Artenay road and to the Orleans-Bricy airfield. Fighter operations reported amounted to some 2500 sorties.

<u> 31st July</u>

Only night fighter activity, partisan supply runs and some bombing and gunning attacks on A.A. positions in the Seine valley were reported during the night of 30th/31st July. Creil and Athies airfields were damaged in a raid on the Paris area by about 100 bombers with fighter escort. Attacks by 300 bombers in the area Somme Estuary - west of Paris - Orléans - Tours -Le Havre were mainly directed against railway bridges. Towards evening about 350 bombers made attacks on a special Luftwaffe installation near Rheims, on railway installations near La Roche and on shipping targets off Le Havre, and a further 250 aircraft attacked bridges over the Seine, railway installations near Nantes, a bridge over the Loire, as well as other individual targets. The airfield at Plan de Dieu was slightly damaged by a gunning attack. Some 1650 fighters and fighter-bombers were employed in the course of the day on air cover, reconnaissance, support for the army, and attacks on supplies in the whole of the rear battle areas, as well as on ground attacks.

With the commencement of the invasion the French sabotage troops suddenly jumped into action and already by 7th June communications of the Luftwaffe signals troops had been everywhere interrupted, and since then sabotage activities increased considerably with the landing in strength of personnel to lead them and with the continual dropping of supplies. Sudden attacks by the terrorists acting in conjunction with uniformed parachute troops endangered escorted convoys. The French postal authorities gave daily information to the saboteurs by means of enemy telephone communications, and also made difficulties about repairing the German sections.

A total of about 96,850 enemy aircraft were notified as operating during the month of July. Of these, 471 were shot down by an aircraft, and 783 by flak; thus a total of 1254 were shot down.

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/After

After the Americans had taken Avranches in their first assault, the possibility of an airborne landing in Brittany merited attention.

The necessary dispositions of forces and shipping for a large-scale landing operation in the western Mediterranean can be considered as fulfilled, as can the strategic deployment of air forces necessary for such an operation.

Ground position, 1st to 31st July and 1st August, 1944

1st July

Morning: Enemy assault troops to the east of the Orne repulsed; landings near La Broche shelled by our own artillery.

To the west of the Orne enemy barrage on the Gavrus area; enemy counterattacks on the Grainville - Rauray line beaten off; enemy attacks from the Villiers-Fossard area in the direction of St. Lô led to an infiltration $1\frac{1}{2}$ km. deep on a 1 km. front, which was sealed off.

Fighting in and around Cherbourg ended.

Evening: During the midday period the enemy moved out from Baron in a south-westerly direction, and from the neighbourhood of Grainville-sur-Odon and Tessel-Bretteville with tanks towards the south-east for an attack; fighting still going on.

Enemy penetration north of St. Lô scaled off.

2nd July

<u>Morning</u>: Own attack pushed forward along both sides of the Caen - Villers Bocage road as far as Verson, Fontaine-Etoupefour being taken. Enemy tank attacks from Baron towards the south-west and from Grainville towards the southeast were repulsed. At the moment enemy attacks from Grainville towards the south-west still in progress. Our own attack on Rauray held up by enemy artillery fire after gaining about one kilometre. Enemy assaults west of St. Georges d'Elle and near Les Sablons were repulsed.

Evening: East of the Orne heavy enemy fire on the Merville-Franceville area. West of the Orne fighting on both sides has come to a standstill.

3rd July

<u>Morning</u>: In the area north-west of Esquay concentrated fire by enemy artillery. Our own ammunition position strained.

In the area from Caumont to the west coast of the Cotentin lively enemy artillery and mortar activity; enemy scouting raids replused with heavy losses.

Considerable noise of tanks and shooting from tank guns in the Villiers-Fossard area since 0300 hours.

In the Prétot area intensified enemy artillery and mortar fire on the main

/battle

battle line. In the same sector enemy tank and vehicle movements harassed by own artillery.

Evening: Enemy attacks north of Hottot repulsed. Enemy attacks near St. Jores, Pretot and St. Sauveur de Pierrepont broken up. South-west of Varenquebec and at St. Lô d'Ourville, local penetrations were successfully made, which were sealed off. Ste. Suzanne occupied by the enemy. Enemy attacking south-west from Limors wood penetrated as far as the Neufmesnil neighbourhood. In the St. Lô d'Ourville district an enemy penetration in the Denneville region intercepted.

(Own operation against guerillas 20 km. north-east of Châlons-sur-Marne and in the Clermont-Ferrand area in progress.)

<u>4th July</u>

Morning: Enemy artillery fire on the Esquay area and Hill 112; own artillery fire on the Baron area. Enemy thrust in the direction of Hottot; fighting still in progress.

Heavy enemy barrage on main battle line between Route Nationale 171 (Granville-Coutances-Périers-Carentan) and Prairies Marécageuses de Gorges. The village of Neufmesnil occupied by the enemy on 3rd July retaken by counter-attack.

It will be realised that further enemy thrusts from the Carentan area towards the south-west will lead to the cutting off of our own forces north of Lessay.

Evening: After heavy preliminary artillery bombardment the enemy commenced an attack on both sides of the Bayeux-Caen road during the morning of 4th July. At first repulsed; then tank thrust as far as Carpiquet; fighting in progress. North of Cambes and north-east of Rosel tanks being assembled. Enemy attack towards the south and from the Cairon region towards the south-east can be expected.

Own fire on Baron, Mouen and Mondrainville was answered by very heavy enemy artillery fire.

Enemy attacks on both sides of the Carentan-Périers road continued, fighting still in progress; local penetration sealed off.

Enemy penetration round Ste. Suzanne mopped up by counter-thrust. Counter-measures in progress against infiltrations near La Butte and south of La Poterie.

Enemy infiltration north-east of La Haye du Puits mopped up, own troops coming to a halt west of there, on a line Bolleville-Baudreville.

<u>5th July</u>

<u>Morning</u>: The attack on both sides of the Carpiquet-Bayeux road resulted in the taking of Carpiquet, after heavy tank attacks in the evening hours of 4th July; fighting still in progress for the airfield and eastern part of town.

Enemy attacks south-west of Carentan on the east of Route 171 led to a penetration south-west of Meautis.

Enemy attacks east of Prairies Marécageuses de Gorges from the Baupte area were carried forward, reaching Le Plessis. West of there the enemy advanced as far as La Poterie wood.

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Own troops on the Bolleville-Baudreville line have withdrawn about 1 km. to the south.

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Evening: On each side of Route 171 (from Carentan towards the south-west) the enemy has extended his penetration as far as the heights north of Culot.

East of La Haye du Puits the enemy succeeded in enlarging the breach after heavy fighting. La Poterie wood occupied by the enemy. La Haye du Puits and St. Symphorien, which had been lost, were retaken by a counter-thrust. Enemy attacks were effectively supported by heavy artillery fire and by fighter-bomber attacks.

Forward lines: Southern edge of La Poterie wood - St. Symphorien (in own hands) - Biemont - La Fairie - Bretteville-sur-Ay.

(Largo-scale operations against guerillas in the St. Claude area.)

6th July

<u>Morning</u>: Culot retaken by our counter-attack. Enemy penetration near La Rivagerie was contained on a line La Lague - Beau Coudray - La Rivagerie. Enemy in unknown strength from the north penetrated the forest of Mont Castre.

West of La Haye du Puits enemy supported by tanks attacking in strength, concentrating south-east of Glatigny.

Evening: Enemy entrenched in Carpiquet. Reconnaissance confirmed Verson and Fontaine-Etoupefour free of enemy. North of Hottot the enemy withdrew in places. Heavy enemy artillery fire on main battle line.

Infiltration by Beau Coudray was held up on the line Le Plessis -La Villette - Hill 41. Hill 122 on the northern edge of Mont Castre forest won back by our counter-attack. Growing gaps in the front in this area closed according to plan by the Panzer Division.

Enemy penetration east of Montgardon in the La Surellerie district sealed off, enemy tank attack near Le Moulin repulsed.

7th July

<u>Morning</u>: Forward line in the penetration area: southern edge of Cambes north-west edge of Buron - north-west edge of Gruchy, thence to the Oaen-Rots road north of Carpiquet - thence defence line towards the south, outpost at road junction on west edge of St. Germain la Blanche Herbe, picket at level crossing north-east of Carpiquet - centre of Jumeaux - north-west edge of Eterville -100' metres north-west of Château de Fontaine - crossroads north of Hill 112 north edge of Gavrus - south-west edge of Grainville-sur-Odon - north edge of Bordel.

Enemy attacks just west of Caumont and between Villiers-Fossard and La Meauffe repulsed.

South of Carentan front withdrawnas far as the line north of Goucherie, north edge of Le Mesnil Angot, north edge of St. Georges de Bohon. Fighting going on in the region south of Carentan as far as the west coast of the Cotentin peninsula. Main battle line in the Le Plessis area won back again.

Evening: Panzer Group West forced the enemy to make slight withdrawals in places. Verson and Longraye are clear of the enemy.

/Pont

North-west of St. Lô the enemy attack has spread as far as the Vire. West of Airel the enemy succeeded in extending his penetration and in taking Pont de St. Fromond, Point 46 (north of the Airel-Le Desert road), St. Fromond and Les Landes. At the same time the enemy has managed to establish a bridgehead over the river Vire. After an artillery bombardment the enemy advanced with tanks through Le Mesnil Véneron towards the south, as far as La Pature.

In the area of penetration north of Culot the enemy advancing south reached the northern outskirts of Sainteny and pushing west took Raffoville. Enemy penetration north of Sainteny has been scaled off. South of Meautis the enemy advancing towards the south-west has taken Les Ormeaux.

Enemy elements cut off south of Beau Coudray are being wiped out. Fighting in progress with enemy infiltration in the Mont Castre district. Hills 122 and 121 are in our hands.

8th July

Morning: Operations in strength by enemy units against Caen and the area to the rear and sustained barrage on the northern front and Caen bridgehead, spreading towards the south-west.

Hill 122 again occupied by the enemy. Enemy units in the south-east part of the forest of Mont Castre eliminated. West of this the enemy has taken La Haye du Puits and has managed to penetrate to the south-western outskirts of the town. La Haye du Puits sealed off on the west and south.

Attacks against position north of Biemont repulsed.

Evening: North-east, north and north-west of Caen the enemy commenced a converging attack on Caen. After taking Hérouville, enemy advancing towards the south-east. North of Caen near Lébisey enemy have penetrated and advanced as far as La Giraffe-Cabaret. Epron recaptured by counterattack.

Enemy thrusts towards Longraye repulsed. On each side of the Torteval-Caen road the enemy made two penetrations, one close to the road on the south side, the other north of the wood of St. Germain. Up to evening gaps sealed off.

Enemy succeeded in extending the bridgehead over the Vire as far as a line St. Fromond - La Perrine - Château le Mesnil - Thiebaud - southern edge of Graignes. Sealing off successful.

Enemy thrusts south and south-south-cast of Culot blocked on a line south of Le Mesnil - south of Culot - south of Neuville - south of Raffoville.

Fighting in the north-west part of the forest of Mont Castre. North-east part in our hands once more. Own attack to close the gaps west of the forest of Mont Castre commenced. In the evening La Haye du Puits again in our hands. Attacks south-west of La Haye du Puits repulsed, local infiltrations being cleaned up.

9th July

<u>Morning</u>: To the west of the Orne fierce fighting continued. Own front line runs from west of Hill 64 $(1\frac{1}{2}$ km. north of Caen) through eastern outskirts of St. Germain la Blanche Herbe to Jumeaux. Breakthrough north of the wood of St. Germain not yet cleared up.

Enemy was able to extend the bridgehead over the Vire as far as the line Cavigny - Rauline - east of Le Désert - castern edge of Le Mesnil Angot, and to penetrate into Tribehou.

/Enemy

Enemy attack west of the forest of Mont Castre repulsed. Gaps in the front at the moment near La Ville. La Haye du Puits again lost. Attacks from the town on the eastern and southern outskirts blocked. Heavy artillery fire on the main connecting battle line as far as the coast.

Evening: In spite of stubborn resistance, the enemy from the north-east and north penetrated the northern part of the town of Caen. The 12th (Herman Goering) SS Panzer Division lost St. Germain la Blanche Herbe after a fierce struggle and was driven back by superior enemy forces to a line Caen - Le Mesnil -Jumeaux; units of the Division in the neighbourhood of Epron and Galmanche have been encircled and are engaged in a fierce struggle. The newly brought up 1st SS Panzer Division is already in action south and south-west of Caen and will be used to prevent an enemy breakthrough to the south.

