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I dined with Swinton and Harker. Harker had previously been to see Horace Wilson and had arranged for Jimmy Rae of the Treasury to look into the organisation here. We had a very amicable conversation on general topics, but when we reached 11 pm I thought it was time that we began getting down to the subject on which the meeting had obviously been called. I therefore opened the ball. I told Swinton that I did not see quite how Crocker was going to fit into the organisation. I said that we had discussed the possibility before the war but had decided that on the whole he could be of more use outside. This had been tried out and a certain number of cases had been farmed out, but he had not been able to find a solution for them. I felt that there was very definite work for him to do here but from my conversation with him I did not feel that it was of a kind he envisaged. He seemed to think that this investigation branch would deal with a very large number of cases, which would be handed over lock stock and barrel. I said that cases arose out of an intelligence background and that while certain aspects of them needed police investigation the case must remain in the control of the intelligence officer. Swinton seemed to think that this was sound, although he was rather reluctant to admit it at first. He then said "You have bombarded me. Now I am going to bombard you". He said that he thought that the cases for internment which we submitted to the Home Secretary were badly drafted. I asked him to quote instances. He could only think of one or two. Nor could he make it very clear to me exactly what was wrong. I said that our procedure in B. Branch was to put a case up to the Legal Section which we thought was a likely one for internment. S.L. then made out a form and gave their opinion as to whether the case was weak or strong. Sometimes we turned down such cases. We often had difficulty in ascertaining what was a

weak case in the eyes of H.O. and what was a strong one. There were cases when we had what we deemed to be a really strong case and the H.O. turned it down. In others where the case was much weaker an interment order was made. Swinton thought that these cases should all be prepared by solicitors and put up to barristers who would if necessary defend them.

He said he was very glad to have had such a frank talk, but he did nothing towards solving our immediate difficulty, namely, what exactly is Crocker to do. Rather vaguely he thought that he should be in charge of the solicitors preparing the cases and that he should carry out what he described as the "pursuit stage" of a case. Opinions are likely to vary on the exact moment when the pursuit stage has been reached. Swinton was horrified at Crocker's having asked for a list of the staff and their records. He said that he was never told to do anything of the kind, merely to engage some extra solicitors who would work under himself. I gained the impression that Swinton felt he had put his foot in it pretty badly, but that he was trying to get away with it by calming down both sides. Harker told him that he thought the position of deputy Director was rather out of balance. He said that perhaps it might be, but that people like that attached a good deal of importance to their position. The answer of course is that we have efficient people here just as important in their walks of life, who have taken up quite a humble position in this office and who at any rate have made it their business to find out the true nature of the work. The fact is that it is impossible to tell how a man is going to turn out here, whether he be a solicitor, lawyer or anything else. There is no training which is of any very certain value. The only thing to do is to start in at the bottom rung.

August 9th

I lunched with Somerset Maugham, who is writing 4 articles for the American Press, one of them on the 5th Column. D.M.I. had asked me to go and see him. He said his task was rather a difficult one because altho' he wanted to arouse American ~~opinion~~ to a sense of the danger with which they were faced, he did not wish them to get the impression that this country regarded the position as hopeless and was not worth supporting. I gave him an outline of the foreign organisation of the N.S.D.A.P., explaining that I thought that as far as this country was concerned, and in fact America and many other countries, it was the basis of the 5th Column activity. I then went on to give him an estimate of what I thought was the position at the moment. I said in fact that I did not anticipate anything very frightful in the way of 5th column activity. He said that what I had told him was most interesting but not actually very helpful in so far as his report was concerned. He had apparently just written one article for some American periodical on the French collapse. He said that when something so complete and unexpected happened one had to go back to fundamentals. He thought that the root cause was that the French had grown to attach more importance to money than to more spiritual things.

August 10th

The W. Section is beginning to get under way. The arrangements have now been made for an officer from the Army, Navy and Air Force to join the organisation and supply all possible information relating to operations. Movements of all enemy aircraft over this country have been plotted and in one instance it was found that they all seemed to turn at a point in Somerset near the Bristol Channel. A few days later a map was taken off a German aeroplane brought down in this country which had a X on it at this very spot. The pilot is being interrogated and the whole area is being combed out as

D.B.

Taking into consideration the disguises that you habitually put on when out of the office I think that the following extract from a recent book by Somerset Maugham might be of interest to you:

"I examined a number of secret reports dealing with the Fifth Column and I was fortunate enough to meet some of the men whose job it is to watch its activities in Britain and to take the necessary steps to counter them. I cannot tell their names; I can only say that in appearance they do not at all resemble the secret agents of fiction. If you met them you would never dream that they had anything to do with the occupation they follow.... Another was a plump man with grey hair and a grey moon face, in rather shabby grey clothes. He had an ingratiating way with him, a pleasant laugh and a soft voice. I do not know what you would have taken him for if you had found him standing in a doorway where you had sought refuge from a sudden shower - a motor salesman, perhaps, or a retired tea planter."

B.I.C.
30.3.42.



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far as possible. It may be that there is something in the nature of a beacon station at this spot.

Dickson has done a very good report on the funds of the B.U.F. which have been investigated in a number of Trust Companies. A great deal of trouble had been taken by the Party to cover up the origin as far as possible. So far investigations disclose that there is a balance of some £11,637.

August 11th

The War Cabinet were informed on August 1st that Lord Lytton would accept the chairmanship of the Advisory Council on Aliens. An attempt has been made to get M.I.5. to send a representative but this has been heavily turned down by Swinton, on the grounds that it would be most improper for any member of this service to express views at such a meeting.

On August 1st the P.M. stated to the War Cabinet that our position was now considerably more secure than it had been some months earlier. At that time we had very few trained and equipped troops in the country. He thought that it would now be possible to take a somewhat less rigid attitude in regard to internment of aliens. The Home Secretary agreed but thought it would be undesirable that there should be too violent a reaction from the policy previously endorsed.

Peter Smithers, the Naval representative on the W. Branch tells me that our convoys are being attacked in the narrow channel off the north-east coast of Ulster. 16 ships have been torpedoed there since the 1st August. The Germans have not been slow to realise that since we have laid a mine field from the Cornish Coast to the S.E. Coast of Eire, all our shipping, which is now concentrated on the west coast, must pass out through this channel. They have consequently had a lot of submarines lurking. It was here that the troop ship Tel Akabir was torpedoed. I gather that we have now

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transferred a number of our destroyers from the East Coast and also patrol boats. This should improve matters but leaves the East Coast exposed. Smithers is going over to Ulster to see whether any measures are possible to prevent leakage of information from Northern Ireland, since all ships passing through the narrows there must be clearly visible from the shore.

August 12th *Swinton*

Charles and I lunched with Vivian. V.V. proposed that he should have a very frank talk with Swinton, and should tell him in very plain language that his action in pitchforking William Charles into this office was fundamentally wrong. He would say that he was quite ready to serve on a committee but that it must be properly constituted, and he would probably say many things that might conceivably make Swinton his enemy.

Archer tells me that our air strength is 20,700. This includes all types of aircraft in all parts of the globe. We had apparently estimated several years ago that our wastage in pilots would amount to some 3,000 a month. At the outbreak of this war we had 9,000 surplus pilots and since intensive training has been going on ever since I gather that we are fairly well placed.

Cecil has got an interesting report from an Irish informant of a reliable type who had been in touch with a member of the German Legation in Dublin. The German, after being supplied with a certain amount of drink, began to talk in an interesting way. He said that the effect of our bombing of Hamburg had been very great, and that a considerable number of people had been killed besides the material damage. The Germans could not give this out on the radio as they had always said that their air defences were impregnable. There was a feeling in Germany that the Air Force had not come up to expectations. Pilots were not receiving adequate

training owing to shortage of petrol. Serious riots had occurred in the mining districts of Norway. Miners had attacked lorries taking food out of the country and the Germans had had to use tanks against them. In Holland there was a passive hostility which was causing anxiety. The French harvest had been much damaged in the fighting zones and what remained was not being brought in. Food shortage was serious in Germany but appalling in the conquered countries. Germans were looking forward to the coming winter with great anxiety.

The formation of the local security forces in Ireland has been going ahead with excellent results. Most of these forces are being led and organised by the local gentry, most of them ex-officers or retired civil servants loyal to this country. The greatest keenness is being shown and allowing for the very short time and lack of equipment, results are extremely good. A stage had been reached where Irish nationals from the local Security forces had volunteered to provide arms and ammunition from the cache which they had made. Our informant said that when an Irishman went to these lengths you might be sure he was really interested. The effect of this had been to lessen the influence of the I.R.A. and a great many people who were neither on one side nor the other had now found a new interest which had drawn them on to the side of an ordered Government. It is obviously very important that nothing should be said about this; if it once got about that the local volunteers were in the hands of the Anglo-Irish there would very soon be a reaction.

Charles and I and Parker discussed the possibility of having a re-organisation committee with Creedy in the chair. The only other members would be V.V. and Horrocks. This I think would be far more satisfactory than the present suggestion of Crocker, Horrocks and myself. Personally I should be absolutely satisfied to leave the whole matter in the hands of V.V.

August 13th

At the board meeting today Toby raised the question of Birkett's attitude towards members of the B.U.F. In spite of the fact that he had agreed to keep in internment proven members of the B.U.F. since their organisation had now been proscribed, he had been letting them out whenever he thought they had an attractive personality. Evidence did not seem to count for very much. In one case the man denied that he was a member of the B.U.F. in spite of the fact that his black shirt was found in a drawer and that he was wearing a Fascist belt. I forget what excuse was offered about the shirt, but as regards the belt he said that he wore it for his lumbago. This was readily accepted by the committee. The matter is being taken up with the H.O.