Enemy attack south-west of Grainville-sur-Odon repulsed. Battle in the penetrated area north of the wood of St. Germain not yet ended.

Enemy has advanced to the west through the district 1 km. south-west of Cavigny and has driven the right wing of the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division back to the line Bahais - LA Cocqueric. In the penetrated area at St. Fromond fighting going on both sides of the Montmartin-en-Graignes - Pont Hébert road.

Position in the Tribehou penetrated area not clarified. Enemy attacks on each side of Sainteny repulsed.

South-west of La Haye du Puits enemy attacks repulsed. Enemy attack eastward from Biemont repulsed.

10th July

<u>Morning</u>: In the Panzer Group West area the enemy succeeded owing to great artillery superiority in driving our troops back to the line Colombelles - Calix southern outskirts of Caen - Verson, in spite of stubborn resistance. Besides the encircled units of the 12th SS Panzer Division north of Caen, other smaller groups still fighting in Caen.

After a barrage on Ouvigny and Hill 112 (2 km. south-east of Baron) the enemy began an attack towards the south-east.

Northern edge of the wood of St. Germain in our hands.

Enemy attack from St. Fromond penetration area in the 7th Army area. Le Désert occupied by the enemy.

Position around Tribehou not clarified. Sainteny occupied by the enemy.

Hill 95 (1 km. east of La Haye du Puits) occupied by the enemy.

Evening: Enemy took Maltot and Eterville; Maltot won back again by counter-attack. Attack slowing gaining ground against the enemy in the direction of Eterville as well as between Maltot and Hill 112. Enemy infantry attack from a wood to the west of Tessel-Bretteville repulsed; renewed attack in progress.

In the 7th Army area the enemy took Cavigny. Front line here: Bahais -La Cocquerie - Château de la Mare de Cavigny - north-east edge of Le Désert -Château le Mesnil Angot. Enemy has attacked the bulge in the front at Graignes from the north and east, and has pushed through from Thiebaut as far as Bas Verney. At the moment a new defence line is being constructed from Le Mesnil Angot to the southern edge of Haut Verney.

In the Graignes area encircled forces must fight their way through. Counter-thrust against enemy which had penetrated St. Andre de Behon from the

/north

north. In the Sainteny area barrage on our main battle line. Continuation of the attacks on both sides of the Carentan-Périers road is to be expected.

Enemy infiltration near Hill 89 (east of La Barville) mopped up.

11th July

Morning: In Panzer Group West area enemy attack from Caen southwards has not been continued. East of Caen enemy advanced with tanks from St. Honorine la Chardonnerette in the direction of Colombelles and succeeded in making a penetration. Own encircled elements in the Epron area have fought their way through to the south.

Fighting in the Maltot - Eterville penetrated area. Hill 112 lost and regained. Reoccupation of old main battle line in progress.

In the 7th Army area enemy attack on both sides of the Villiers Fossard - St. Lo road repulsed.

Our forces on the attack against infiltration west of Cavigny; Les Landes taken.

On both sides of the Carentan-Périers road the enemy continued attacks from the Sainteny area and extended his penetration to 6 km. wide and 3 km. decp.

In the wooded district around the forest of Mont Castre and in the Barville - La Bruyère area the enemy attacking.

Front line of 7th Army: 1 km. south-west Cavigny - Château de la Mare de Cavigny - Les Landes - eastern edge of Le Mesnil Angot - Bas Verney northern edge of St. André de Bohon - heights south of Château de Bois Grimot - Hill 18 - La Roserie - La Maugerie - south of Bléhou unchanged as far as Beau Coudray - La Tourelle. Otherwise unchanged.

Evening: Infiltration south-west of St. Honorine la Chardonnerette mopped up. Colombelles again in our hands, former main battle line restored.

Eterville again in our hands. New enemy attack on Eterville, fighting in progress. Enemy assembly areas near Verson, Fontaine-Etoupefour and Baron, as well as enemy movements towards the south from the Carpiquet area bombarded by our artillery.

Enemy attacks between Juvigny and Longray beaten off; fighting in progress in infiltrated area at Château de Cordillon.

After artillery bombardments between Bérigny and the Vire mainly concentrated on both sides of Vaubadon - St. Lô and Villiers Fossard - St. Lô roads, the enemy started a large-scale offensive against St. Lô. Enemy penetration south of St. Georges d'Elle sealed off. La Croix Rouge and La Meauffe occupied by the enemy. At the moment an attack from La Meauffe towards the south is in progress.

From the district south of Cavigny the enemy has penetrated with tanks as far as the outskirts of Esglandes. Our own panzer spearheads are 1 km. south of Cavigny - 500 metres south of St. Jean de Daye - Les Landes.

South-west of Le Mesnil Angot the enemy has infiltrated into the wood of Hommet. West of Le Mesnil Angot the enemy has infiltrated from the northeast as far as Tribehou. In the neighbourhood of Chateau de Bois Grimot the enemy has made a breach $2\frac{1}{2}$ km. wide which we have been able to contain so far.

/Enemy

Enemy attacks north of La Roserie and near Beau Coudray repulsed.

West of the forest of Mont Castre the enemy has attacked from the Barville area in the direction of La Bourdonnerie.

Enemy from the district north of Le Bas has advanced probably as far as Angoville-sur-Ay.

12th July

Morning: North-north-east of Colombelles former battle line again reached.

After a fierce struggle Eterville again occupied by the enemy. Enemy thrust against Hill 112 repulsed.

Former battle line won back in the Uvigny-Longraye sector.

Front line in 7th Army area: Bérigny - Vaubandon-St. Lô road south-south-east of St. André de l'Epine - north-east of Bretel - Hill 108 (2 km. north-west of Villiers-Fossard).

Attack by Panzer Training Division operating with the right wing battle groups on the front between Pont Hébert and 2 km. west of Pont Hébert, came to a standstill cwing to strong enemy attacks. No contact with the battle group which has advanced in the direction of the St. Jean de Daye road. In the neighbourhood of Esglandes the enemy who had thrust through between these two battle groups are being sealed off.

The enemy attack from the Le Mesnil Angot area was intercepted in the area each side of La Haye.

Enemy advancing from Sainteny on both sides of the Carentan-Périers road have been intercepted, while north-east of this a gap 2 km. wide has been torn in the front. The withdrawal of the front to the Gonfreville - Gorges - Gerville -Angoville - St. Germain-sur-Ay line which has now been started should close up the front.

Evening: In the 7th Army area, after a barrage lasting thirty hours, enemy attacks from south of St. Georges d'Elle towards the south and from St. Andre de l'Epine towards the south and west were repulsed.

Enemy who had penetrated as far as Esglandes in the gap between the two battle groups of Panzer Training Division were thrown back and Esglandes retaken, gap closed. The battle group that had advanced as far as south of St. Jean de Daye fought its way back to the main battle line. Enemy attack on Pont Hébert as well as on both sides of the Le Désert - Le Hommet road in progress. Enemy who had penetrated Hommet wood from the north were held up on a line Le Glinel -Gournay.

After the enemy had been able during the day to extend to the south his breakthrough from Le Port, St. André de Bohon was lost after heavy fighting; in the evening the line Gournay - north-east edge of Tribehou - Le Port was in our hands. By sending the last infantry reserves into action it was possible to close the remaining gap south of Château de Bois Grimot, and the Château de Bois Grimot was taken by our own attack.

Enemy infiltrating south from Le Plessis penetrated St. Germain; they were blocked at the main battle line to the south of the village.

Withdrawal to the new main battle line Le Hommet d'Arthenay - Gorges -Gerville - Angoville-sur-Ay - St. Germain-sur-Ay was carried out according to plan.

An enemy attack on Laulne led to a penetration here and to the loss of Vesly and Hierville.

Enemy forced their way into the western part of St. Germain-sur-Ay.

13th July

Morning: In Panzer Group West area the enemy keptup an intense bombardment of Colombelles, Maltot, Hill 112, Evrecy and Vacognes.

In the 7th Army area an enemy reconnoitring sortie along the Bérigny-St. Lô road was repulsed.

Enemy attack towards the south from the Pont Hébert area repulsed. Enemy made a penetration with tanks 1 km. west of Pont Hébert, weaker enemy forces forcing their way through as far as Esglandes. Renewed enemy attack north of Pont Hébert beaten off.

After hard fighting enemy occupied Tribehou. After five fruitless attacks the enemy succeeded in penetrating near La Roserie, penetration sealed off.

North-east of Laulne the enemy made a penetration which was blocked north of La Blaisoteric. North-east of Vesly the enemy extended his penetration and advanced towards the south and south-east. Penetration was blocked north-east of Le Puits Ruault.

Evening: Heavy enemy artillery and naval artillery fire on the Franceville area.

Our own concentrated bombardment of Fontaine-Etoupefour and Baron.

In the 7th Army area the enemy attack from the St. André de l'Epine area on St. Lo penetrated two kilometres deeper. We succeeded in halting the enemy attacks on a line Croix Rouge, along the Vaubadon-St. Lô road as far as La Boulaye, east of La Luzerne, and the old main battle line. Enemy attacks north-west of La Luzerne and south-east of Le Meauffe repulsed. Attacks west of the Villiers Fossard-St. Lô road were also repulsed.

West of Pont Hébert, which has been held against all attacks, the enemy has advanced with tanks from the wooded area west of Pont Hébert towards the south, fighting continues. North of Le Vignot our own front was forced back, front line here being Le Vignot - Esglandes - Le Ponterie. Enemy attacks on Pont Hébert along both sides of the St. Jean de Daye road were repulsed.

West of Le Hommet d'Arthenay the enemy made a penetration which was sealed off. Our own attack on Tribehou did not get through. From the penetrated area south of St. André de Bohon the enemy has continued his attack and made several infiltrations which have been blocked on a line south-west of Le Hommet - St. Martin les Champs - Port Ramee - south of La Vincenterie - Le Bois - Le Canal ès Aubris - Auxais - Château Auxais. Fresh attacks against this defence line repulsed. After continuous struggles La Roserie again in our hands.

Enemy have continued attacks on Laulne and have forced their way into the town. On both sides of Vesly the enemy have thrown our troops back towards the south. Enemy pressure south and west of Vesly continues; attack from Vesly towards the south in progress. The enemy made a penetration on the La Haye du Puits - Lessay road and are advancing to Beauvais.

/14th July

14th July

Morning: In Panzer Group West area renewed offensive west of Caen; an attack east of the Orne is probably imminent.

In the 7th Army area the enemy attack in the sector west of Pont Hébert beaten off. Counter-attack won back the east quarter of Pont Hébert and positions at the bridge. Front line: Pont Hébert - Le Rocher - hill one kilometre south of Le Hommet - Sadoc. Enemy penetration east of Les Champs de Losque in process of being sealed off.

North front withdrawn to the Sèves sector - Lessay; withdrawal carried out according to plan.

Evening: East of the Orne enemy fire concentrated on the Troarn, Barneville and Colombelles areas as well as on the area south and south-east of Caen. Offensive each side of Caen is expected.

In the 7th Army area enemy attacks from the St. André de l'Epine area towards the south were repulsed.

Hill 51 $(1\frac{1}{2}$ km. west-south-west of Pont Hébert) lost and retaken by counterattack; renewed fighting going on at the moment.

Fighting still continues in the penetrated area south of Les Champs de Losque.

Enemy made another attack and again occupied La Roserie. Our own withdrawal operation carried out according to plan. Front line: southern edge of La Roserie - northern edge of St. Germain-sur-Sèves - the Sèves stream - northern edge of La Banserie - northern edge of Lessay - southern shore of Lessay Bay.

15th July

<u>Morning</u>: In the area of Panzer Group West enemy thrust from Tessel-Bretteville towards the west repulsed.

Heavy enemy bombardment of the Cabourg area, of the area at the mouth of the Orne and of the St. Martin - St. André-sur-Orne sector.

In the 7th Army area the enemy succeeded in taking Hill 51 ($1\frac{1}{2}$ km. west-south-west of Pont Hébert), penetration being sealed off with local reserves.

Enemy thrust towards the south-west along the Les Champs de Losque road repulsed.

Evening: In Panzer Group West area Hill 112 heavily bombarded by the enemy.

In the 7th Army area the enemy has commenced an attack after preliminary shelling mainly concentrated east of St. Lô. Attacks against Bois de la Rillerie and in the area south-west of St. André de l'Epine repulsed. West of the Moon-sur-Elle - St. Lô road the enemy made a breakthough which made it necessary to withdraw the front to the road and about a kilometre west of it.

Attacks against the bridge position at Pont Hébert repulsed. West of Pont Hébert the enemy succeeded in infiltrating south-west as far as La Hucherie.

On the Cotentin northern front enemy thrusts against our outposts on the whole repulsed; Hill 30 north-west of La Moulinerie taken by the enemy.

/16th July

16th July

Morning: In the Panzer Group West area east of the Orne continuous enemy artillery fire on the Franceville, Troarn, Demouville and Giberville area. South-west of Caen an enemy thrust repulsed.

On the II SS Panzer Corps front an enemy attack thrust through as far as the northern edge of Esquay. Enemy thrown back by our counter-attack beyond the cross-roads north of Esquay. At the same time an attack on Hill 112 beaten off. East of Hill 112 enemy succeeded in making local penetration which was sealed off.

In the 7th Army area, after eleven fruitless attacks from the area south-west of St. Andre de l'Epine, the enemy succeeded in penetrating Martinville.

After several attacks the bridge position of Pont Hébert was encircled. Fighting continues in the breakthrough area west of Pont Hébert.

Enemy attacks east of the Carentan-Periers road beaten back.

Evening: In the Panzer Group West area an enemy penetration west of Maltot has been mopped up by our own counter-thrust. Supported by artillery, an enemy attack on both sides of Gavrus resulted after heavy fighting in a breakthrough which was blocked on the line from the crossroads northwest of Esquay - Hill 113 - south-west edge of Bougy - Cahier.

After a preliminary bombardment the enemy attacked in the direction of the Caen - Villers Bocage road and broke through near Le Vatruh and are now advancing on Noyers. While it was possible to clean up this penetration considerably, the enemy from the Bordel neighbourhood advanced towards the south with tanks and took Noyers. Our defence line Landelle - La Senevière.

In the 7th Army area bitter fighting continues in the breakthrough **area** at Martinville. Front line withdrawn to 1 km. south-west of La Luzerne - Les Bomains - 1 km. east of Le Mesnil Rouxelin, thence northwards along former main battle line.

After hard fighting the enemy was able to extend the breach west of Pont Hebert. The village was lost after hard fighting, with heavy casualties on both sides. The bridge position at Pont Hebert still holding out. Enemy attack from Pont Hebert on Le Mesnil Duran in progress.

South of Le Hommet d'Arthenay enemy attack repulsed. The enemy made a breakthrough at Les Champs de Losque and advanced as far as Le Gives. Thrust eastwards sealed off to the south and west.

An enemy attack south of St. Patrice de Claids was beaten off.

<u>17th July</u>

Morning: In the Panzer Group West area Bougy was retaken, but was lost again after an enemy attack strongly supported by artillery. Breakthrough area between Bougy and Noyers sealed off. Main battle line runs at present 500 metres west of the crossroads north-west of Esquay - northern edge of Hill 113 - southern edge of Bougy - cast of the houses at Haute Monceaux -Missy - Noyers, northwards to one kilometre south-cast of La Senevière houses at Le Queron - crossroads at Vendes, thence former main battle line.

In the 7th Army area our own attack gained some ground near Martinville at first, but enemy has again broken through.

/Fighting

Fighting both sides of Le Mesnil Durand led to the sealing off of the breakthrough point.

Enemy penetrations south and south-west of Les Champs de Losque were absorbed on the general line Le Grand Moulin, south-west edge of Remillysur-Lozon, Les Thiebots. Defensive position here reinforced.

Evening: In the Panzer Group West Area heavy fighting in the Gavrus and Noyers breakthrough areas. Supported by continuous artillery fire the enemy made a heavy attack on Bougy and Noyers; Bougy taken again, southern end of the village still in our hands, position in Noyers unclarified. An enemy attack supported by tanks between Noyers and Tessel-Bretteville led to a penetration near La Seneviere (north of Noyers). Sealing off in progress.

In the 7th Army area the enemy has continued his concentric attack on St. Lô. South and north of Martinville the enemy broke through the main battle line and is advancing along the valleys north and south of the village towards Ste.Croix de St. Lô. South of Ste.Croix the enemy is unknown strength is in the area La Rocque and La Madeleine east of St. Lô.

On both sides of the Villiers Fossard road the enemy has broken through the defence positions with strong forces and has penetrated Les Ifs from the north-east. In an attack from Hill 108 the enemy has advanced as far as the Le Mesnil Rouxelin neighbourhood.

South of Pont Hébert the enemy crossed over to the east bank of the Vire, was able to reach Escallion and is advancing towards the south. From the Pont Hébert area the enemy continued his attack towards the south and west. The enemy has broken through on both sides of Le Mesnil Durand, and has been intercepted at first on a line Rampan - 1 km. north-west of Hébécrevon -Amigny. With a fresh attack the enemy took Rouloux-Gadart and is advancing on Amigny. Bridge position at Pont Hébert is in enemy hands. The destruction of the encircled troops there must be expected.

From the Le Hommet d'Arthenay area the enemy attacked Pte.Ducrie with strong forces. La Parerie and Butte Robillon were taken by the enemy. From Esgives the enemy moving south has reached the St.Lô - Périers road and has turned south-east on St.Lô. Heavy enemy attacks on St.Lô were continued with strong artillery fire and fighter-bomber support.

West of Les Champs de Losque the enemy attack was continued and a breakthrough made south of Remilly-sur-Lozon.

18th July

Morning: In the whole area of Panzer Group West, especially in the right sector held by I SS Panzer Corps, heavy artillery and machine-gun fire, supported by bombing. An attack to extend the bridgehead to the south is expected. Enemy tanks from the Escoville and Ste. Honorine la Chardonnerette areas are said to have reached southwards as far as Cagny.

Enemy penetration north of Evrecy cleaned up by counter-attack.

Enemy attacks on each side of the Grainville-sur-Odon - Noyers railway line repulsed just north of Noyers.

In the 7th Army area moves to close the gap in the front near Martinville were unsuccessful.

To avoid the destruction of the remaining forces in the advanced bulge in the front north of St. Lô and south of Le Hommet, the remnants were ordered to withdraw to the line from the heights east and north of St. Lô - the Vire -Rampan - Le Mesnil Eury - Remilly. Enemy attack on Hill 83 (west of Rampan) repulsed. Our own attack won Hill 63 (east of Le Mesnil Eury).

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/Enemy

Enemy attack from the Les Champs de Losque area towards the south-west was blocked just north of the St. Lô - Périers road.

<u>Evening</u>: In the Panzer Group West area the enemy started the expected attack east of the Orne; a breakthrough in the direction of Troarn was mopped up. From the Escoville - St. Honorine la Chardonnerette area enemy attacking southwards past Touffreville and towards Sannerville. Enemy has taken Benneville-la-Campagne and is advancing on Troarn. On each side of Cuverville tanks have broken through towards the south, have taken Cagny and turned to the west, north-west and south-west. Le Mesnil Frémentel, Grentheville and Soliers are in enemy hands. Counter-attack in progress; towards evening the line Frénouville - Soliers - Hubert Folie - Cormelles was reached. Position in the area west of Cuverville - Colombelles -

West of the Orne enemy artillery fire on Hill 112. North-west of Esquay enemy has brought up reinforcements.

Rather strong enemy attacks north of Noyers repulsed. Enemy attack both sides of Vendes in progress.

In the 7th Army area our own troops have fought their way back to the ordered line as commanded, weak enemy forces feeling their way forward. Enemy attacks supported by artillery against Hill 63 and small wood south of Le Mesnil Dot were repulsed.

Enemy attack in progress against Les Thiebots ($1\frac{1}{2}$ km. north-west of Remilly).

19th July

Morning: While it has been possible to mop up the breakthrough in the direction of Trcarn, enemy forces in the Banneville - Cagny - Soliers -Cormelles area have been continually reinforced. Colombelles is in the enemy's hands. Own troops south of there as well as those in the neighbourhood of Giberville, Monderville and Cuverville have been encircled by the enemy. Owing to heavy air attacks our own counter-attack was not carried out. Soliers, which had been retaken, had to be given up to superior enemy forces.

Enemy attacks in the whole of the Panzer Group West battle area.

Attacks against western edge of Bures wood and against the western outskirts of Troarn repulsed. Position not clarified in the Cuillerville -Frénouville - Soliers area.

At Cormelles superior enemy forces broke through to the west, attacked our own troops there from the rear, throwing these back on the line from the northern edge of Ifs - northern edge of Etayaux - Maltot.

Between Vendes and Torteval the enemy attacked with strong forces and forced our line back one to two milometres southwards.

In the 7th Army area the enemy succeeded in the evening hours of 18th July in penetrating St.Lo; fighting still in progress.

After short but heavy preliminary artillery barrage, enemy attacks from the eastern part of Les Thiebots and La Varde were repulsed.

Evening: In the Panzer Group West area strong enemy attacks on Troarn have so far been repulsed. Enemy tank attack from Grentheville towards the south-east came to a standstill. Enemy tank concentrations 400 metres north-east of Grentheville were bombarded by our artillery and fighters.

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In the 7th Army area enemy reconnoitring thrusts from St. Lô towards the south and south-west were repulsed. Front line south of St. Lô: Haras southern limit of the barracks - south-west exit of the town - La Gourie Chateau - west bank of the Vire as far as 500 metres south-west of Rampan.

Enemy attacks against the sector on each side of La Varde; fighting continues, main battle line in our hands.

20th July

Morning: In the Panzer Group West area enemy made large-scale attack from the Grentheville - Cormelles - Fleury-sur-Orne area. Soliers, Hubert Folie, Bras and Ifs were lost after fierce fighting. Bourguébus retaken by the 1st SS Panzer Division, attack gaining ground in the direction of Hubert Folie and Bras. Fierce fighting for Hill 67 (south of Fleury-sur-Orne).

I SS Panzer Corps is holding the line Château St. Pierre - a height 1 km. south of Frénouville - northern edge of La Hogue - southern edge of Bourgébus-Hill 61 - southern edge of Hill 67 - northern edge of Etavaux.

In the 7th Army area a quiet night. Enemy attacks at Le Mesnil-Dot, north-east of Thiébots and both sides of La Varde repulsed. North of Le Misnil-Eury the enemy managed to penetrate as far as the St.LO - Périers road.

Enemy attack in the direction of St.Germain-sur-Sèves in progress.

Evening: In Panzer Group West area enemy thrusts along the Lisieux-Caen road and from Bourguebus towards the south and south-west repulsed.

In the 7th Army area enemy attacks from the area west of Amigny towards the south repulsed by counter-thrust.

21st July

Morning: In the area of Panzer Group West enemy attack on Troarn repulsed.

During the afternoon of 20th July the enemy commenced an attack southwards, took Hill 72, turned towards St.André-sur-Orne and St.Martin de Fontenay and took these villages. Our own counter-attack led to the recocupation of Hill 72; fighting continues.

Enemy attack south of Hottot as well as a thrust near La Haute Villais repulsed.

In the 7th Army area enemy penetration south-west of Rampan cleaned up.

Evening: In the Panzer Group West area several attacks west of Troarn repulsed.

Hill 72 changed hands several times; again taken by an enveloping attack from the north. Hard fighting to clean up St. André-sur-Orne and St.Martin de Fontenay; on the afternoon of 21st July both villages in our hands. North of here a line was held from the crossroads west of Hill 72 to a point one kilometre west of Etavaux.

/22nd July

In the 7th Army area heavy enemy artillery fire on the St.Lô - Cerisy la Salle road.

Enemy thrusts against Le Mesnil Dot and Hill 63 repulsed.

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22nd July

Morning: Enemy machine-gun and artillery fire on the Banneville area and on the area south of Bourguébus. After heavy fighting around Hill 72, former main battle line here again in our own hands. Enemy penetrated into St.André-sur-Crne; own counter-attack as far as the southern edge of St.Martin de Fontenay and St. André; fighting continues.

In the 7th Army area enemy penetration near Ie Mesnil Dot mopped up.

Evening: Own attack to clear penetration at St. Martin and St.André gaining ground towards the north. St. Martin cleared of remaining enemy, fighting continues in St. André.

In the 7th Army area an enemy attack north-east of the Sèves stream is in progress.

In the Lessay area our outposts were forced back to the main battle line.

23rd July

Morning: Enemy attacked Maltot and advanced as far as the Château one kilometre east of the village. Defence line now runs: railway bridge south-east of the Château - road fork south of the Château - southern edge of Maltot. Enemy attack against Hill 112 beaten off.

In the 7th Army area increased enemy patrol activity on the left wing of the 7th Army.

Evening: Enemy have commenced an attack from Maltot towards the south which has been repulsed.