The problem of the lists of suspects whom the soldier want to arrest in the event of an invasion has been solved by our going through these lists very carefully and by the granting of powers to the Regional Commissioners to pass bye-laws in such an emergency which will cover the situation.

An interesting case has come to light. We have records dating back some years showing that one Stanislas SEYMOWICZYK, who has used a variety of other aliases, was either a member of the OGPU or the 4th Department. This man succeeded in getting over here with a number of refugees at the time of the French debacle. He was accompanied by a woman called Alta LECOUTRE. We now find that they are ensconced in the offices of De Gaulle, the woman being secretary to LABARTHE, who is supposed to be in charge of technical equipment. LABARTHE has a very sticky record as one of the people who were deeply involved in the Spanish arms racket on behalf of Moscow. This looks like developing into an interesting case. We have sent a wire to Mr.

Thomas in Canada as he is almost certain to know these people.

August 14th.

There has been tremendous excitement today owing to the discovery of 80 parachutes dropped through the previous night in various parts of the country. Meetings are being held by C.H.Q., Air Ministry, the Centre, etc. In actual fact these parachutes are a very crude hoax by the Germans. They were obviously intended to cause alarm and despondency and the N.B.B.S. has been collaborating in flesh-creeping broadcasts. Two points have almost completely given the show away. One of the parachutes was discovered in a cornfield and there were no tracks leading from it. In another case documents were dropped giving alleged instructions to agents. These documents were partly covered with mud, and bore a secret stamp. Unfortunately the stamp had been put on over the mud. It is of course possible that the Germans might put over a hoax of this kind in order that on some future occasion they might do the same thing and drop a couple of agents.

Charles went and saw Swinton this evening, and seems to have had a devastatingly frank talk. He told Swinton that his recent action in pitchforking C. into this organisation as a Deputy-Director on half-baked information had completely messed up the whole department, and that everybody was regarding C. as Swinton's spy, particularly as he still retains his appointment on the Executive. Charles explained to him that he had put me in an extremely awkward position and that he would be well advised to send for me and hear what I had to say. Swinton admitted that he had acted too hastily. Charles replied that although there might be no means of getting over the present situation there might be a way of getting round it. He thought that Swinton's

political training might help him to find a formula, since it was quite obvious that there was no job in M.I.5. which would warrant C. being given the rank of Deputy Director. In Mr. Chamberlain's frightful words after his return from Berchtesgarden, "It was a frank talk and a friendly talk".

August 15th

I went to lunch at Latchmere House. Stephens certainly has done a first class piece of work, and he is evidently enjoying the job. The establishment is in fact now more or less full up and we have the necessary interrogators.

180 aircraft were brought down today. We had a warning at 7 p.m. when Croydon was bombed. None of the Germans engaged in this attack got back home.

August 16th

We had two air raid warnings today, one in the morning and one in the evenings.

KANO has written to KASE of the Japanese Embassy forwarding a copy of a long memo on Japanese policy vis a vis China etc. which is to be given to Semphill. The latter is to put it over with members of the Labour Party and the Government and also with certain people in the House of Lords. Since Semphill is employed at the Admiralty this seems to be going rather far, particularly in the light of the previous information which shows that he is in receipt of £2-300 a year for services officially and unofficially rendered to the Japanese Naval and Military authorities.

We had a meeting at 3 this afternoon about Tribunals, with Swinton in the chair. We had to consider Germans and Austrians to be released under 19 categories. It was agreed that we had adequate staff

to deal with this matter. Italians would also be eligible under these categories, but we should not deal with any who had been the subject of the general internment order for those between the ages of 16-70. This left us with the 750 duals and some 2,000 pure Italians who are members of the Fascio. It was agreed that everything possible should be done to get the view accepted that membership of the Fascio constituted sufficient grounds for keeping a man interned. With this object in view Curry is to prepare a memo for discussion by the Home Defence Executive. This should strengthen the position. There may be difficulty with the F.O. who are inclined to think that membership of the Fascio is quite meaningless. It will also be necessary for the Army to make up its mind whether it wants members of the Fascio in the A.M.P.C.

Theo Turner wrote out certain recommendations made by the Asquith Committee, which was set up to suggest further categories of enemy aliens who might be released. One of their recommendations was that all enemy aliens in Cat.B should be given the benefit of exemption under the 19 categories which had been applied to Cat.C. Since we know that there is no real distinction between the categories B. and C., it is in a way rather difficult for us to object. It constitutes an admission however that the original tribunals were absolutely valueless, in classifying enemy aliens. The worst suggestion of all was that the enemy aliens in Cat.C who had been sent to Canada or Australia should be given the same opportunity for exemption under the 19 categories as those who had remained here and further that those who so desired should be shipped back to this country. No further deportations to the Dominions are to take place.

Curry has unearthed an interesting case. A man called SARPILL who takes expensive photographs in

Bond Street, has been reported by U.S. as being a doubtful customer. His record shows that he was formerly a Czarist Intelligence Officer, that he managed to obtain his release in 1924 and went to Berlin. He came here after the Nazi revolution, and is running a very successful business. On looking up his H.O. papers Curry has found that he came here on the recommendation of Walter BLOCH of BLOCH & ANDERSON and the Mercedes Co.

Swinton saw V.V. V.V. has I gather offered to help in any way that we may consider to be most useful.

August 17th

Lakin has discovered that the Censorship are employing A.B. NEWTON, the crook solicitor who featured in the "Mr. A" case.

August 18th

140 aircraft have been brought down today, out of 600 aircraft which came over. The figures for the week come to an average of 82 per day. Our own bomber losses amount to 31. This figure is considered very low considering the ground covered and the damage caused. We are working almost entirely at night, and apparently with just as much if not more effect.

August 19th

Attended Bow Street where I gave evidence in the WOLKOFF-Tyler KENT case. I merely had to state that two of the letters found in the possession of Tyler KENT addressed to the American Embassy were written by myself. One referred to the BRUNDEIS case and the other to certain secret wireless operations. I said that both these letters would be useful to the enemy. McLure was prosecuting. I was not

Roger has seen Leggett and Citrine today on the question of passes for T.U.C. leaders who wish to visit Government Establishments. Roger and Leggett took the view that Government Establishments should not include Government Departments. If it does there will certainly be the strongest opposition from all the Services. Citrine seemed to be rather piqued about these passes as he had shown his to the porter at the Ministry of Labour who had treated it with contempt. He said that if it did not get him through next time he would go straight back to the T.U.C. and wait there for Bevan to come down and apologise.

August 20th

I have just seen the Night Duty messages, one of which ran as follows:

D.S.D.9. Admiralty rang up to say that the Portland Signal Office have captured a carrier pigeon with a piece of green paper wrapped round one leg, on which is written the following message:

"Beach Hotel. The barmaid's drawers are pink. Sutton on Sea from Rogues Roost Louth"

There was no other means of identification on the bird.

The question of Citrine and T.U.C. passes has rather come to a head. A thousand of these passes have already been issued and 13 have been withheld at our request as they were for communists. Citrine wants to know whether if there is a row the Govt. will stand firm and refuse the issue of these passes to the 13. Otherwise the FT.U.C. will be made to look more reactionary than the Govt. If Citrine cannot get some guarantee he proposes to let the 13 have their passes. It seems that the whole

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THIS IS A COPY
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958. June 2000

question of the government's attitude towards the communists is going to be raised on this small matter of T.U.C. passes to enter factories etc.

B. SCOTT has returned from Lisbon with an up to date wireless set in a suitcase and £950. He met RANTZOW in Lisbon and his whole visit seems to have been a thorough success. He gleaned a certain amount of information regarding local German activities particularly those of DOBLER, who is the head German agent there.

I had lunch with Lord Swinton and went over with him all the ground that V.V. and Charles had covered. I told him how his action had completely upset the office and how an extremely difficult situation had been created through William Charles being pitchforked into this office with the rank of Deputy Director and a seat on the Executive.

S. was careful to explain that he was not on the committee but only a member of his staff. This of course comes to the same thing, and as I told him ~~of~~ William Charles in a priveleged position vis a vis Harker. This at any rate was the impression created at the office who regarded William Charles as a spy put in here to see what we are all doing in order that he can report to S. himself. I told S. that in my view William Charles had made a very superficial criticism of the work of this office about which he knew practically nothing, and that he had got an entirely wrong idea as to what we are doing. He seemed to think that this office was rather like a large detective office with fast cars, which in fact it was not. It was really an intelligence and research department throwing up occasional cases requiring investigation either by our own watchers or by the police. I was in some difficulty to know exactly what Chief Inspector Burt and his merry men were going to do. There were a certain number of cases which they could handle but not a great many.

S. thought that W. organisation would give them plenty to do. I said that if W. threw up one good case in 6 months I should think they were doing very well.

The interview was extremely friendly, and I think I told him everything I had in my mind without much reservation. He was obviously quite aware that he had made a mistake but he showed very little sign of any intention of putting it right. The matter has been more or less left to us to sort out. At the moment I do not see my way clear, but quite definitely the present state of affairs cannot continue very long. The registry is still from the point of view of results in a chaotic condition, and people are beginning to wonder whether it will ever get right. The staff are at a very low ebb. They feel rather like individuals making a bolt or a cog in a Ford factory, the only difference being that there are no cars coming out at the other end. They find this particularly devastating as in the past they have been accustomed to making Rolls Royces.

Morris, who is chairman of one of the Tribunals dealing with members of the B.U.F., has had a talk with Toby Pilcher. It is quite evident that he is not acting on the directives laid down and agreed to by Birkett, namely that as the Party had been proscribed, active membership up to the time of arrest should constitute sufficient grounds for permanent detention. In 36 cases detention is being continued. In 35 we have agreed to release, and in a further 21 the committee have recommended release

in spite of that fact that all those concerned were active in the movement until the time

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of their arrest. If something is not done to prevent the H.O. releasing these people the Govt. will find themselves in a very nasty hole, quite apart from the risks of allowing a number of potential 5th columnists to remain at large. We have just come across a group in Leeds consisting of members of the B.U.F. who are endeavouring to establish communication with Germany.