In the 7th Army area a breakthrough point at Le Closet cleaned up.

24th July

Morning: On the sector held by II SS Panzer Corps, after a barrage, enemy attacks between Hill 112 and Bougy repulsed.

Evening: In the 7th Army area, after a preliminary air bombardment, the enemy with tank and artillery support has commenced to attack, with main effort being directed against area south and south-west of Amigny. Except for a penetration south of Amigny, main battle line is in our hands.

25th July

Morning: Barrage on the front held by I SS Panzer Corps and an enemy attack astride the Caen - Falaise road which so far has been beaten off.

Torteval farm taken by enemy assault troops with artillery support.

Enemy entrenched on the line Frenouville - Le Porier - Four - southern edge of Soliers - Hubert Folie.

In the 7th Army area attacks on both sides of Amigny held off in a fluctuating struggle. Penetration south of Amigny cleaned up.

Evening: Enemy attack astride the Caen - Falaise road led to a penetration between Tilly la Campagne and St. Martin de Fontenay; Tilly ohanged hands four times; at the moment in our possession.

Own forward line at the moment: north of Hill 76 - 200 metres north of Rocquancourt - Hill 88 - Hill 66 - south of May, thence to the former battle line west of St. Martin.

/After

After preliminary air bombardment, the enemy from the Rampan - Champs de Losque area began an attack with strong forces, which led to penetrations as far as the Hébécrevon road and Montreuil.

Front line at the moment: north-west edge of Hébécrevon - south of Montreuil - eastern edge of La Butte - north-east edge of Lozon - 500 metres east of Le Mesnil Vigot, thence to the former main battle line south of Remilly-sur-Lozon.

26th July

Morning: In Panzer Group West area our counter-attack in the Tilly la Campagne - river Orne sector led to recapture of the former main battle line. An enemy artillery nest south of Mondeville shelled by our artillery.

In the 7th Army area a defence line is being established in the breakthrough area west of St.Lö on a line from the southern edge of Hébécrevon to La Chapelle-en-Juger. Fighting continues in the area north-west of Montreuil.

On the north Cotentin front after a preliminary bombardment the enemy in the Raids - Le Val area attacked southwards on a wide front. Except for small penetrations, attacks repulsed.

Evening: Main battle line south of Caen further strengthened in spite of enemy counter-thrusts. The strong enemy forces however succeeded in penetrating Verrières and advancing as far as the southern edge of the village.

In the 7th Army area the enemy is on the attack against the 7th Army front between the right boundary of the Army and the Taute stream, leaving the area around St. Lo untouched.

Between Caumont and Berigny the enemy succeeded in making several penetrations. He has reached the line La Lande-sur-Drome - crossroads one kilometre north of Bieville - one kilometre west of Vidouville.

At St.Germain d'Elle and south-east of St.Georges d'Elle (La Rillerie wood) penetrations have been made to a depth of about one kilometre. North-west of La Barre de Semilly the enemy was repulsed.

West of St.Lô the superior forces of the enemy were able to break through the Hébécrevon - La Picardière - La Chapelle en Juger line. During the continuation of this tank-supported attack, St.Gilles, Le Mesnil Amey and Marigny were lost.

On the western sector of the front the enemy penetrated St.Germain-sur-Seves and La Banserie; fighting continues.

(Guerrila resistance on the Vercors plateau - east of Valence - broken up after a hard battle.)

27th July

Morning: In the area of Panzer Group West, former main battle line between Tilly la Campagne and the Orne substantially regained. The enemy succeeded in taking Verrières again; counter-thrust in progress.

In the 7th Army area the enemy expanded his attacks into a large-scale offensive from the right limits of the 7th Army as far as the Taute stream.

Eastwards of St.Lô penetrations near St. Germain d'Elle mopped up. Southeast of St.Andre de l'Epine defensive front runs along the line La Rillerie wood - Le Perron - Le Mesnil - St.Pierre le Semilly - former main battle line.

West

West of St.Lô the enemy advanced from St.Gilles towards the south, took La Vallée and pushed on towards Canisy. From Marigny the enemy is attacking Hill 100 (north of the St.Lô - Coutances road) and Bougy.

In order to conserve forces the northern Cotentin front withdrawn to the line north of Le Mesnil Vigot - St. Sebastien de Raids - Millières - Pirou.

Evening: Front line in the 7th Army area approximately: Vidouville - northern edge of Notre Dame d'Elle wood - St.Pierre de Semilly.

Our forces south-south-west of St.Lo repeatedly broken through by the enemy, stand at the moment on a defence line each side of Gourfaleur, left wing east of St.Ebremont de Bonfosse, front facing north-west.

Enemy forces which broke through from the Canisy area to the south and south-west have reached Le Mesnil Herman, Soulles and Dangy.

Our own troops on the line Quibou - Le Folie - Le Hamel.

A second enemy force from the Marigny area has taken Cametours, Savigny and La Chapelle.

Own front line west and north-west of St.Lo: Le Lorey - Le Mesnil-Vigot and along the St.Lo-Périers road.

Orders have been given to withdraw the northern front to a line north of Savigny - Coutances - Sienne estuary.

28th July

<u>Morning:</u> Enemy attacks east of Periers towards the south beaten off, former main battle line re-established. In the area of the 7th Army the American 1st Army continued its offensive with superior forces.

Front line to the east of St. 16: $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilometres west of Montrabot southern edge of St. Jean des Baisants - southern edge of La Barre de Semilly southern outskirts of St. 16.

On the front to the west of St.Lo the enemy forced a way through Le Mesnil Herman, advancing into Moyon. Enemy advancing southwards from Soulles has reached Le Bourg. From Dangy the enemy has advanced towards the south-south-west as far as Notre Dame de Cenilly.

In the La Chapelle and Savigny area bitter fighting is going on. At La Chapelle it was possible to halt the enemy.

Front line west of St.LO: St. Thomas de St.LO - Gourfaleur - St.Ebremont de Bon Fosse - a series of gaps as far as Quibou - La Folie - Le Hamel.

South of this a new defence line is to be established on the Dangy - Savigny line.

Evening: In the 7th Army area enemy vanguards in the breakthrough area west of St.Lö have reached our weak and partially completed defence line in the neighbourhood north of Villebaudon - Le Guislain - Hambye and Cerences,

Moyon won back but now once more in enemy hands.

Part of our forces withdrawing to line north-east and north of Coutances -Tourville; another part establishing a covering line against enemy attacking westward from the Notre Dame de Cenilly area, and moving up from the south into the Tessy-sur-Vire and Moyon area for a counter-attack against the left flank of the enemy forces which have broken through.

/29th July

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29th July

Morning: Defensive strength of the Panzer Group West was weakened by the transfer of two divisions to the 7th Army.

In the 7th Army area the 3rd Parachute Division has taken up positions on the line La Lande-sur-Drome - Bieville - La Chapelle du Fest - Condé-sur-Vire valley of the river Vire - the river bend at Vaupatin. Here they link up with the 2nd Panzer Division.

The 2nd Panzer Division is holding the line Vaupatin - Le Mesnil Opac east and south-east of Moyon - Moyon wood. Le Mesnil Opac in our hands, Moyon occupied by the enemy. Crossroads at La Denisière reached by our troops. Reconnaissance battalion of the 2nd Panzer Division holding heights each side of Beaucoudray and the Villebaudon crossroads.

Battle group of the Panzer Training Division in position north-east of Percy.

Withdrawal of the northern front, after penetration by enemy reconnaissance forces which had broken through to the west, to the line Percy - Sourdeval les Bois - La Baleine - Gavray - Cerences - Bréhal - the coast.

<u>Evening</u>: In the 7th Army area the enemy attacked southwards on both sides of the river Vire. West of the Vire he has taken Le Mesnil Opac and Moyon. Attacks now in progress against the 2nd Panzer Division front at La Denisière, west of Beaucoudray and at La Regardière. Own attack against enemy-occupied Hill 276 (north-east of Percy) in progress.

The 116th Panzer Division is astride the Pontfarcy - Villedieu les Poëles road and has orders that its right wing is to thrust forward and attack south of Le Guislain. The 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division and the 22nd SS Panzer Division were sent in through St.Martin de Cenilly in the direction of Maupertuis; whereabouts not known. After our own attack from Roncey towards the south-east, the 243rd Infantry Division escaped from stronger enemy forces near La Rivière to the south-west, and sofar has reached south of St.Denis le Gast with 200 men and is defending positions north-east of La Baleine. The 353rd Infantry Division in an attack through Orbeville and St.Denis de Gast towards Gavray has reached the stream sector and some units are holding the line La Baleine - Gavray.

The 91st Airborne Division has set up a weak defence line Cérences -Le Mesnil Aubert - Trelly, facing east, and facing north on a line Quettreville sur-Sienne - Hérenguerville - Montmartin-sur-mer; remaining units of the division arriving near Bréhal. Enemy attack from the east on Le Mesnil Aubert and Trelly in progress.

30th July

Morning: Enemy thrusts against Hill 123 (5 km. south-south-west of Tillysur-Seulles) in the Maltot area repulsed. The enemy attacked south of Juvigny and was able to make a local penetration in the neighbourhood of Les Houlles and has increased this to 400 metres wide and 200 metres deep.

Enemy attack is in three groups, north of Orbois, from Torteval on St.Germain d'Ectot, and from Caumont on Sept-Vents.

In the 7th Army area strong enemy pressure astride the St.LO - Condé-sur-Vire railway line against the main battle line established east of the river Vire on a line La Lande-sur-Drome - La Chapelle-du-Fest - Condé-sur-Vire. Communication established with II Parachute Corps, but continuous defence front has not yet been secured in the XLVII Panzer Corps sector.

/Position

Position unclarified between Sourdeval-les-Bois and the west coast of the Cotentin. Battle groups making an all-out effort near Sourdeval-les-Bois, La Baline, Gavray, Lengronne, Trelly, Quettreville-sur-Sienne and Montmartinsur-Mer are increasing the further advance of the enemy towards the south.

The battle group from the 2nd SS Panzer Division and the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division which has been out off, is still fighting west of Notre Dame de Cenilly.

Evening: In the area of Panzer Group West enemy thrusts against Hill 112 east of Bougy and near Missy repulsed.

Enemy penetration at Les Houlles cleaned up by our counter-thrust. After artillery bombardment and air attacks the enemy began to attack on a wide front between St.Vaast-sur-Seulles and La Vacquerie, and was able to penetrate our main battle line near Orbois-Lutaine and Sept-Vents.

By the evening the enemy had made a penetration on each side of Caumont as far as Cahagnes and a broader penetration through Sept-Vents and St.Jean des Essartiers as far as La Ferrière au Doyen.

In the 7th Army area enemy attacks east of the river Vire repulsed.

Strong enemy attacks against Le Mesnil Opac, Moyon and La Denisiere. At present a line western edge of Moyon wood - neighbourhood east of Villebaudon - eastern side of the Villebaudon-Percy road - Hill 210 northern edge of Percy - Sourdeval les Bois is held by our troops.

From Sourdeval les Bois to the coast a series of strong points.

In Gavray the enemy were able to penetrate and take the part of the town lying north of the stream.

Near Cérences enemy tanks have broken through our weak defence line and have advanced through Folligny as far as La Haye Pesnel.

31st July

Morning: In Panzer Group West area enemy attacks in the Orbois - Briquessard area repulsed except for few penetrations.

Beyond Sept-Vents the enemy has advanced as far as St.Martin des Bésaces.

In the 7th Army area it was possible to hold substantially the main battle line.

In connection with the breakthrough on the left wing of Panzer Group West the main battle line will be withdrawn to a line Granville (west of St.Martin des Bésaces) - heights south of St.Symphorien - stream sector north of St.Louet-sur-Vire - Troigots.

XLVII Panzer Corps is holding on to positions between Le Mesnil Opac and Percy; local penetrations were sealed off.

The surrounded units of the 2nd SS Panzer Division and the 17th SS Panzer Granadier Division which were cut off near Notre Dame de Cenilly have fought their way to the area south of Percy and have taken up defence positions there.

In the LXXXIV Army Corps area the enemy has broken through the front on both sides of Sourdeval-les-Bois and on both sides of Cerences and is advancing on Villedieu les Poëlles and Granville. Granville occupied by the enemy. The enemy who advanced through La Haye Pesnel towards the south have penetrated Avranches; fighting continues. LXXXIV Army Corps has orders to withdraw to the line Villedieu les Poelles - Château la Lande d'Airou - Avranches.

Evening: On the left sector of Panzer Group West a new main battle line is being set up on the line: southern edge of Orbois - Hill 147 - Hill 154 -Havetot - crossroads north-west of Orval - Craham - Canteloup - Hill 168 northern edge of the wood east of La Ferrière-au-Doyen, thence north of the St. Pierre du Fresne - St. Martin des Besaces road as far as Granville.

Battle group of the 21st Panzer Division of the defensive against attacks east and north-east of St. Pierre du Fresne.

Hill 269 and Hill 300 were lost after fierce fighting with superior enemy forces.

Enemy on the attack against the Mahieux neighbourhood and against St. Martin.

Weaker enemy forces have advanced as far as Le Val and Hill 162.

In the 7th Army area the enemy on the right boundary of the Panzer Group West sector has thrust forward with single tanks as far as the southern edge of the L'Eveque forest; penetration mopped up.

In the neighbourhood of Le Mesnil Opac stronger enemy attacks were held off.

Strong attacks against the front held by the 116th Panzer Division led to a penetration north-east of Percy.

Between Percy and Rouffigny the battle group of the 2nd SS Panzer Division, the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division and units of the 243rd and 363rd Infantry Divisions have taken up defensive positions.

The 116th Panzer Division is at present on the defensive against strong enemy attacks on each side of Ste. Pience.

2 km. south of Avranches our assault guns are in action against enemy tanks. Units of the 91st Airborne Division are in position south-west of Avranches.

1st August 1944 (Breakthrough at Avranches)

Morning: In the Panzer Group West area heavy barrage east of the Orne; harassing fire west of the Orne; withdrawal of the front line to Le Locheur -Tournay - north of Villy-Bocage - Amaye-sur-Seulles - Cahagnes carried out according to plan.

In the centre the enemy followed up close and was able to reach the Coulvain-St. Pierre-du-Fresne road. Enemy tanks in Coulvain.

In the breakthrough area south of St. Martin-des-Bésaces enemy tank spearheads reached Le Beny Bocage on the evening of 31st July.

In the 7th Army area south of Torigni-sur-Vire the enemy have penetrated as far as Guilberville.

North-west of Avranches the enemy has broken through the line of strong points in course of construction between Percy and Avranches.

Enemy tanks have advanced as far as La Chapelle Cécelin - Brecey - Le Grand Celland - St. Laurent de Terregatte and Pontorson.

/Evening:

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<u>Evening</u>: In the Panzer Group West area east of the Orne enemy attacks south of Bourguebus and south of St. André-sur-Orne were repulsed. Mopping up in St. Martin-de-Fontenay in progress.

After heavy enemy attacks LXXIV Army Corps pushed back to the line Amaye-sur-Seulles - Craham - Coulvain. Fighting with enemy tanks in Coulvain, single enemy tanks advancing southwards along the Coulvain -Le Mesnil Auzouf road. A defence line will be set up with last reserves on a line La Bigne - Hill 360.

The 21st Panzer Division on the defensive against strong enemy attacks on a line western edge of Bois du Homme - St. Denis Maisoncelles - road corner at Le Désert - thicket north of Montchamp. Le Beny Bocage occupied by the enemy.

To close the gaps in II Parachute Corps sector, the 9th and 10th SS Panzer Divisions will counter-attack during the night 1st-2nd August.

According to captured orders the enemy that broke through south of St. Martin des Bésaces are advancing through Condé-sur-Noireau on Falaise.

In the 7th Army area fighting is still going on in the breakthrough area south of Guilberville.

During the night of 1st-2nd August II Parachute Corps is to retire behind the Souleuvre stream as far as Pontfarcy. Junction with Panzer Group West intended at Hill 205 north of Carville.

North-west of Tessy-sur-Vire local tank penetrations cleared up. Main battle line between Tessy and Percy in our hands.

The 116th Panzer Division has commenced southward march through Le Gast from the Courson assembly area.

In the LXXXIV Army Corps area Villedieu-les-Poeles occupied by the enemy after bitter fighting. Front line here from La Dorée to the road fork south-east of Villedieu.

Fighting continues in the St. Laurent de Terregatte area. Enemy has broken through our defence line south of Pontaubault.

During the evening of 1st August enemy tank spearheads three kilometres south-east of St. Malo, by the northern outskirts of Rennes and by the northern outskirts of Vitre, where they are turning towards the west.

Position in detail unclarified.

Daily report of damage by enemy action, 1st to 31st July, 1944

1st July 1944

<u>Night</u> of 30th June/1st July: Attack on railway goods station at Vierzon, 100 goods trucks destroyed, 500 damaged, sheds and track damaged. Tours-Orleans line interrupted for about three days. In Vierzon about 300 houses destroyed.

/Day:

- 29 -

Day: At Evreux airfield runway and taxi-ing area damaged.

Railway installations at Les Aubrais (near Orléans), track hit, one goods truck destroyed, two damaged.

Canal at Abbécourt, two barges destroyed, three damaged, canal embankment breached.

Railway installations at Glien, six waggons on a trainload of vehicles destroyed, bridge over the river Loire damaged, telephone cables interrupted.

Railway station at La Roche-Migennes, Paris-Dijon line interrupted, thirty trucks containing munition supplies destroyed or damaged, damage to buildings.

Railway station at Mer (20 km. north-east of Blois), five hits on the viaduct, houses damaged, power and telephone cables damaged.

Railway stations at Chartres and the Chartres-Paris road damaged, as well as damage to buildings.

2nd July

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Day: Damage to roads at Rincq (3 km. north-west of Aire) and St. Martin (Aire).

V1 launching sites near Bonnières and between Sains-en-Amiennois and Flers-sur-Noye damaged. Damage to huts in the area ten kilometres south-west of Lillers and in the area of Flakgruppe Somme. Damage to the villages Domleger and Gauchin (3 km. north-west of St. Pol). Railway installations at Auxi le Château damaged, goods depots, track and points destroyed, Frévent -Abbeville section out of action for twenty four hours.

3rd July

Day: Railway installations at Vignacourt damaged.

Transformer works at Mur de Bretagne; damage to buildings; high tension cable shot to pieces, anti-aircraft post damaged.

Locomotive and one goods truck of a goods train near Signy Le Petit damaged. Naval installation at Cap d'Antifer badly damaged.

4th July

<u>Night</u>: Railway installations 15 km. north-west of Montargis; express train hit, track blocked. Mantes-Serquigny section of the railway damaged and line interrupted.

Day: Luftwaffe station at Beaumont-sur-Oise; hits on runways I and II, taxi-ing area and taxi lanes; one hangar destroyed, one hangar damaged, airfield only partially serviceable. Only slight damage to the Luftwaffe station at Marcilly, Luftwaffe station at Evreux; hits on the taxi-ing area; still serviceable.

At Luftwaffe station at Conches billets, huts, one Do 217 and one Fw 190 damaged; airfield remains serviceable.

Damage to communications line between Amagne and Lucquy stations; railway line between Serquex and Forges les Eaux interrupted; damage to communications at Chateau Porcien railway station; severe damage to railway station at Neufchatel; slight damage to railway installations at Mantes, Nevers and Le Mans. At Chartres Luftwaffe station slight damage to billets and one Me 109.

Two goods trains at Couronne station; two trucks with munitions at Montreuil station (15 km. south of Saumur) destroyed, fuel oil train at Treves station set on fire by gunfire.

Bombs dropped on artillery positions, armoured vehicles, bridges, supply dumps and battle positions.

5th July

Night of 4th/5th: Damage to railway station at Gemaches (16 km. south-east of Le Treport), Carpet-bombing on the stretch between Villencuve-Triage and Valenton railway stations. Considerable destruction to railway installations, Paris-Lyon line interrupted in ten places, Paris outer suburban line cut in many places, railway bridges badly damaged, Paris-Melun road cut many times.

Four tracks at the Les Aubrais (near Orleans) railway station destroyed again; link with Montargis and Pithiviers interrupted.

Day: At Eindhoven airfield damage was done to the field, workshop area, wiring, water mains and buildings; wireless and teleprinter section out of action. At Gilze Rijen airfield and runway damaged and high tension cables destroyed. At Volkel airfield the taxi-ing area, southern parking place, runway crossing and three hangars damaged, one hangar destroyed, one Ju 88 badly and five Ju 88 slightly damaged.

At Le Culot airfield (450 H.E. bombs) runways I and II, perimeter track, taxi-ing area, guard room and ammunition dump badly damaged; one blast bay and one hut destroyed.

Damage to buildings at Melsbroeck airfield. Houses damaged at the village of Berthem (6 km. west-south-west of Louvain).

At a position near L'Isle Adam huts, ammunition houses, telephone installation, railway sidings and approaches destroyed.

Several hundred H.E. bombs dropped on Toulon, causing serious damage in the dock and arsenal area (6 submarines and 5 ships damaged), railway traffic interrupted. In an attack on railway installations at Béziers, the goods station and engine sheds were badly damaged, railway fly-over destroyed, the Sète-Béziers line interrupted for about a week, and the heavy radio beacon put out of action by a direct hit. Town and airfield at Montpellier, some damage to the airfield, heavy destruction at the Aresne-Montpellier goods station, main line to Béziers and branch lines cut in several places, damage to buildings in the town.

One Ju 88 destroyed and another damaged on the airfield at Coulommières; one He 177 shot down over the airfield at Cognac; some damage to the airfield at St. Jean d'Angely.

In the Tours area four fuel-carrying vehicles shot up and set on fire, and in addition there were bombing and gunning attacks on bridges and ferries over the Seine north-west of Paris and on road traffic, as well as attacks on tanks, artillery, searchlight and anti-aircraft positions in the Authie-Carpiquet-Verson area, the bridges over the Orne south of Caen and gun positions, bridges, munition dumps and battle positions in the area west of Carentan-Périers-Lessay-La Haye du Puits.

/6th July

<u>6th July</u>

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<u>Night</u> of 5th/6th July: Slight damage to the airfields at Coulommières and Villaroche.

500 H.E. bombs were dropped on the marshalling yard at Dijon-Périgny, the northern part eighty per cent and the southern part twenty per cent destroyed, an ammunition train badly hit, thirty engines seriously damaged, lines to Lyons and Paris interrupted, much damage to houses in the Périgny and Chenove quarters of the town. Some slight damage to the airfield Dijon-Longvic.

Day: Damage in Lille and Armentières. 180 H.E. bombs dropped on the airfield at Moorseele, four blast bays damaged, boundary lights put out of action, a little damage to buildings in the village. 60 H.E. bombs dropped on the airfield at Vitry en Artois, one hut damaged, water mains fractured.

Railway installations at Maintenon, track destroyed, line to Chartres interrupted, railway bridge towards Jouy (10 km. south of Maintenon) destroyed. Damage to buildings in the barracks of the Anti-Aircraft Gunnery School at Chartres and to railway installations at Chartres, some lines cut.

At Vierzon railway station installations which had already been destroyed were again attacked.

Dreux viaduct damaged. Much damage done to bridge under construction at Le Manoir; lock installations at Poses (15 km. south-east of Rouen) slightly damaged; also bridge near Sully (22 km. north-west of Gien). Damage to houses in the town of Gien.

At the Chartres airfield the parking place, taxi-ing lane and one Me 109 were damaged.

<u>7th July</u>

Day: Anti-aircraft gun position near Elbeuf damaged; armoured train on the Orleans-Bricy line slightly damaged; ammunition train in the railway sidings at Tours damaged; bridge at Pont de la Motte badly damaged (traffic interrupted); damage to buildings in the Tank Supply Depot near Gien.

8th July

<u>Night</u> of 7th/8th July: Heavy attack on railway installations at Vaires-sur-Marne and Chelles (18 km. east of Paris) track, engine sheds, one munition, one fuel and two goods trains destroyed, damage to houses in both places, direct hit on the bridge near Neuilly-sur-Marne, railway track destroyed over a stretch of one kilometre. Lesser damage to railway installations at Loisy near Paris.

Damage to Luftwaffe depot "Leopold" (Vi ammunition dump situated at St. Leu d'Esserent) by 400 H.E. bombs.

Some slight damage to the airfield at Venlo.

Day: 100 H.E. bombs on Berthem (6 km. south-west of Louvain) caused damage to communications lines and to houses.

Airfield at Poix badly damaged, airfield unserviceable.

Railway and road bridge near Vlake (10 km. east of Goes) hit, traffic interrupted and communications cut.

200 H.E. bombs on the railway station and surrounding district at Etaples, track damaged, trucks destroyed, damage to houses.