August 21st

Massey, the Canadian High Commissioner, has told Lennox that he left the programme of his tour round the 12th Corps on his dressing-table at the Dorchester and that it had vanished. After giving endless details about the loss, he later rang up to say that he had found it in a place in which he had put it himself for safety and had forgotten. Meanwhile the W.O. were wondering whether they should cancel the whole tour.

A German named H.K. BRUINS who came over here in the guise of a refugee from Belgium and Holland, is a self-confessed German agent. He had been in possession of a wireless set with which he had been communicating weather reports and other information to the Germans. He had also been instructed to give them early intimation of the advance of British troops into Belgium. This I gather he had done. He was working for RANTZOW. The question now arises whether this is a shooting case. There is no doubt what ever that BRUIN was a German agent and very little doubt that he was operating against us. He was certainly, operating against our allies.

SEYMONICZYK has been followed, and had a meeting at the Serpentine Lido with a man

who was subsequently identified as NOLTE, a Dutchman. NOLTE has a considerable intelligence background. He is said to have been working for the French and has quite recently offered his services to us. In the meantime things are obviously leaking through Ge. de Gaulle's office. Very secret operations in contemplation involving the landing of de Gaulle's forces at Dakkar were only supposed to be known to De Gaulle and his Chief of Staff. Now they seem to be known to almost everybody on the French Mission including LABARTHE. We shall have to tell the D.M.I. that until that organisation is cleaned up they should not be given any confidential information at all

Rothschild had an amusing interview with the Beaver on the subject of LOEWY. He described the general scene when he arrived. There were about a dozen people in B's room all talking in groups. B. went out for about an hour and left them all sitting there. When he came back he was called upon to go to Downing St. Rothschild went with him and started his business in the car on the way. He waited 1½ hours outside 10 Downing St. in the car, and had a further talk with B. on his return. After this he got 10 minutes private conversation. The dialogue went something like this:

B. Well, Rothschild, you have come to see me about the Loewy people, about those 8 people. I am surprised that somebody with your name, your liberal views, your position and reputation, should go in for this witch-hunting. Those poor Jews have been hunted out of Germany, and now when they come here they are hunted back into concentration camps. You should not be involved in this persecution, and you should not be in M.I.5 witch-

hunting. You should be leading your people out of the concentration camps.

R. The members of the Loewy firm that I came to see you about are not Jews. They are what is known as Aryan.

B. They are Jews.

R. They are not.

B. They are Jews.

R. They are not.

B. I am not going to start an argument. Now are you anything to do with that man Capt. or Group Capt. Archer?

R. He is a colleague of mine.

B. You know I fired him. I fired him because he said a terrible thing to me, something that would do this country a great deal of harm with its traditions of harbouring political refugees. He said that if those poor Jews were left out that the public would hang them on every lamp post. Anybody who says that to me gets fired at once. You ought not to be associated with those witch-hunters.

R. Do you think then that M.I.5's investigations into Nazi agents in industry are of no value?

B. No value at all. Even if these Loewy people are agents, they can do no harm.

R. Couldn't they sabotage plant?

B. No. I watch them very carefully.

R. Couldn't they convey information to the enemy about the geographical position of your extrusion presses, and about the Ministry of Aircraft Production's aircraft capacity and production?

B. I don't care if they do know where the presses are. It is not easy to bomb a press even if your so-called agents were signalling to them. As regards our capacity, I hope the Germans do know. I said what it was on the transatlantic telephone at 9 o'clock this evening.

R. So really you are quite happy about having these people about. You remember what happened in France and Holland.

B. I was in France at the very last moment before the Govt. fell, and I can tell you it was nothing to do with so-called 5th Column activities. The French were a decadent and beaten race. That poor Jew Mandel was the only one who had any spirit in him. I watched him trying to carry the whole country. You know I have not always been pro-Semitic, but when a people get persecuted I go on to their side. I am the only liberal member of the Cabinet, and I am sticking up for them everywhere. You ought to stick up for them too, instead of persecuting them. It is disgraceful.

R. Well, if you are quite happy about having dangerous people in your employ, I will say nothing more about it.

B. (a little apprehensively), Well, what is your case against them? I must have logic.

and I must have my presses. If you take the men away I can't have my presses.

R. Your own industrial adviser Sir Charles Craven says it will make no difference if these people are taken away.

B. How the bloody hell does he know? What is your case against them.

R. In two cases we consider that the people are German agents, or at any rate strong Nazi sympathisers, and our source of information has been some Czech intelligence officers who have known these people for a considerable time. It is no good your saying that Loewy has confidence in them. Loewy is quite unreliable. He told me that Eugene HILT, an Englishman who had been in his employ for some time, was perfectly reliable, when the witch hunters knew perfectly well that he was actively conspiring with the German Embassy and the German Chamber of Commerce to break Loewy. The thing I have against the others is that they were members of the German Labour Front.

B. The German Labour Front is a Trade Union.

R. It isn't. It is an espionage organisation.

B. Everybody in Germany after 1934 had to belong to the German Trade Union. Therefore it means nothing.

R. But these people became members of the German Labour Front not in Germany in order to work, but in a free country.

B. That poor Jew Loewy wants to go to Canada now. He comes and begs me every day to let

him take all his people over there.

R. Well, I take it you are not going to agree to having these people removed.

B. You produce your case. You have not produced anything yet; and I will consider it. I do not want Nazi agents in the Ministry of Aircraft Production.

R. Thank you very much for letting me come and see you.

B. Good-night. You should not be in that organisation with the witch-hunters. It ought to be abolished. I do not think there is any danger from Nazi spies in this country. I do not think it matters if they are at large. "

I have got Bingham to start a press section. He will get it on its feet and try to find a suitable person to run it.

Rothschild has seen E.H. Jones of the Machine Tool Company which was taken over the other day by the Ministry of Supply. Jones had got an injunction which had necessitated the re-drafting of 55(4) of the D.R. Jones admitted that 75% of his business had been done with Germany, and that his firm had represented 10 German machine tool firms. He himself had been a member of the Anglo-German Chamber of Commerce and had known Markau. He volunteered the information that on one occasion he had been summoned to Berlin because one of his employees, a Jew, had made disparaging remarks about Hitler. When he arrived he was told by the German Machine Tool Association that he would have to get rid of this employee. He got out of it by

saying that even if he had got rid of him he could not stop him saying things about Hitler. The case is interesting as showing the degree of German interference which has not previously come to light. Jones said that he was still getting machine tools from Switzerland which probably means that they are coming from a German controlled firm if not actually from Germany. They reach this country via French unoccupied territory, Spain and Portugal.

I lunched with General Kell. He was very disturbed about the whole situation in the office, particularly by the publicity given to the appointment of Chief Inspector Burt. He thought the whole thing was disastrous. What worried him still more was the fact that this office was being run from the outside and was rapidly becoming political. He thought it would have very serious repercussions after the war, if not before. He is quite ready to take up the cudgels on our behalf if we thought it could be of any use. I said that at the moment I thought it would be better to see how things develop. We were committed to taking on Crocker although at the moment I could not see what he was going to do which was consistent with his rank.

August 22nd

I lunched with V.V. and Cowgill. I told them that I had arranged with Wood, Dick and Sinclair to prepare a chart showing exactly where alien populations were situated and what steps had been taken to penetrate. We were dealing with 4 categories, service personnel, seamen, fishermen and refugees. It was agreed that Woods personal

and that we could probably appoint someone in each community who would serve our dual purpose. He would keep us informed of what was going on and he would point out to S.I.S. likely agents. It has been suggested that a small committee should be set up at the Centre consisting of Leggett, Wall and Roger, in order to discuss various communist problems. There seems no harm in this, but Wall is rather inclined to go too far. He wants us to put people into the factories. This is obviously going to lead to trouble. He also wants us to collaborate with the T.U.C. This I think is also dangerous both for ourselves and the T.U.C.

Leonard Ingrams told me today that he had very definite evidence that the police in Germany are committing suicide at the rate of about one a day. He asked whether anything of the kind was happening over here and whether I could give any special reason. I could not think of anything except that a policeman's lot is not a happy one.

I dined with David Boyle. He has now more or less completed his organisation in the provinces. Incidentally he has I think solved the mystery of the message about the barmaid's drawers. The pigeon was probably one of his as he has communication not only by wireless but by pigeon to a loft at Willesden. All his pigeons have a green band.

August 23rd

A new wireless station has been started called the Christian Peace Movement Station. It begins its broadcast with a hymn.

There was an air raid last night. It is the first time I have heard the guns.

August 24th

Raids at 8.30 and 2.30.

Frost is very much on the war path about his organisation. He has had a row with Crocker after which he went to see Swinton. He made it clear that his organisation is part of B.Branch and that he will put out to Crocker any enquiries that he wishes done but he must be the judge as to what particular lines, how, and when they should be carried out. Swinton apparently agrees with Frost.

A scare has been raised about the Dutch Air Lines.K.L.M. were operating between this country and Lisbon and a service is also to be run between Berlin and Lisbon. This means that the K.L.M. pilots from this country will be meeting their compatriots from Berlin. A service of this kind of course might operate both ways, but on the whole I think it is rather risky from our point of view.

August 25th

An Italian engineer named RISSONE, born London 1915 is exempt from internment under the 19 categories because he has lived here for more than 20 years. He made a declaration of alienage in December 1939 and left the U.K. for Italy in Feb.1940 on holiday. He returned on June 4th to seek employment. We are recommending that he should be interned.