/Airfield

Airfield at Conches seriously damaged. Hit on the taxi-ing area of the airfield at St. André de l'Eure, communications interrupted. Slight damage to Luftwaffe station at Marchilly.

Rouen - Le Havre railway line cut, direct hits on the line at Duclair and Pavilly.

Railway station at Denderleeuw (20 km. west of Brussels) damaged, lines to Alost, Ghent and Courtrai interrupted.

Railway bridge over the Loire near Saumur damaged.

Some slight damage to individual targets, guns, tanks, etc., by bombing and gunning attacks.

9th July

Day: Airfield at Chateaudun badly hit, unserviceable for night landing, one He 177 destroyed, one Ju 88 badly and one slightly damaged.

Slight damage to railway installations at Orléans-La Ferte.

At an anti-aircraft position near Mantes the radar equipment was badly damaged.

The bridge on the Orléans to Vierzon line destroyed. At Gien railway station thirteen goods wagons were burnt out and billets damaged.

Slight damage to the railway station at Rennes. Railway installations at Linzeux and Sibiville damaged, direct hit on the railway bridge, St. Pol to Frevent section out.

10th July

Day: Railway sidings and approaches damaged at the "Nordpol" depot, (V1 ammunition dump at Nucourt) only slight damage to main objective.

Damage to road bridges, railway fly-over and track on the railway stretch between St. Pol and Frevent.

11th July

<u>Night</u>: Some damage to anti-aircraft positions near Chateaudun, Montelimar and Vierzon and to ferries in the Elbeuf area.

Day: 500 H.E. bombs on Toulon town, port and arsenal. Railway station badly hit, line to Marscilles severed for two days, rather severe damage to docks and arsenal, considerable damage to buildings in the La Seyne quarter of the town, anti-aircraft position damaged.

Two Ju 88 damaged on the airfield at Angers. Slight damage to Luftwaffe signals posts in the Lorient area.

Attack on individual targets without effect.

12th July

Night of 11th/12th July: Bridges at Pont de la Motte, at Mars le Pile and at Capennes (12 km. north-east of Abbéville) damaged. Motor boat off

/Brest

Brest damaged. Anti-aircraft battery billets by lock No.2 at Poses damaged.

Day: Damage to track and buildings at Nantes railway station.

Railway line, road and railway bridges over the Var west of Nice, direct hit on the line between St. Laurent du Var station and the bridge. Viaduct at Theoule (8 km. south-west of Cannes) damaged. Station buildings at Arles-sur-Rhône damaged, railway bridge and the section towards Montpellier damaged. Goods and shunting station at Miramas badly damaged, six hundred metre stretch of the Miramas-Arles section put out of action, two hundred trucks destroyed, sulphuric acid factory badly damaged and production stopped.

1000 H.E. bombs on Nimes airfield, taxi-ing area etc. damaged, severe destruction in the neighbourhood of Nimes railway station and at Courbessac (west of Nimes), track in three directions blocked, ammunition train set on fire, engine sheds severely damaged, immobilising more than fifty locomotives.

Damage to Sezanne railway station and to Nantes-Tollow marshalling yards where fifteen trucks destroyed.

Carpet-bombing seven times on the hutted camp of the Anti-aircraft Artillery School at Chartres and on the transformer station at Luisant-Barckens; the transformer station, searchlight and one lorry being destroyed and one lorry and one motor car damaged.

Slight damage was done to the marshalling yards at Vaires (east of Paris), the Luftwaffe stations at St. Trond and Beaumont and to the "Leopold" installation.

Damage to town and port of Nantes as well as to Etat and Pont Rousseau railway stations. One Ju 88 and one hangar destroyed on Chateaudun airfield. Bombing and gunning attacks on individual targets.

13th July

<u>Night</u> of 12th/13th July: Bombs dropped on the V1 launching sites in the Aumale-Doullens area and St. Pol district and bombs were also dropped on the Bar le Duc area.

Railway installations at Tours damaged, traffic in and out of the town interrupted. 500 H.E. bombs dropped on Chalindrey railway station (Paris -Mulhouse line), much damage to track, two viaducts impassible, engine shed and thirty locomotives destroyed.

Stations buildings at Athies burned out, army goods train hit and ammunition lorry blown up. Slight damage to Montereau (19 km. east of Fontainebleau). Slight damage to the marshalling yard at St. Pierre les Corps.

Day: At Sens fuel dump twelve trucks of camouflage material destroyed, fuelling tank burned out, a great quantity of fuel oil burnt, main telephone exchange hit, and much damage to the bakery.

Railway bridges in the Tours area damaged.

At the Grand Couronne ferry (10 km. south-west of Rouen) one motor boat, four vehicles, two sheds and one concrete ammunition bay destroyed.

14th July

Day: 500 H.E. bombs dropped on the airfield at Mons en Chaussee which is now unserviceable. Seven trucks of an ammunition train destroyed near Nogental (2 km. south-west of Château Thierry). At Chateau Thierry railway station track, coal dumps, ammunition train and two locomotives damaged. Damage to a naval position near Cap d'Antifer.

/15th July

15th July

<u>Night</u> of 14th/15th July: Slight damage to the airfields at Chièvres and Villaroche. Bombs dropped on V1 launching sites in the Hazebrouck, Audricq and Neufchatel area.

Severe damage to the railway station at Chalons-sur-Marne. 1000 H.E. bombs on railway installations at Villeneuve-Triage, heavy damage to the track and to army goods trucks.

The Melun-Paris road cut several times near the village of Valenton. The camp at Bonneuil Matours (17 km. north-east of Poitiers) partially destroyed.

Day: 800 H.E. bombs on the "Nordpol" installation approaches, railway sidings, light and telephone wires damaged.

18 H.E. bombs dropped on Ableiges near advanced airfield Cormeilles, one tractor destroyed, one omnibus, one lorry and one fast petrol tender damaged. Slight damage to the town and railway installations at Rouen. Hits in the vicinity of the railway line and road near a railway bridge south-east of Mantes. Hits on the parking places of the advanced airfield at Evreux. Anti-aircraft position near Dreux damaged.

16th July

<u>Night</u> of 15th/16th July: Slight damage to the Cormeilles airfield. Railway track at Chalons-sur-Marne hit as well as two goods trucks; Paris-Rheims line out.

Serious damage to the shunting station at Nevers by 500 H.E. bombs, engine sheds and buildings damaged, Paris-Nevers and Nevers-Dijon lines interrupted, damage to houses in the town.

Day: Anti-aircraft Artillery School at Chartres and the transformer station at Luisant damaged by 100 H.E. bombs. Chartres-Illiers road impassible owing to delay action bombs. Road bridges and railway sections in the Dreux area damaged.

17th July

<u>Day</u>: Railway bridge near Auxerre destroyed. 90 H.E. bembs dropped on the advanced airfield at St. Dizier, taxi-ing area and anti-aircraft position damaged.

Railway installations at Belfort, damage to buildings; sections to Mulhouse and Besancon as well as the shunting section put out of action.

Railway bridge near Ham (20 km. south-west of St. Quentin) hit, elosed to traffic. Luftwaffe signals installation "Richard" damaged.

Two petrol tankers on the railway track $2\frac{1}{2}$ km. west of Vitry shot up and set on fire. Slight damage to port installations at Ijmuiden, the troop training ground at Maily le Camp and in the St. Omer area.

100 H.E. bombs on the railway station at Tarscon, direct hits on the station and railway bridge, one amnunition train blown up, railway bridge towards Lunel set on fire. Railway station at Arles severely damaged, many trucks and the railway bridge set on fire. Considerable damage to the railway installations at Avignon, two troop transport trains hit, casualties to personnel, engine sheds, railway bridge, and the Avignon-Cavaillon section damaged.

/Bombs

Bombs dropped on individual targets and on the flying-bomb launching area.

18th July

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<u>Night</u>: Slight damage to Coulommiers aerodrome and to anti-aircraft positions in the Seine Valley.

Day: Airfield at Coulommiers damaged (huts, repair shops and five aircraft), one Ju 88 burned out on dispersal ground "C".

500 H.E. bombs on Vaires marshalling yards, railway installations, engine sheds; one locomotive and several goods trains damaged; through traffic interrupted. Bridges over the Seine at Conflans, Rouen and in the Bolbec area damaged. Slight damage to railway track in the Conflans area. In the Rouen area one bridge destroyed, sidings, anti-aircraft billets and ten anti-aircraft guns damaged.

200 H.E. bombs dropped in the viaduct near Cherisy (Dreux area), direct hit on the track, viaduct impassible owing to subsidence.

Attacks on individual targets such as bridges, supply depot near St. Lô, positions, troops and anti-aircraft south-east of Périers, tank unloading on the Châteaudun - Le Mans - Laval railway section, and on railway installations at Châlons-sur-Marne, Vitry-le-Francois, Sommesous and Clacques; slight damage was done to the Luftwaffe stations at Coulommiers, Châteaudun and Marcilly-sur-Eure.

19th July

<u>Night</u> 18th/19th July: Slight damage from attacks on the flying bomb sites in the Hesdin and Neufchatel area, on railway installations at Vitry le Francois, Sezanne, Meaux and Maubeuge and on the Luftwaffe stations at Florennes and Juvincourt.

Day: Considerable damage to the vehicle maintenance part at Orleans; works at a standstill. Slight damage to Rennes airfield. Railway installations at Mantes damaged, line to Paris interrupted. Damage to houses in the town of Nantes, airfield also damaged.

20th July

<u>Night</u>: Slight damage to the Luftwaffe station at Le Culot and in the area round Cosne and to the north of Rouen.

Day: Track damaged and forty trucks destroyed at Chaulnes railway station. Bombs dropped on the flying bomb launching sites in the area to the north of Hesdin. Water works at Orléans damaged.

Ground attack operations against individual targets with some damage.

21st July

Night: Ten motor cars destroyed at Alost railway station. Slight damage to the Luftwaffe stations at Coulommiers and Gilze-Rijen.

Day: One searchlight destroyed in an attack on a searchlight position near Amiens.

22nd July

Nothing special to report.

/23rd July

23rd July

Day: 500 H.E. bombs on the advanced airfield at Couvron, airfield unserviceable.

Damage to runway, taxi-ing area, taxi lanes, two Ju 88 and ammunition by 800 H.E. bombs on the advanced airfield at Juvincourt, electricity supply broken down, airfield unserviceable.

Damage to runways, taxi-ing area and taxi lanes at the Athies advanced airfield; airfield unserviceable.

Runway, taxi-ing area and parking places on the Creil advanced airfield damaged, airfield serviceable to a limited extent.

Slight damage to airfields at Laval, Nantes, Villacoublay and Connantre. Railway section between Evreux and Conches (west of Evreux) interrupted.

24th July

<u>Night</u>: Bombs dropped, causing damage in the Tours, Nantes, St. Nazaire areas and on Soesterberg airfield.

Day: At Luftwaffe station at Valence damage to taxi-ing area, guns, and aircraft; 24 aircraft badly damaged or destroyed on the ground, ammunition and fuel destroyed, telephone, teleprinter and power lines out of action.

5000 fragmentation bombs dropped on the St. Martin de Grau airfield, field not clear for landing, four aircraft destroyed or badly damaged, power supply out of action. A direct hit on the taxi-ing area of Nantes airfield.

Carpet bombing on the main battle line and artillery positions. Heaviest bombing on targets in the Hébécrevon - Marigny - Montreuil area

25th July

<u>Night</u>: 300 H.E. bombs on Valence airfield, taxi-ing area hit, telephone and high tension lines interrupted.

Day: Attacks on the flying bomb launching sites in the Abbéville area. 200 H.E. bombs on the railway viaduct at Chartres, three guns damaged. Bridge and railway track at Maintenon damaged. Town, military school and aircraft park area at St. Cyr completely destroyed, slight damage to the airfield. Slight damage to Grevillers and Poix-Nord aerodromes.

Bombs dropped, with slight damage, on individual targets in the areas Caen, St. Lô, east of Argentan and between Etampes and Chartres.

26th July

<u>Night</u>: Slight damage to the Coulommiers aerodrome and in the Blois and Chartres areas.

Day: Bombs dropped on the Valence airfield, five Ju 88 and one Do 17 destroyed; huts damaged.

Railway stations at Amiens, Alancourt, Crepy-Couvron, Varades and Conches damaged.

/27th July

27th July

Day: Damage to the Brussels-Malines railway line, the Luftwaffe Signals Equipment centre at Vilvorde, an infantry strong point in the Gravelines area, and to flying bomb launching sites in the Hazebrouck-St. Omer area.

Slight damage to airfields at Cormeilles, Dreux, Alencon, and Romilly; to Wambaix and Marcilly railway stations; to the bridge over the Seine at Conflans and to roads in the Quillebeuf area.

28th July

<u>Day</u>: Slight damage to landing ground at Avord, vehicles of road transport columns destroyed on the Chartres-Paris road and near Maintenon. Slight damage to anti-aircraft battery positions and to individual targets.

29th July

Day: Luftwaffe station at Juvincourt attacked with 200 H.E. bombs and numerous incendiaries. Runways No. I and II and the taxi-ing area damaged, airfield unserviceable. Buildings destroyed on the airfield and in the village of Couvron. Slight damage to individual targets.

30th July

Day: Damage to the track at Villers-Cotterets railway station and to roads in the neighbourhood; line to Paris interrupted. Railway station at Vendome damaged, four engines out of action. At Romilly station three railway carriages, one lorry and seven railway trucks burned out. On the Angerville-Artenay road (north of Orleans) twenty vehicles and three lorries shot up and set on fire.

Slight damage to tanks and vehicle concentrations and to gun positions. In the front line area carpet-bombing on St. Louet, Tracy-Bocage and Cahagnes.

31st July

Day: Creil airfield damaged by 80 H.E. bombs; also Athies airfield by 1000 H.E. bombs, and railway bridges near Chartres and Tours. Damage to Luftwaffe special installation near Rheims railway installations near La Roche, shipping targets near Le Havre, bridges over the Seine near Le Manoir and bridges near Tours, as well as railway installations near Nantes.

Damage also to Orange Plan de Dieu airfield and to fuel dumps south of Conte and at Rennes.

Own operations, July

The Luftwaffe were given instructions to prevent by minelaying the further bombardment of the ground troops by enemy naval guns, to restrict dislocation of supplies by consolidating their own fighter arm for free lance sorties and to provide continuous support for the ground forces. These orders involved a complete conversion of the fighter formations newly arrived from the homeland.

On 2nd July the dissolution of Fliegerkorps II and of Fliegerfuehrer West was ordered, and II Jagdkorps was entrusted with the carrying out of this duty. On 10th July owing to the reorganisation of night fighting operations a uniform

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/revision

revision was issued of all previously published orders concerning cooperation between night fighters and anti-aircraft artillery, and this came into force on 25th July. On 16th July the ordered dissolution of the Fliegerkorps II was suspended and by command of the Reichsmarschall, II Jagdkorps was ordered to set the formation up again.

During the month of July stocks of supplies were withdrawn from most of the airfields in the coastal region as a safety measure. Units had to be continually moved as a result of destruction by enemy action. On 30th July new boundaries of the 8/VII Airfield Regional Command were announced as well as the additional propared airfields.

The air supremacy of the enemy as well as a crushing superiority in material and technical resources continued. Enemy air activity over the battlefield did not diminish until we had brought up strong anti-aircraft forces. Our own battle operations were determined by the incontrovertible air and ground artillery superiority of the enemy and opportunities for organised operations were considerably restricted.

1st July

During the night of 30th June/1st July night fighter and defensive reconnaissance sorties were flown and 66 aircraft carried out minelaying operations in the Seine bay, as well as attacks against shipping targets.

In the daytime sea reconnaissance and armed reconnaissance flights were made. 400 fighters were employed to support the army, on fighter sweeps and against hostile fighter-bomber formations.

13 enemy aircraft were shot down during the night and 7 during the day, 14 of our aircraft being lost.

2nd July

In addition to defensive reconnaissance flights, 49 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX continued minelaying operations in the Seine bay during the night.

By day 272 fighters operated in support of the army and 44 carried out police patrols at the funeral of General Dollmann. Reconnaissance flights were also made.

9 enemy aircraft were shot down and 25 of ours were lost.

3rd July

During the night of 2nd/3rd July 62 aircraft were employed on minelaying, 14 against shipping targets and 5 against airfields in the beachhead area and on reconnaissance.

Owing to weather conditions only reconnaissance flights were made in the daytime.

One enemy aircraft was shot down, five of our being lost.

4th July

At night 55 aircraft carried out minelaying operations and 16 attacks against shipping targets.

By day reconnaissance, free lance fighter patrol and army support sorties were flown by 522 aircraft of II Jagdkorps. Reconnaissance flights had to be partially abandoned owing to the weather.

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15 enemy aircraft were shot down in fierce air combats, our losses being 34.

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5th July

60 aircraft were employed on minelaying in the night, while 67 made attacks on shipping and 3 carried out road attacks in the Caen - Bayeux area. 7000 tons of shipping and one destroyer were sunk, 1500 tons of shipping, one destroyer and one light cruiser damaged, and a further 38000 tons of shipping, two cruisers and two destroyers were attacked without the effects being observed.

545 fighter aircraft were employed in support of the army in the course of the day, and stubborn combats resulted with superior enemy forces. 33 fighters carried out free lance patrols and 31 aircraft made attacks on the guerillas.

Altogether 58 enemy aircraft were shot down and 57 of our own aircraft were lost.

6th July

108 aircraft of II Jagdkorps were sent up on night interception of the raiding enemy bombers. 30 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX took off for attacks on airfields and occupied villages in the beachhead area.

During the day 284 fighters carried out reconnaissance, fighter cover and support for the army. Sea reconnaissance operations had to be broken off owing to strong enemy fighter defence. 24 aircraft of the Bongart Geschwader made attacks on the guerilla forces.

13 enemy aircraft shot down, 39 own aircraft lost.

7th July

Night fighter and reconnaissance flights were made. Formations of Fliegerkorps IX carried out minelaying operations and attacks against ground targets, while formations of the 2nd Flieger Division made attacks on shipping. 7000 tons of shipping were damaged, while one cruiser, two destroyers and one tank landing ship were attacked without observed effects.

Besides sea and armed reconnaissance, 340 fighters carried out during the course of the day fighter sweeps and raids in support of the army in the Cambes - Tilly-sur-Seulles - Thury-Harcourt - Mezidon area.

16 enemy aircraft were shot and 26 of ours lost.

8th July

In the night defensive reconnaissance over the sea and reconnaissance of bombing effects on London were carried out, and night fighter sorties by 95 aircraft against enemy raiding formations were flown. 91 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX carried out minelaying operations, while a further 24 aircraft made attacks on occupied villages and roads west of the Orne, as well as on airfields in the Caen - Bayeux area.

Ten aircraft of III/K.G.3 launched eight flying bombs over London.

By day formations of II Jagdkorps flew armed reconnaissance sorties and concentrated operations in support of the army. Owing to great enemy activity our own aircraft were only able to carry out their tasks to a limited extent, as they were intercepted by enemy fighters in the Paris - Dreux area before reaching the battle area.

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66 enemy aircraft were shot down at night and two in the daytime; 18 of our aircraft were lost and 17 were destroyed on the ground by enemy action.

9th July

During the night of 8th/9th July Fliegerkorps IX sent into operation 133 aircraft, comprising 90 on minelaying, 10 against a battleship and 33 making gunning attacks on occupied villages in the Cotentin peninsula as well as on airfields and roads in the Caen - Bayeux area.

Reconnaissance, fighter escort and concentrated operations in support of the army were flown by II Jagdkorps during the day. By waiting until the slack midday period of enemy activity all the aircraft succeeded in reaching the battle area.

Towards evening 9 Caproni Re 2002's of the Bongart Geschwader were sent in to raid the guerillas.

In air combats 5 enemy aircraft were shot down, 15 of our aircraft being lost.

10th July

No enemy aircraft were sighted on the defensive reconnaissance and night fighter flights. 86 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX carried out minelaying in the Seine bay. 12 aircraft were employed against ground targets. Seventeen flying bombs were launched by III/K.G.3 over London.

By day weather reconnaissance was carried out according to plan. 212 aircraft of II Jagdkorps carried out operations in support of the army in the Caen area, sweeps against enemy artillery-spotting aircraft and fighterbombers, and low level attacks against ground targets.

Because of a decrease in enemy air activity only one Spitfire was shot down, 4 of our own aircraft being lost.

11th July

Further minelaying in the Seine bay was carried out in the night of 10th/11th July by 62 aircraft of Fliekerkorps IX. 18 aircraft of III/K.G.3 launched in several sorties 31 flying bombs on Southampton.

During the day 45 aircraft of the Bongart Geschwader carried out weather, defensive and armed reconnaissance and attacks against the partisan forces, while 351 aircraft of II Jagdkorps and 30 aircraft of Jagdfuehrer South flew fighter sweeps and operated in support of the army.

2 enemy aircraft were shot down, 9 of our own were lost.

III Flakkorps reported a total of 17 enemy aircraft shot down in the period from 1st to 11th July.

12th July

85 aircraft continued minelaying operations in the Seine bay in the night of 11th/12th July. 38 aircraft made attacks on airfields in the beachhead, and on anti-aircraft and artillery gun positions and occupied villages as well as on roads.

In addition to weather and defensive reconnaissance flights, during the day 28 aircraft of the Bongart Geschwader and four aircraft of II/KG.100 carried out operations against the guerilla forces.

32 aircraft of Jagdfuehrer South made an emergency take-off to intercept enemy formations flying in from the south.

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In the course of the day a total of 375 aircraft in three operations were employed on armed reconnaissance and in support of the army in the Caen area. As a result of great enemy air activity only one half of these aircraft reached the battle, as they were prematurely involved in air combats.

Altogether 16 enemy aircraft were shot down; 26 of our aircraft were lost and 3 were destroyed on the ground.

13th July

In the night of 12th/13th July 88 night fighters went into action against raiding enemy aircraft and 105 bombers of Fliegerkorps IX carried out minelaying operations and attacks on shipping and ground targets. 7 enemy aircraft were shot down by the night fighters.

By day weather and sea reconnaissance flights were made, and 28 aircraft of tho Bongart Geschwader went into action against the guerillas, and 337 aircraft of II Jagdkorps, which gave support to the army. In air combats 9 enemy aircraft were shot down.

Thus on 13th July 16 enemy aircraft and 7 of our aircraft were lost.

14th July

During the night only reconnaissance flights were made, and 16 flying-bombs were launched on Southampton by 16 aircraft of III/K.G.3.

By day 358 fighters were employed in support of the army in the Caen area. 18 enemy aircraft were shot down in air combats during these operations.

21 aircraft of Jagdfuchrer South went up to intercept enemy raiders in the Valence area.

Altogether 27 aircraft of the Bongart Geschwader and 2nd Flieger Division took off for a raid on the guerillas.

23 enemy aircraft were shot down or destroyed, 12 of ours being lost.

15th July

7 four-engined enemy aircraft were shot down by the 98 night fighters engaged. 107 aircraft carried out minelaying operations, 20 made attacks on tank concentrations and 12 raided airfields in the Caen area.

16 aircraft of III/K.G.3 launched 23 flying-bombs on Southampton.

Weather reconnaissance was carried out according to plan during the morning of 15th July. In the course of the day 306 fighters took part in concentrated attacks, fighter sweeps and fighter-bomber interception. Operations were partly hampered by bad weather. Fliegerkorps X sent two aircraft into action against guerillas. In addition to this the Bongart Geschwader with 12 aircraft flew continuous patrols, dropping bombs on the guerillas in the Vassieux - La Chapelle area.

Three enemy aircraft were shot down by day, making a total of 10 enemy aircraft shot down against a loss of 7 of our own.

/16th July

16th July

Out of 105 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX which took off, 100 carried out minelaying operations in the Seine bay. 9 aircraft took part against concentrations and occupied villages in the Airel area and 13 aircraft against airfields, anti-aircraft positions and roads in the Caen area. 72 night fighters went into action.

By day reconnaissance and weather reconnaissance was carried out. In spite of difficult weather conditions 287 fighters carried out operations in support of the army during the day. According to the army report the air support in the Esquay area contributed considerably to the defence. 10 aircraft of the Bongart Geschwader were sent in against the partisan forces.

Altogether 9 enemy aircraft were shot down; our own loses were 8.

17th July

Night photographic reconnaissance over the Caen area and the Thames Estuary as well as defensive reconnaissance was carried out. Units of Fliegerkorps IX which had hitherto been engaged in minelaying operations took off for the first time to make attacks on ground targets comprising troop concentrations, airfields and villages; 24 of these made bombing and gunning attacks and 84 aircraft made gunning attacks. 4 aircraft of Fliegerkorps X attacked shipping.

In the course of the day 270 fighters went into action in two concentrated sorties in support of the army.

10 enemy aircraft were shot down in fierce air combats, and 18 aircraft of Jagdfuehrer South went into action in the Avignon area and shot down one enemy aircraft.