According to a code message the Germans are very anxious to find out the strength of our forces in N.Ireland.

August 26th

I lunched today with John Booth. He gave me an interesting account of his experiences in Belgium. He said that on the whole there were not many really bad moments. The first dive bombing attack shook him slightly, but he very soon got used to it and so did his men. He really disliked being shelled more than being bombed. He thinks the men behaved absolutely marvellously and that now they have returned here they are absolutely itching to get at the Germans. They are volunteering right and left for the various expeditions or raiding parties which are on the tapis at the moment.

Roger Hollis has been all through the documents of the Executive Committee of the C.P.G.B. which were in Eric GODFREY's possession, and made a comparison between Moscow's short thesis on the war situation and utterances made by Moscow as related by J.Lovestone to the Dies Committee. Moscow's instructions are that the imperialist war must be gradually converted into civil war, that no steps should be taken to oppose a German landing in this country since a short period under a Nazi regime would be the quickest way of bringing about a Communist revolution. J.Lovestone said that Moscow was working on similar lines in the past in Germany since they held the view that it was much easier to bring about a revolution after a Fascist regime than after a Social-Democratic one.

August 27th

I met Duthie in the passage. He asked me how things were going. I told him none too well, that everyone was asking what Crocker's

position here was and resenting his interference.

On the 25th August Rustu Aras told the Egyptians that he had heard from Ankara that if Greece were attacked, Turkey in conjunction with Gt. Britain would assist her. King Farouk had been so informed by the Turkish President.

SNOW is in daily communication with the Germans, and arrangements are being made to land an agent by parachute. A suitable spot is being found, the location of which will be communicated to the Germans. The great difficulty is to get the man down alive and to prevent the L.D.V. from getting at him. The German proposal is that a house should be taken in an out of the way spot where this man and other agents could be accommodated.

A cynical American youth, writing from New York, says: "America is the only country which has passed from barbarism to decadence without the intervening stage of civilisation".

August 28th

Had lunch with Duthie. From our conversation on the previous day he had evidently gathered that all was not well and he was evidently anxious to effect any adjustments that were possible. I started the conversation by saying that I was going to be blisteringly frank. I told him how we had discussed before the war the possibility of making use of Crocker's services, how we had come to the conclusion that there was no job big enough for him inside the office, but that he might be useful outside, how I had

later suggested that he should come into the organisation and make recommendations, although I had warned him that many things which would seem logical to him would not in practice be possible, and lastly how he had come on to the Executive, criticised this office on half-baked information and without consulting those who were really in authority, and then got himself pitch-forked in as a Deputy Director. I explained that he had not helped matters by his rather tactless behaviour and that it was a difficult if not impossible task to see how he could be fitted into the scheme of the office. I explained that there were many quite eminent people here who were content to do minor jobs, but he was obviously a type who was so filled with a sense of his own importance that he would never be content to work here in a minor capacity. Duthie said that Swinton had realised this and the only thing for us to do was to swallow the indigestible morsel or bring it up. He himself rather doubted whether things would work with Crocker in the office. He told me that Swinton had now written to Harker instructing him to hold a meeting which would consist of himself, Crocker, Horrocks, Frost and myself and that Crocker's functions were to be rigidly defined. I told Duthie that I was quite prepared for him to remain and do whatever work that could be thrown up to C.I. Burt but that I did not propose to mess the branch about in order to find him a job. Duthie told me that he was supposed to be looking after Latchmere. I said that this was the first I had heard of it.

I attended Lord Snell's committee this morning. It had been set up to go into the question of the Arandora Star. There only

appeared to be one other member of the committee, whose name I did not catch. I was asked to state the part played by M.I.5 in the preparation of the lists. I explained that we had compiled a list based mainly on membership of the Fascio before the war but that there were half a dozen to a dozen other people who were suspected of espionage. These people had been interned immediately on the outbreak of war and were put into Cat.A. We had recommended the general policy of clearing the ground in this country of enemy aliens because we thought that as this country was in a state of siege they might create dangerous focal points and would be a source of embarrassment both to the military and police. There was further the question of vetting them. We had however agreed in the case of the Italians that large proportions of them should be sent back to Italy in order that they might become focal points of discontent there. We had made a reservation in the case of the young Italian Fascists since they might have been sent back here as parachutists or as attacking forces with specialised knowledge. This policy had been abandoned owing to difficulties connected with shipping. The fact that our Cat.A. enemy aliens had been placed on board the Arandora Star was part of the general scheme of evacuation of all enemy aliens and it was natural that the Cat.A. people should have been taken first. Lord Snell then wanted to know something about the membership of the Fascist Party. He thought that although some of them might be prepared to commit some overt act he thought that a certain number of them might have been forced to join and might in consequence be harmless. Was there any difference he asked between membership of the Fascist Party and membership of the British Club in Rome by a British subject. I said yes indeed

there was a very fundamental difference. In one case we were dealing with a totalitarian state fighting a total war and in the other we were dealing with a single individual with no organisation behind him. I then tried to explain the organisation of the Fascist Party abroad. He seemed quite interested and thanked me profusely for having given evidence before the committee. I am convinced however that he understood very little of what I said or of its implications. He lives in an entirely different world.

I had endless discussions about our proposed meeting on reorganisation. Jane thought that we ought to say that Crocker has blotted his copy-book to such an extent that the office cannot hold him. Pilcher and Harker thought this would be bad tactics, and that we must hold a meeting to see how far his services could be made use of. Probably this is the right course although I cannot see myself how it is going to work.

August 30th

We had a meeting today with V.V., Crocker, Horrocks D.S.S. and myself. The purpose was to discuss the organisation and Crocker's position in the office. V.V. explained that the position created by Crocker's presence here as a Deputy Director with a seat on the Centre was really an impossible one. It had been laid down that he was to be in charge of investigation. This he could only do subject to direction from B.Branch, since all the cases arose out of a background of research and intelligence and had therefore to be controlled by the various sections of B. He thought it wrong that anybody with

the rank of Deputy Director should be investigating and giving orders to officers serving in another branch. This only led to lack of confidence in the head of the office and in the branch leaders. If on the other hand Crocker was subordinate to B. both as regards investigating certain organisational problems and enquiries made through

Burt and his fellow police officers, the situation would be entirely different. It was pointed out that- to Crocker that he had in his actions upset quite a number of people in this office already. He regretted this but felt that if he had actually offended somebody he should have been told about it. He retired at the conclusion of the meeting and left us to deliberate and put forward what we felt might usefully be his functions. He said that he was quite ready to resign if he was in any way an embarrassment to D.S.S. or myself. We both said that we felt he had certain very useful qualifications which would be of great benefit to the office. The only difficulty was to work out how this could best be applied. "e discussed the position after the meeting and were all agreed that had Crocker come in under better auspices and been more tactful in handling the various people in the branch, he could have been very useful. Some doubt was expressed as to whether he could achieve very much in the present circumstances, but in the end we decided to suggest that he should work under me both as regards organisation and investigation.

I met Butler after the meeting. He told me that Crocker was unlikely to stay and did not feel that he had had a fair deal. Butler entirely agreed with our point of view but was full of regrets that through

general mismanagement we had lost the services of somebody of very useful qualifications. V.V. really carried the whole meeting and expressed his views kindly but forcibly. It was arranged that we should show our recommendations to Crocker and submit them to Lord Swinton on Monday.

Roger had a meeting with Wall about Communists. Wall is extremely anxious to precipitate some sort of action but both Leggett and Roger think this would be most ill-advised in present circumstances. They do think however that when action is taken under the D.R.s some steps should be taken to make the position clear to the man's fellow-workers. At present there is only a very one-sided propaganda in the Daily Worker which tends to make out that the man has been victimised for his communist views.

There have been some melodramatic developments in the case of the B.U.F. at Leeds. There is now a definite conspiracy to obtain military information through a young girl who is friendly with an officer and to pass this information to the Germans. There is also a scheme to obtain arms and explosives.

August 31st

Cecil returned from N.Ireland. The whole position from the security angle has been tightened up and satisfactory arrangements made with the military and police.

A new regulation has been published permitting the shooting of peregrine falcons, as they apparently prey on homing pigeons coming in from the continent.

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September 6th

Returned midday to find that in my absence 4 Dutchmen had landed in a boat from Dungeness on the 3rd Sept. Their names were Van Den KIEBOMM, MEIER, PONS and WALBERG. They had been instructed to report on British defensive measures on the coast near Dungeness and on army reserve formations in depth from Dungeness to Ashford and thence to London. They said that there was a concentration of mounted troops equipped with mules at Le Touquet. This information was confirmed to some extent by S.I.S. sources. They had been told that an invasion would take place before the middle of September. In the meantime they were to report anything they could with the small transmitting sets in their possession. They were to work in pairs. Each pair had £60 in English money and food for 7 days. They were given no contacts in this country. In fact they were singularly badly directed and to anybody with any knowledge of conditions in this country it should have been apparent that none of these people could hope to succeed. All of them had been misled about conditions in this country, probably as an inducement to them to come over.

Sir Percy Lorraine's committee for dealing with Italians who wish to appear is showing signs of being as useless as the Birkett Committee. Sir Percy had seen Lord Swinton and D.S.S. and had been handed a copy of a very concise memo on the Italian Fascist organisation. Conditions of membership of this organisation were very clearly defined and to any ordinary person would seem to be sufficiently serious to warrant the continued internment of any member of the Party.

A particularly bad case has just been brought to light where the committee have recommended the release of Sergio ESPOSTI. This man on his own admission acted as treasurer to the Party and was a member of it. He did not think that he had actually taken the oath but he knew about it and its terms. He pleaded that members in Scotland did not generally take the oath. As regards his member-treasurership he said that he had been called in to reorganise the finances of the Casa d'Italia, but that apart from that he had taken no part in politics. His wife was about to have a baby and the committee recommended his release.