Three aircraft of Fliegerkorps X and 16 of the Bongart Geschwader went into action against the guerilla forces.

Seven of our aircraft were lost on 17th July.

18th July

Altogether 119 aircraft made bombing and gunning attacks on occupied villages and airfields as well as on troop concentrations; 8 aircraft of Fliegerkorps X in addition to the 24 aircraft of the 2nd Flieger Division which had already started in the late afternoon of 17th July attacked shipping. One heavy cruiser was damaged by the former, and the latter damaged 10,000 tons of shipping and one cruiser, and attacked two destroyers and one freighter without observing effects. The night photographic reconnaissance produced no results.

Reconnaissance and weather reconnaissance flights were made during the day. 214 fighters altogether supported the army in the battle area. Owing to lively enemy activity these were to some extent engaged in air combats before reaching the battle area, 22 enemy aircraft being shot down.

4 aircraft of the Bongart Geschwader successfully attacked a guerilla concentration and munitions dump.

/19th July

On 18th July 19 of our aircraft were lost and one destroyed on the ground.

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19th July

In the night of 18th/19th July 30 enemy aircraft were shot down by the 88 night fighters that went into action. 106 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX took off to attack occupied villages, 5 aircraft of Fliegerkorps X carried out armed reconnaissance against enemy shipping off Brest. Results of these last attacks are lacking owing to sea fog.

18 flying bombs were launched on London by 18 aircraft of III/K.G.3.

By day weather reconnaissance was carried out; reconnaissance flights brought no substantial results. In the course of the day 284 aircraft of II Jagdkorps carried out concentrated attacks. 9 aircraft of the Bongart Geschwader made attacks on the guerilla headquarters, one ammunition dump and billets with good results.

The number of enemy aircraft shot down on 19th July amounted to a total of 46 while 16 of our aircraft were lost.

20th July

The 75 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX detailed for minelaying in the Seine bay carried out their task according to plan. In addition 59 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX took off for attacks against troop concentrations and airfields, and 5 aircraft of Fliegerkorps X attacked enemy naval forces.

20 aircraft of III/K.G.3 in several sorties launched 30 flying-bombs on London.

The 223 fighters employed in the course of the day in support of the army in the battle area carried out low level attacks energetically in spite of the unfavourable weather conditions and strong enemy defence.

In addition reconnaissance and weather reconnaissance flights were made. 5 aircraft of Fliegerkorps X were again sent on armed reconnaissance against shipping in the sea area west of Brest, and sank or damaged one destroyer each.

4 aircraft from the Bongart Geschwader and 5 from Fliegerkorps X took off for action against the guerillas.

On 20th July 3 enemy aircraft were shot down, 12 of ours being lost.

21st July

Night fighter defensive and offensive patrols were flown by 50 aircraft of II Jagdkorps and 6 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX, in the course of which 3 enemy aircraft were shot down.

During the day one destroyer was damaged in attacks by 8 aircraft of Fliegerkorps X on shipping off Brest.

In support of an expedition of the 157th Reserve Division against the partisan forces in the area south of Grenoble, 44 aircraft of the Bongart Geschwader went into action, in addition to 14 aircraft of Jagdfuehrer South, in the area south-east of Valence.

On 21st July 6 of our aircraft were lost and one was destroyed on the ground.

22nd July

Of the 107 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX which took off, 101 aircraft carried out minelaying operations in the Seine bay. 17 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX were

/engaged

engaged against occupied villages. 14 aircraft of III/K.G.3 launched 14 flying bombs on London.

In spite of being hampered by weather conditions 82 fighter aircraft carried out operations during the day in support of the army.

17 aircraft of Jagdfuehrer South and 68 aircraft of the Bongart Geschwader went into action against partisan forces and as support and air cover for the action carried out by the 157th Reserve Division.

Supplies were brought by air for encircled troops.

On 22nd July 3 of our aircraft were lost.

23rd July

60 out of 66 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX completed their task of minelaying in the Seine bay. Some of the 23 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX which took off to attack ground targets had to attack secondary targets owing to unfavourable weather conditions.

By day 4 aircraft carried out weather reconnaissance, 12 aircraft flew on fighter-bomber interception, 53 aircraft went into action against artillery spotters and fighter-bombers in the St. Lô area, and 4 aircraft carried out armed reconnaissance. 7 enemy aircraft were shot down in air combats.

6 aircraft of Jagdfuehrer South and 63 of the Bongart Geschwader were used against the guerillas. 3 of our aircraft were lost on 23rd July.

24th July

In the night of 23rd/24th July 60 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX took off to lay mines, 53 of these carrying out their mission. 52 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX went into action against occupied towns and camps. 45 night fighters were sent up.

24 flying bombs were launched on London by 16 aircraft of III/K.G.3.

By day reconnaissance and weather reconnaissance flights were made. In an attack by 14 aircraft of Fliegerkorps X on an enemy anti-submarine patrol west of Brest one destroyer was damaged. 446 fighters went into action in the course of the day against fighter-bombers and in support of the army.

18 aircraft of Jagdfuehrer South made an emergency take-off against an Italian-based enemy attack on Valence.

20 aircraft of the Bongart Geschwader took off, of which 14 went into action against the guerillas, the remaining being used for air supplies and rescuing wounded.

On 24th July 11 enemy aircraft were shot down and 11 of ours lost. In addition 8 of our aircraft were destroyed and 20 severely damaged on the ground at Valence and St. Martin de Grau.

25th July

Night photo-reconnaissance was only partially carried out. 84 night fighters went into action, shooting down 11 enemy aircraft.

14 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX attacked shipping off the mouth of the Orne, 157 attacked ground targets and 4 carried out night pursuit operations.

Ten flying bombs were launched on London by 10 aircraft of III/K.G.3.

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During the day 424 fighters were employed on reconnaissance, fighter-bomber interception and in support of the army in the Caen and St. Lo areas.

32 aircraft of the Bongart Geschwader carried out operations against the guerilla forces.

On 25th July 22 enemy aircraft were shot down, 10 of ours being lost.

26th July

During the night of 25th/26th July 50 aircraft carried out attacks on the village of Ifs and surrounding country; altogether 93 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX laid mines and 79 night fighters were sent up.

Twelve aircraft of III/K.G.3 launched 19 flying bombs over London.

In the course of the day 399 aircraft of II Jagdkorps in two concentrated battle formations went into action in support of the army. 11 aircraft of Jagdfuehrer South had no successes.

18 aircraft of the Bongart Geschwader were engaged in supporting the 157th Reserve Division and in supplying the Schaefer battle group.

On 26th July 17 enemy aircraft were shot down, 11 of these in violent air combats over the Caen-St. Lô battle area; eleven of our aircraft were lost.

27th July

Owing to stormy weather the night fighters made no contact with the enemy. Altogether 139 aircraft took off to attack occupied villages and artillery positions. 24 aircraft of the 2nd Flieger Division were detailed for a dusk attack on shipping in the Seine bay in the night of 26th/27th July. 4000 tons of shipping were definitely and 7000 tons probably sunk; 18000 tons and one destroyer were damaged and two cruisers and four destroyers were attacked without effects being observed.

25 flying bombs were launched over London by 14 aircraft of III/K.G. 3.

During the day 498 aircraft of II Jagdkorps were engaged in concentrated sorties in support of the army and on fighter-bomber interception. Owing to the weather conditions low level attacks were not possible, but, on the contrary, activities were confined to air combats, in which 10 enemy aircraft were shot down. 19 of our aircraft were lost on the 27th July.

3 aircraft of the Bongart Geschwader attacked guerilla forces in the Beaujeu area.

28th July

The night photo-reconnaissance of Cherbourg produced no results. 157 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX made attacks on occupied villages while 28 aircraft of the 2nd Flieger Division were engaged against shipping targets off Barfleur. 6000 tons of shipping were damaged, and two destroyers, one freighter and two tank landing craft were attacked without observable effects; 12 aircraft were unable to carry out the attack owing to bad visibility, and 5 aircraft had to discontinue the task because of technical breakdown.

By day reconnaissance and weather reconnaissance flights were made. No sorties were possible in the morning owing to the weather. Later a total of 250 aircraft of II Jagdkorps were engaged in support of the army.

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10 aircraft of Jagdfuehrer South made an emergency take-off in the Cuers area without sighting the enemy.

3 enemy aircraft were shot down on 28th July, 5 of ours being lost.

29th July

44 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX carried out minelaying operations in the Seine bay, and a total of 103 aircraft made attacks on occupied villages and on ground targets in the battle area south-west of St. Lo. 110 night fighters took off to intercept enemy formations flying into the Reich.

13 aircraft of III/K.G.3 launched 25 flying bombs over London.

In the course of the day 270 aircraft of II Jagkorps took part in low level gunning and shelling attacks on enemy concentrations, in fighter-bomber interception and in operations covering the withdrawal of the army. Owing to weather conditions the battle area was in some cases not reached and contact was not made with the enemy nor did air combats take place until the third attack.

2 aircraft of the Bongart Geschwader carried out reconnaissance flights and made attacks on the guerillas.

19 enemy aircraft were shot down on 29th July, and 13 of our aircraft were lost.

<u>30th July</u>

242 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX were detailed during the night of 29th/30th July for attacks on ground targets with H.E. and incendiary bombs and gunning attacks. Defensive reconnaissance had to be discontinued owing to the weather. Over London 13 aircraft of III/K.G.3 in several sorties launched 30 flying bombs.

By day weather, defensive, armed and radar reconnaissance flights were made. 15 aircraft of Jagdfuehrer South went into action against guerillas in the south of France, and 290 fighters carried out operations in support of the army concentrating on the St. Lô area, the attacks being carried out with good effect in some cases.

11 enemy aircraft were shot down, 18 of our aircraft were lost in addition to 6 of ours which were destroyed on the Orleans-Bricy airfield.

31st July

In the night of 30th/31st July 122 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX took off for bombing and gunning attacks on ground targets, troop concentrations and occupied villages. 8 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX and 19 aircraft of the 2nd Flieger Division were sent in against shipping targets in the Seine bay. 15,000 tons of shipping were damaged and a further 13,000 tons and several other shipping targets were attacked, but effects were not observed owing to thick mist and smoke screens.

23 aircraft of III/K.G.3 launched 23 flying bombs over London.

By day reconnaissance flights were made. 205 fighters went into action in support of the army. Owing to thick fog some of the aircraft could not be sent in until the afternoon and evening, and they were often engaged in air combat before reaching the battle area.

Jagdfuchrer South sent 12 aircraft and the Bongart Geschwader 2 aircraft against the guerillas.

6 enemy aircraft were shot down, 14 of our own aircraft were lost, and an additional 3 were destroyed on the ground.

LUFTFLOTTE 3 DAILY STRENGTHS ON OPERATIONS, JULY, 1944

NightDayNightDayNightDayNightDayNightDayNightDayNightDayNightDay17940074-114821-211 <t< th=""><th>ervice West Totals</th><th>Air Sea Rescue Servic</th><th>Bongart Geschwader</th><th>Close Recce Gruppe 13</th><th>Long Range Recce Gruppe 123</th><th>2nd Flieger Division</th><th>Fliergerkorps X</th><th>Fliegerkorps IX</th><th>II Jagdkorps</th><th>July</th></t<>	ervice West Totals	Air Sea Rescue Servic	Bongart Geschwader	Close Recce Gruppe 13	Long Range Recce Gruppe 123	2nd Flieger Division	Fliergerkorps X	Fliegerkorps IX	II Jagdkorps	July
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July	<u>II Jagd-</u> korps	Flieger- korps IX	Flieger- korps X	2nd Flieger Division	Close Recce Gruppe 13 Long Range Recce Gruppe 123	Bongart Geschwader	<u>Totals</u>
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 1	$ \begin{array}{c} 13\\23\\-26\\39\\37\\19\\13\\7\\4\\6\\14\\12\\3\\2\\5\\12\\12\\3\\-\\7\\3\\5\\8\\-\\1\\9\\6\end{array} $	114742257-356-46214733336653196					14 25 5 34 57+(1) 39 26+(1) 18+(17) 15+(1) 4 9 25+(3) 7 12 7 8 7 19+(1) 16+(4) 12 6+(1) 3 11+(8) 10 11+(6) 19 5 13 18+(6) 14+(3)
	293	129	23	19	6		472+(52) = 524

LUFTFLOTTE 3: DAILY LOSSES, JULY 1944

Figures in brackets denote aircraft destroyed on the ground.

A.H.B.6. Distribution

Same as for Translation VII/80