I found on return that Crocker resigned. I gather that he was not prepared to accept the position which we had to find for him but that he had had a row with Swinton as the result of which he had retired not only from this office but from the Centre as well. Personally I am very sorry in a great many ways that this has happened, as I am sure that he could have done very useful work here. The real mistake is that he was pitch-forked into this office on half-baked information as to the situation. For this I am afraid he was to some extent to blame.

Curry and Dick dined with me and we had a long discussion about the organisation of B.Branch. We made a little headway but not very much. We were all impressed by the extreme difficulty in finding a satisfactory solution. There are unfortunately too many people who either won't or can't co-operate. They therefore have to be subjected to special treatment. It is extremely difficult to fit them into any sort of hierarchy.

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A parachutist descended during the night from a height of 15,000 ft. He had been stunned by his wireless set and was found lying in a ditch at Denton, Northants at 17.30 hours yesterday. He was dressed as a civilian and was in possession of a German automatic and a wireless set which could transmit and receive. It was of similar pattern to that now in possession of Snow. The man's name is SUMMER. He is a Swede of German origin. He had been dropped by a Heinkel plane and had embarked at Brussels. He had intended to land at Birmingham and thought that on landing he was somewhere near Stratford-on-Avon. It transpired that he had been in England as late as December 1939 when he had stayed with friends at Boughton. He was in possession of his National Registration Certificate. He had been trained at Hamburg. Hinchley Cooke took down a statement from him at Cannon Row and he was then sent on to Latchmere.

Rothschild spoke to me about the sabotage section. He felt that the present staff was inadequate and it was essential to get someone with a knowledge of marine engineering. He also wanted the service of one of Burt's men for investigation purposes. He did not think that as Sir Francis Griffith had mumps and was liable to sickness during the winter months that he would be of much value to the section. ~~No one~~ he has a very high opinion of Edwards' work. I have spoken to Curry about this. He agrees about Griffith but thinks that Edwards has done useful work although he may not be of a very energetic nature. We both feel however that

Rothschild is the moving spirit of the organisation and that there would only be friction as long as Griffith's and Edwards remained in B.18. Since R's services are of the greatest value I am very anxious that he should organise the section in his own way. I am quite sure he would make a first-rate job of it.

Quite a number of reports have been coming in from S.I.S. regarding the imminence of invasion. S.I.S. are in touch with two people in Portugal who have been approached by the Germans and it has been suggested that they should be allowed to come here and that we should test them out.

September 8th

Carrigan has been on a very secret visit to Dev. He was asked to find out what Dev's terms would be for the abandonment of his neutrality. I gather that Dev. is quite intrigued and is thinking things over. This move is inspired from the highest quarter here.

The Germans have been flying in here on a directional wireless beam. It is claimed that we have succeeded in bending this beam with the result that the Germans instead of dropping their bombs on important industrial towns in the Midlands, have dropped 500 in the open fields.

I have got out the directives about the interrogation of prisoners, particularly those who land in small boats or by air. If they have wireless apparatus they are to be dealt with in the first instance by W.

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Otherwise they will first be interrogated by someone delegated by Dick. The handling of the case in so far as the D.P.P. is concerned will be done by Cookie. Our object will be to get the prisoner to Latchmere House at the earliest possible moment and to give facilities to the military to extract from them anything in the nature of urgent operational intelligence.

Wood tells me that he is endeavouring to obtain the release of the Belgian woman who has been at Holloway for some months owing to an unfortunate mistake. She arrived here in May, when the general rush of refugees began, and described herself as a "journaliere". The immigration authorities, thinking this meant "journalist" came to the conclusion that her general appearance did not quite justify the description of her occupation. They therefore ordered her internment. The police authorities at Holloway, not being quite clear as to the reason for her internment, rang up the Belgian Embassy to enquire about the lady and her profession of "journaliere". On being told that the word meant "daily worker", they banged down the telephone and decided that she should remain in internment for an indefinite period.

According to Group 1 the Germans are worried about the 4 men in a boat and also SUMMER and his friend TATE whose identity has now been disclosed, on condition that TATE's life will be spared if and when he arrives in this country. This is interesting confirmation that these 6 spies, who have been thrown into this country in the most efficient manner, are

apparently part of a serious German organisation. SUMNER is not apparently interested in his own life but merely that of his friend. He himself is quite prepared to be shot as a spy. He is apparently a student of philosophy. Owing to his German parentage and his admiration of the German regime he joined the German Army. He was however reluctant to become a spy, but having taken the job was prepared to see it through and determined not to give away his friends. Frost and Knight seem to have succeeded in persuading him that the Germans had given him a very raw deal and had sent him over here ill-equipped and under somewhat false pretexts. He came round eventually to this view and agreed to work his wireless set, which he had up to then refused to do.

I saw Kenneth Strong from M.I. this evening. He had just had an interview with the prisoners. What puzzled him was that the Germans, should have given their agents details of their plan of attack. The details they had given more or less agreed with what we had received from other sources and from aerial reconnaissance etc. of the dispositions of enemy forces. This made it difficult to believe that the spies had been sent over here to mislead us. Strong has a great regard for German efficiency and cannot bring himself to believe that they could have been so stupid, as to send these men over here without having schooled them properly and worked out plans by which they could be really effective.

September 9th

We had a heavy raid last night and a raid at Northolt today. We are sending SUMNER down to Bucks where he is going to get into

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communication with the other side.

Had a talk today with Egerton-Johnston. He said that he did not feel that he was fulfilling any very useful purpose in Burt's section. He thought it was much better that the sections should prepare any cases on which they wanted Burt to act and that it was useless for him to be a kind of 5th wheel in the coach. He found it difficult to summarise the file and give instructions to the police without knowing all about the work. In any case he thought that the police would know more about the matter than he did as they at least had police experience whereas he had neither police nor intelligence experience.

We are getting ~~CHARLIE~~ fixed up in Manchester where is to be ready to receive another agent with a wireless set. We have also got a place waiting in Wales for 3 more agents who are due to arrive.

A man called Gordon EVANS reported at the Recruiting Station at Gt. Scotland Yard that he had arrived here in a rubber boat from an aeroplane which had taken 3 hours to come from Calais, to Dover. He had then gone up to London hanging from underneath a train. His story was that the Germans were going to attack at midnight on Tuesday. He was so incoherent that the doctor was called. He could not find anything wrong but by hypnosis he ascertained that the man had been in an accident and had been in hospital for some time. It also transpired that a bomb had fallen fairly close to him since he came out of hospital. The facts about the hospital were checked and found to be correct. Obvious-

September 10th

There have been more day and night raids.

A meeting has been held with the M.I.6o discuss policy in regard to communications sent to the enemy through our various agents. Are we to encourage them to invade or are we to try and stall proceedings? D.M.I. was rather in favour of encouraging them to come over but on referring the matter to the Chiefs of Staff it was decided to let them have the truth about the strength of our defences. The question of getting the necessary information to transmit was also discussed. This was to be done through M.I. 9 except in the case of the Air Ministry where Archie Boyle will continue to let us have information for Snow. Cowgill is not very satisfied with the plan to obtain information through M.I.9. His whole experience is that we ought to go very high. The heads of the intelligence are too important to give us the chicken-feed and not important enough to give us the really vital stuff. Whenever you asked something of the kind you are always told to refer the matter to someone else, when the result is generally unsatisfactory and the delay considerable. Personally I think Cowgill is quite right but I am afraid ~~it~~ we are committed to the M.I.9 scheme until it breaks down, which it undoubtedly will.

Rothschild has recovered his Home Farm at Tring, which he gives to the office for the use of those who want a night's sleep. This is getting more and more necessary.

It has been suggested that Harker should have somebody to keep him informed on the

questions affecting the general policy of the office. I told him that I felt there were dangers about an organisation of this kind being placed between himself and me, and between himself and Curry and Dick. It would mean that he would be asking entirely inexperienced people to extract information either from myself, Dick or Curry and that when we gave the reply it would probably be misunderstood and he would receive a garbled version which would only be misleading.

September 11th

I discussed with Jasper the question of a Press Section. He seemed doubtful about its value. Personally I cannot understand how an organisation like this can be expected to do without an efficient Press Section. What we really want is someone with an intimate knowledge of the work of the office here who can go through the press intelligently and cover all its wider aspects. At the moment we do not study the Irish press nor do we take in any reviews or periodicals. The work needs a highly qualified and intelligent officer who will make it his business to keep in constant touch with the requirements of all sections.

Archer has written to us that he has unearthed the wireless set we told him about. Some time ago he had been interested in a German named PREETZ who had left the country. PREETZ had subsequently returned under the name of MITCHELL and was associating with a man called DONOGHUE. This is the Donoghue who we were looking for as the result of a group 1 message. Both PREETZ and DONOGHUE have now been arrested and a wireless set has been found

in their possession. We have asked for the fullest possible details.

Cecil has put forward a scheme by which an Irish Mission should be attached to our forces if we are called in to assist the Eire Govt. in the event of an invasion. He feels that it is extremely important that the military should not attempt to deal with any 5th columnists in Eire except through the Eire mission. If it is necessary to arrest anybody he should immediately be handed over to the mission for necessary action. This is I think an extremely important and urgent matter. A memo has been prepared for D?M.I. on the subject. There is also a suggestion that suitable liaison officers with the British forces should be appointed for the purpose of maintaining contact with the Eire missions.

The Sabotage Section here is to be reconstituted. Rothschild is taking it over, and is bringing in a marine engineer and one other. Edwards is going to help W. and Griffith may not return.

Maurice Burton, describing himself as a member of a political intelligence dept. of the F.O. (this is really the organisation working under Jebb and Dalton of M.E.W.) called today to say that he was dealing with Belgium and would be glad of any information about that country that we could give him. He was interested in spreading straight and subversive propaganda and sabotage. His executive dept. would be M.I.E. There were other sections in his organisation dealing with other countries, such as Holland, Czechoslovakia, Poland etc. He said that probably these sections would also be asking us for information about the countries with

which they were concerned. I told him that it was not our primary function to obtain information from abroad, but that we did from time to time get something of the by-product. This information would probably come from our port officers. If we got anything of interest we would let him have it. I have since arranged with Adam that he should pass his information through B.26. The officers of B.26 have now been pooled between ourselves and S.I.S. S.I.S. will be using them to discover useful agents in the various alien communities while we shall be using them to help us to ascertain the political reliability of the various groups of soldiers, seamen, fishermen and refugees.

We have received a group 1 message that a troop-carrying convoy has safely reached Ostend and that further orders will be issued when the convoy leaves for the attack on England.

September 12th

A woman called Mrs. O'GRADY has been residing in the I.O.W. She was walking along the beach with her dog in the defence area and was challenged by the military. She offered to bribe them as they she did not wish to get into trouble with the police. The matter was reported and a summons issued under D.R. She did not turn up on the appointed day and a warrant was issued for her arrest. Meanwhile there have been a certain amount of malicious cutting of telephone wires concerning which the police were making enquiries. Mrs. O'GRADY was eventually traced and found to be residing on a boarding house under the name of ARLAND. Among her property were a number of detailed maps of the I.O.W. showing all the various gun emplacements and defence

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works. She admitted that the drawings were hers but refused to disclose the identity of the person for whom she was working.

SUMMER has succeeded in getting through to the Germans and has received a reply. He explains that he had been experiencing considerable difficulties.

The Asquith Committee have proposed that all enemy aliens interned whose services are required for industry and who might usefully be drafted into the rearmament industry should have their particulars taken. They would have to be interviewed by a Ministry of Labour representative who would decide whether their alleged qualifications were bona fide. Then provided M.I.5 had nothing against them they should take their place in the queue at the labour exchange. This is somewhat staggering seeing the amount of work that has been put in here to keep our armament industry clean of enemy aliens. I have said that we should reply with a flat and uncompromising "No". The whole question of internment of undesirable has now reached a stage which is quite without precedent. In addition to the wonderful suggestion of the Asquith Cttee. referred to above, we have Sir Francis Lindley's committee which is engaged on the release of so-called friendly aliens. (As regards resident Dutchmen we cannot even recommend their internment without previous reference to the Queen's police). There is Sir Percy Lorraine's committee which refuses to accept the fact of active membership of the Italian Fascio as grounds for internment. There is Birket committee, and two others, dealing with members of the B.U.F., who have recommended the release of 21 Party members who admitted before the committee that they were all actively engaged in party work at the time of their arrest. And lastly there is Sir

Cecil Hurst's committee engaged in releasing prominent anti-Nazis or anti-Fascists. Apparently anybody who has written against the Nazi Party or Fascist regime is to be considered eligible for release. Since these people merge right into the Left Wing where things are just as likely to be going on. It is rather difficult to accept the fact that if a man has written against either of these regimes he is necessarily all right. There are moreover plenty of people who have written against the Nazi regime but who thoroughly German at heart e.g. Hermann RAUSCHNIGG.

H.O. have decided that enemy aliens who obtained a quota visa for America are to be released to pack up their things and will remain at large until their boat sails. This does not seem to be a very bright suggestion when an invasion is thought to be imminent. I gather that some 150 to 200 are involved.

A.A. guns were firing hard last night in London for the first time. There were no search lights. Two enemy planes were brought down during the night and 89 yesterday.

September 13th

There was a daylight raid on Buck House. Two bombs were dropped and the chapel destroyed.

D.M.I. has written to us suggesting that as this country is now in the zone of the armies all parachutists etc. should be sent to one of the P/W Camps to be dealt with by the military. We would be given facilities to interrogate afterwards. This does not really make sense as we have already offered to give the military full facilities at Latchmere.

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I have asked V.V. to arrange that we should receive in future copies of Group 10 messages which come from U.S.A. These are very important if we are to have a complete picture of the Rantzow organisation. The Poles, Czechs and Hungarians all appear to be transmitting by wireless without any supervision. I am not so worried about the Czechs but I think the Poles should certainly be supervised. I have asked R.S.S. to take down the Hungarian messages and if they cannot be decyphered I propose to ask for the removal of the Military Attache, who is transmitting the special cypher unknown to his minister. He is moreover notoriously pro-German.

September 14th

A warning has been sent to C.C.s about KUHIRT and Peter SCHROEDER who may have landed here. We are still on the lookout for SUMMERfriend, TATE @ LEONHAR. We know his wave-length, which has not come up and there is also a rendez-vous between him and SUMMER on the 20th.

V.V. says that he is moving a section of his show back to some place in the vicinity of St. Albans. His forward office will be reduced to a minimum and will eat, sleep and work underground.

From their best sources S.I.S. learn that orders were issued last night for a 24-hour blitzkrieg on London. The order was subsequently postponed apparently owing to adverse weather conditions.

Had a long talk with D.S.S. about the staff. He does not think it right to issue any

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...that advice and assis-

tance should be given to those wishing for accommodation in the country. He feels that this might lead to panic and subsequent criticism. Personally I do not agree. I think it is very definitely up to us to look after the staff regardless of what anybody thinks.

Gen. Staff G.H.Q. are fussing about enemy agents who land here from the air or by boat. They do not think that they are getting early access to information of military importance. We have arranged to have them present at Latchmere and given facilities to interrogate anyone of interest.

September 15th

Last night SUMMER sent a message telling his employers that he was in the vicinity of Oxford but had met with considerable difficulties. This morning Snow received a request from the other side to go to the assistance of a Swedish friend who was in the fields near Oxford. He has agreed to do this and has suggested High Wycombe Station as the rendez-vous.

D.N.I. rang up in the evening. He was worried about these wireless messages which he did not understand. He told me they referred to a meeting which was to take place at 11 o'clock on Monday. I showed him that the meeting would be covered. He seemed satisfied. In actual fact we are sending down B.6. (a) to see that SUMMER does not escape and (b) to ascertain whether the Germans send anybody to observe what takes place.

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I dined at the Hyde Park Hotel, where the waiter announced that we had brought down 165 planes up to 8 p.m. The night was fairly noisy. One bomb gave us a mild shock. Cecil spent the night at Hackney and toured the East End with Arthur Villie. The damage has been considerable. He was very impressed by the Anderson shelters. One was right on the edge of a huge crater 30 yds wide and 40-50 ft. deep. An old lady had been sleeping in the shelter and got off with a broken leg.

September 16th

I have arranged that we shall in future for a small committee to deal with Snow and double-crossagents. It will consist of Frost, Dick, Curry, T.A.R, Cowgill and myself. of S.I.S. has put in an excellent report of his examination of the prisoners. He seems to have come to precisely the same conclusions as Dick but he adds a certain amount on the lay-out of the wireless stations etc. It has been decided to amalgamate the two reports.

The latest figures show that 185 German planes were brought down yesterday. The Air Ministry believe that 72 others were almost certainly destroyed and a further 35 severely damaged. We had air raids all day and work has been much dislocated.

Three French cruisers and three destroyers have apparently passed through the Straits of Gibraltar unmolested. It seems that they are on their way to Dakar, and I understand that De Gaulle and his party are now on the way back to this country. The whole situation is rather muddled and it looks very much as if there has been a muddle somewhere

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There have been various developments in the Mercedes case. Both Alfred and Walter BLOCH seem interesting, particularly the latter. They look more and more like 4th Dept. agents. One G.W. AUSTIN has entered the case. He is principal scientific officer at the Royal Naval Torpedo Factory and it is suggested that he has Russian sympathies. He recently stated to Bloch & Anderson that a certain Russian, manager of Langley Alloys and thus connected with High Duty Alloys, would be of interest to them both on business and personal grounds. Further an Anglo-Russian family of PICKERSGILL, who are highly suspect, have come into the picture.

There is yet another strange incident, when U.35 called on HARLIP at an unexpected hour.

A mysterious stranger came in, much to the embarrassment of HARLIP and his wife. U.35 had a very definite impression that this man was a German agent.

Mrs. O'GRADY is now at Holloway.

The meeting between BISCOTT and SUMMER took place. There was no one else there. The Germans have expressed their warm thanks to Snow for his services.

I had a meeting with Dick and They are both quite convinced on the evidence that the Germans did not attempt to build up any service in this country until after the occupation of Holland and Belgium and that this accounts for the very uninspired and slipshod performance which is going on now.

The J.I.C. continue to report concentrations of barges in the Channel Ports. They see no reason to alter their previous view that an invasion is to be expected at any moment.

Two of our battleships were moved down from Scapa to Rosyth a few days ago.

Bombs fell during the night in Bond Street and Berkeley Sq. One of them hit the entrance to the Air Ministry and M.E.W.

I had a long talk with Burt about his position here. I told him that there were a number of points which I wanted to clear up. He asked me how it was that he got here as he was surprised to find that I was not clear about his position. I explained to him that it was entirely at the suggestion of Crocker, who I thought had made rather a big miscalculation about the workings of this department. Burt agreed that the whole nature of our work was peculiar and differed in many respects from ordinary police work. He quite realised there may be many things which his people could not do and that police enquiries must be controlled by intelligence officers. We both agreed that there were many ways in which he could give us most valuable assistance, provided this could be done without upsetting S.B. and the provincial police. He thought that he could short-circuit quite a lot of work by having direct access to C.I.D. and their records. He had already established a position by which he could bring C.I.D. files here. He could not however do this in the case of S.B. Norman Kendal apparently is quite satisfied with this procedure but does not want the files to leave Burt's position. I then raised the question of his warrant. It seemed to me that he should not exercise his warrant within the Met. area without first consulting Scotland Yard. As an extreme case, I pointed out that unwittingly he might perhaps ask him to arrest one of

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Canning's agents. He quite saw the force of this argument. He also felt that if any espionage case reached the stage of police action, that S.B. should be called in as heretofore. I am going to discuss the question of Burt's powers with Kendal.

September 17th

A detective from the I.O.W. came up to see me about the case of O'GRADY. She had apparently done 3 years detention in Bors-tal institution for forging 10/- notes. She also has convictions against her as a prostitute. Her maps and drawings are quite good and the details of gun emplacements etc. are correct. She still refuses to say whether she was acting for anybody in particular. She evidently dislikes this country. I am a little inclined to think that she may be the type of person who has to be in the limelight. Cookie is dealing with the case as it will have to go to the D.P.P.

I had a meeting with W. today about the travelling censorship. It has been agreed that all information obtained should go to us with a copy to the Regional Office who should not take action unless he is out of touch.

Con has gone to Sheerness in order to find out whether there is any local buzz about the raid which is to take place on the 24th. We are carrying out a test today to see whether it is practicable to set the sea alight as a defence measure. Two tankers are taking part in the experiment. If it is successful it is intended to make use of it in an attempted invasion. I believe

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to be the ancient method known as Greek fire and we had a suggestion early in the

war that possibly the Germans might attempt to make use of it. This came from STEIN who heard of it through some quite good German source.

September 18th

Had a meeting today with Herbert and our Censorship. He is very anxious to get proper direction. It has been suggested that we should put an officer with headquarters of the Censorship here and at Liverpool and that whenever the travelling circus was imposed for our benefit, we should send someone to help in the direction of affairs. Herbert emphasises that a large number of his officers had a great deal of information under their hats which they were only too likely to disclose in conversation. If therefore there was a closer contact we stood to benefit.

Had a meeting with Dick and Curry about office organisation. We are going to meet every day from now until we have got this problem solved. It is fraught with every possible difficulty.

I hear that there is considerable confusion in the Irish Home Guard due to the fact that the orders are given in Gaelic. As nobody understands the language, they never know whether they are being told to pile arms or open fire.

The following cutting from the Evening Standard rather amused me: "When a Dornier bomber was shot down near a S.E. town yesterday, 4 men bailed out and were taken to a police station. 3 of the men were quiet and decent but the pilot, a short stocky man, was very truculent and spat in the police

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-ness until late in the afternoon."

Cecil has got a reply from Archer about PREETZ. We have got a description of his wireless set, and photograph and further details are to follow.

September 19th

It has been suggested that Harry should become chairman of the Inter-Services Security Board vice Ferguson, who has gone back to the police. There is apparently a feeling that all matters affecting army security should be under one head. I am not quite sure what this means. It seems however that the military have rather got the feeling that their various functions are being taken away from them by the Security Service. It is however I think a good thing to have Harry as Chairman as he will smooth out any difficulties. He will spend half his time at the W.O. and half here.

September 20th

It appears that the Cabinet have issued instructions that all depts. are to consider cutting down their staffs in London to a minimum and sending as many people as possible to battle headquarters. I have said that I did not see how we could possibly split up the organisation. On the other hand the Office of Works say that they do not think they can give us the necessary transport to move at short notice in an emergency and that we may therefore do well to clear out while the going's good. It is certainly disturbing to have our records here as they are extremely vulnerable and if destroyed, the efficiency of the office would be very

seriously impaired. We cannot possibly do without them, and this really applies to all sections, neither is it possible to split the records. It follows therefore that perhaps with the exception of B.5b, B.6, B.27 and the wireless personnel of W., the whole of the office should be with the records.

Andre Maurois' wife, writing from New York to a Miss Varley of Ross on Wye, talks of her husband's book and his story about Reynaud which is apparently authentic. Helen de Portes, Reynaud's mistress, was his undoing. She destroyed his sense of duty. His so-called accident was perhaps a double suicide. It occurred shortly after a discovery in Spain of suitcases filled with 50 million francs, which had been carried across the border by two minor attaches de cabinet of Reynaud. Arrested, the two men declared that the money belonged to Reynaud and mostly to Mme. de Portes, who was killed in the accident. To Bullett, the American Ambassador, who visited Reynaud in the Montpellier Hospital, Reynaud said: "I have lost my country, my honour and my love

I have been looking at the Cockfosters conversations. The morale of the German prisoners seems to be high. They seem very ignorant about their losses and about conditions over here. They were expecting an invasion to take place about the 15th and seemed surprised that nothing had happened.

An A.M. Intelligence Report states that German troop carriers could pull 3 gliders with 8 men each. They would have a landing speed of about 45 m.p.h. and a range of about 35 miles. It is believed that the Germans actually used gliders in France.

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SUMMER friend TATE has been captured near Cambridge. He had a Danish passport and answers to the description we have. He said that he was a refugee and that he had landed some time ago. He first said he came on a yacht with brown sails and then on a ship propelled by motor. A gypsy has told the police that he had a friend with him at 8 o'clock yesterday evening. Every effort is being made to trace this individual and also a wireless set if one exists.

Egyptian S.M. indicates that the Italians are making certain tentative peace moves in an effort to eliminate Egypt. Rustu Aras says that Turkey is assisting Syria and that the Italians are not making any headqay with that country.

September 21st

Dick and Frost have been interrogating SUMMER all day but without result. He sticks rigidly to his story although it has many discrepancies.

F.O. are suggesting that consuls should be given permits to go into protected areas. I have araised very strong objection to the consuls of Japan, Hungary and Russia, and possibly those of other countries. It is obviously quite useless to have protected areas if Jap consuls, who are known to be spies, can go into them and send back any information they like.

Four Frenchmen who arrived as refugees have been sent to Cannon Row for interrogation.

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Stephens rang me up late in the evening to say that ~~TATE~~ the new arrival, had broken down and was prepared to go out and assist in the discovery of his wireless set

September 22nd

~~TATE~~ wireless set, which was a two-wire one, and also his code, parachute etc., were found. He explained that he had been dropped from a height of 3,500 ft. he had been caught up in some telegraph wires and for a brief moment was in a searchlight beam. He eventually succeeded in extricating himself from the telegraph wires but damaged his foot on landing. He could not add a great deal to what ~~SUMNER~~ has already told us, but what he has to say is interesting confirmation. I discussed with Frost the question of running ~~TATE~~. We came to the conclusion that it was essential that he should try and establish connection, since if the Germans thought he had been caught ~~SUMNER~~ and Snow might be compromised. ~~TATE~~ had an address on him of LOPEZ in Lisbon. We are considering writing to say that the set had been damaged. It was recalled however that the LOPEZ address had been to some extent compromised by the capture of the other prisoners so we dropped this idea.

I have just been told that the officer from M.I.9 who was present at the interrogation of ~~TATE~~ yesterday took it upon himself to manhandle the prisoner without

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saying anything about it to Stephens, Dick or Frost. The interrogation broke off at luntime, when Scotland left the room. Frost, wondering where hewas, followed him and eventually discovered him in the prisoners cell. He was hitting TATE in the jaw and I think got one back for himself. Frost stopped this incident without making a scene, and later told me what had happened. It was quite clear to me that we cannot have this sort of thing going on in our establishment. Apart from the moral aspect of the whole thing, I am quite convinced that these Gestapo methods do not pay in the long run. We are taking the matter up with the D.M.I. and propose to say that we do not intend to have that particular M.I. officer on the premises any more. I am told that Scotland turned up this morning with a syringe contai ing some drug or other, which it was thought would induce the prisoner to speak. Stephens told Scotland that he could not see TATE, who was not in a fit state to be interrogated. Actually there was n thing seriously wrong with TATE.

Had a long discussion with Charles about trying to get suitable accommodation for th staff outside London. He decided to see Swinton about it and get his permission for certain expenditure for, transport etc.

Vichy are reported to be showing signs of coming over. In Syria a third of the

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Stephens has given an amusing account of Osbert Peake's visit to Latchmere. He saw two of the German spies. The conversation with KIEBOM was pleasant and ended on the note that he (Peake) hoped that KIEBOM "would not be here long". Conversation with Meier was perhaps equally unfortunate in that he asked this spy who had been pitched on to these shores by the German s.s., whether he had arranged with his relations to send him clean laundry each week. Peake was closeted with Dr. Dearden for some time and told him that he intended to rely on him as a private source of information.

A short time ago Ned Reid told me that an employee of his named MARTIN had been asked to go over to Dublin to see De V. Martin has known De V. for a good many years. He has now returned and states that he was asked to straighten out currency matters which had got into a frightful mess. There had been a good deal of correspondence with the Treasury and it was quite obvious that there was nobody in Dublin who really understood what he was doing. De V. apparently told Martin that the inevitable consequences of a German victory were too horrible to contemplate. This remark is I think somewhat surprising and very significant.

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The number of German pilots on the 1st April 1940 was estimated at 16,000. Their

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losses since that date are said to be about 6-7,00 and their capacity to train somewhere in the neighbourhood of 3-9000 per annum. In August and September they must have been losing pilots at the rate of about 3,000 a month.

September 23rd

We had a meeting here with V.V., Cowgill, Frost, Dick, T.A.R. and myself, when we discussed all the aspects of the cases of the various German agents through whom we were communicating with the enemy. As SUMNER had seamen's papers we decided to get them put in order. Later on we could arrange for him to fall in with another seaman whom we might perhaps run to Lisbon. It was agreed that we should watch the money situation very carefully since it was obvious that we could not do all that we were doing for nothing. As regards TATE, it was decided that he must be worked if possible, but that much would depend on his frame of mind after the treatment he had received from the M.I.9 officer. I suggested that we might possibly use him or one of the other agents as a very obvious double-cross, transmitting sometimes true and sometime false information. If they come to the conclusion that we were using this set for our own purposes we should perhaps enhance the value of the other sets, which they were inclined to trust. We all agreed that it was necessary to get

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TATE into communication as soon as possible. V.V. was very interesting about information he was receiving from his best sources. It was clear that the invasion has been meeting with considerable difficulty. The German Naval experts considered the craft entirely inadequate. The troops and naval ratings were tired of waiting and did not view with any enthusiasm the prospect of crossing the channel in a barge at 8 knots. The Air Force are apparently quite ready to have a cut at it but they are feeling their losses rather acutely. Hitler has been told by his High Command that he must make up his mind one way or the other, as it is impossible to keep the troops up to the mark indefinitely.

September 24th

At a conference with D.S.S., Charles and Horrocks today, the latter was very hurt about the memo put forward on the registry by B.Branch. He feels that B.Branch officers and secretaries are in league with the old guard in the registry and are not cooperating as they should. The latest suggestion that Jane should go into the registry for 10 days has worried him still further. He took particular exception to the opening para. of the B.Branch memo which seemed to condemn the whole system on what he thought was insufficient evidence. He thought that he should have been asked to attend the meeting at which this memo was drafted.

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I explained to him that the meeting was what we call the "lower deck meeting." It took place periodically in order that officers of one section should become acquainted with the work of other sections. The question of the registry had been raised at one of these meetings, since all B. officers felt very deeply about the present dislocation. It was after all they who had to take all the kicks from the outside because they were not in a position to answer questions. I myself had recently been told by somebody in the F.O. that it was no longer any use writing to M.I.5 because one never got an answer. Most people in B. branch were very keen about their work and it was very disappointing for them to see the whole organisation blackened in the eyes of outside departments. I did not think therefore that it was unnatural that their feelings should be very seriously disturbed by the present position. There was no suggestion as to where the blame lay. I could see that Horrocks was taking the kicks from the inside but he must realise that all the officers were taking theirs from the outside and this was in a sense more painful. Horrocks evidently thought that the criticism was not justified and it was to some extent ill-informed. He did not think that a full account had been taken of the arrears of carding etc. and their difficulties connected with dilution of staff, air raids etc. He evidently

agreed somewhat reluctantly that Jane should spend 10 days in the registry. I explained to him that it would be in all our interests since at the moment there was nobody in B.Branch who really understood the system. If she became thoroughly acquainted with it she would be able to convince the sections, if she was convinced herself. Jane is in fact going in with an absolutely open mind and will say exactly what she thinks when she comes out. Horrocks seemed to have some general complaints that there was no discipline or organisation in B.Branch. When I explained to him that Curry, Dick and I had been giving an hour a day to the problem for some time and it was an extremely complex one, he had a grievance that he had ^{not} been asked to attend our meetings, since he had been appointed as director of organisation. I apologised for this and told him that we should be delighted for him to be present, although much of our discussions were on very intimate points connected with the work and personalities of the officers in the branch. We could instil discipline up to a point, but it had to be remembered that everybody here had given their services voluntarily and for small remuneration, that not only the temporary but the so-called permanent staff were on a month's notice and had been for years, and that therefore the organisation could not be expected to run quite like a military unit. It was necessary to take into consideration the

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various peculiarities of certain officers with a view to getting the best out of them. This meant that one could not always build one's organisation quite logically.

As regards his complaint about not having been consulted about the organisation, I drew his attention to the fact that the question of forming a secretariat here had all been decided upon without any reference to me whatever. This was obviously a matter of grave concern to the head of B.Branch who saw something in the nature of a body being placed between himself and the Director. When I had heard about it I had spoken to Horrocks and Harker and told them that I thought such a secretariat should be built up under C.S. who already fulfilled certain functions of the kind which I gather were required. To this Horrocks had replied that he did not really know what C.S. was doing. This seemed to me to be a fundamental error. How was it possible for a man to organise branches of an office if he did not know what the sections were doing? I personally would welcome his sitting in all the sections of B.Branch in order that he might become fully acquainted with our work. In the same way I thought it desirable that somebody from B.Branch should become thoroughly acquainted with what was going on in the registry. The meeting closed more or less on this note and I gather that

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Horrocks was quite satisfied and bore me no malice.

I have just heard that the Cambridge Police are up in arms about our having sent down ~~TATE~~ in a car under guard to dig up his wireless set etc. without telling them or the Regional Officer. This was of course quite inexcusable but one of those things which happen in the enthusiasm of the moment. Charles has very kindly offered to go down in person tomorrow. In the mean time Jasper has made a fulsome apology on the telephone. The worst of it was that the police, L.D.V., etc. have been scouring the country for this wireless set during the last 48 hours. They eventually came on some people who reported that some mysterious diggers had come down in a car and removed what appeared to be a wireless set. On making further enquiries they discovered that these people were officers of M.I.5.

Derek Tangye has been brought back from a region. He is to collect information from all sections and bring out a weekly bulletin which will include information from R.O.'s and will be sent out to all the regions and other people concerned. Jane is very keen about this as she thinks our R.O.s are rather high, and dry. Although the plan is a good one, I rather feel that the first two numbers will be very interesting and that the subsequent ones will rather tail off unless we get some sensational stuff. I am also

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proposing that Derek Tangye should run the Press Section since he will eventually become well acquainted with the work of each section. He will therefore know their requirements and what to look out for. Organisationally I am placing him under Curry who will be in a position to vet the information that he gets from the sections before it is published.

The battle of Dakar is going on. It looks like being a fiasco as the local French forces are not inclined to come to terms. This is I think a real disaster and will have a great effect upon other powers, particularly the Oriental powers. The Egyptian Minister is very worried about the effect on the Moslem world. I am told that the plan was conceived by the P.M., Desmond Morton and Spears without being properly thrashed out and co-ordinated by the Services. Further the whole project was known about long before the expedition started. This is not surprising in view of the undesirable people who surround the De Gaulle Mission. The whole story had leaked to Vichy who sent three destroyers and three cruisers from Toulon. For some reason or other these were allowed to slip through the Straits.

I dined with Anthony Blunt and Guy Burgess at the Reform Club. Just as I was going away at about 11.30 a Molotov breadbasket descended. Three incendiary bombs fell just inside Pall Mall and all

sorts of people were rushing about in dress-gowns with bags of sand. When I got into the Mall the whole of St. James Park was lit up as if by Roman candles. I saw at least a dozen there and several in the Mall itself.

September 25th

When I arrived at the office this morning I found that part of the registry had been burnt by incendiary bombs and that all the card index had been destroyed. Mercifully we had had it photographed. Some thousand files had also been destroyed.

I discussed with Jaspar and Charles the question of a move. My own feeling is that the registry should go back but that the officers of B.Branch should remain here. I should have thought that the whole of C.Branch and possibly part of A. and D. could go back as well.

I attended a meeting at G.P.O. where it was decided to let sorting be done as a combined operation with the censorship at the Prudential Building. This means that our list of H.O.W.s will be mixed up with the general sorting list. They will not therefore be identifiable. The censorship staff employed on this work are specially selected. In actual fact no change is involved beyond the carrying out of the operation at the Prudential instead of the G.P.O. There will be a good deal of economy in both time and labour.

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I lunched afterwards with Brookie at Frascatis, which had been somewhat damaged by the events of the night before. In fact the whole of the far end of Oxford St. and part of Tottenham Court Road has been rather seriously damaged. There were piles and piles of broken glass on both sides of the street, but workmen were already replacing some of it and most people were carrying on in one way or another. Brookie was in particularly good form. We discussed propaganda films and he said that the acid test was box office value. He could only say that those he had seen had no box office value whatever. One from the Post Office was so grossly indecent that he had been obliged to send for an official and have it destroyed. He thought that if it had been put on the screen the police would probably have intervened. This whole situation is hardly to be wondered at, seeing that they have people like Sydney Bernstein in charge of the film section of the M. of I. He is a strong supporter of the Communist Party. Joseph Reeves of the Woolwich Arsenal Co-operative, another communist, is also there. It is really rather a waste of time, our vetting people from the communist angle if these individuals continue to be employed. If they were doing a really useful job of work it might be worth while stretching a point, but since all the work coming from that department in connection with films is so obviously useless, I should have thought that a change would

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advertisements. Films like "M. ein Kampf"

are doing no good at all from the box office point of view, since quite obviously they are not the kind of thing the public wants to see. There has been a spate of them on account of the removal of the ban on Charlie Chaplin's film "The Dictator".

Swinton has been consulted about the move of the registry and he thinks that we should remain here.

September 26th

Some more Molotov breadbaskets, and the Registry has now removed to Blenheim.

Haldane Porter's son has joined. He is working for Caulfeild. Abbott of the Post Office has also come in. He is to form a nucleus of what is known as the Secretariat.

Theo Turner spoke to me about the suggested visa system for British subjects. The F.O. say we cannot put visas on British passports as this undermines the validity of the passport. They suggest some arrangement by which passports are shown to the British consul and marked "Seen". If this system is to be of any use there must be some secret mark on the passport which will be an indication to the S.C.O. that there is something wrong with the holder. Personally I do

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not see a great deal of use in this system. If the visas were referred, we should then have a chance of passing the names over our records and of checking up on the number of the passport. Under the suggested system the man will arrive and will have to be admitted unless there are very strong grounds for thinking that he is not really entitled to the papers he holds.

The Dakar project has been abandoned. I am afraid the consequences may be rather disastrous.

September 27th

Attended a meeting at Kinnaird House regarding the arrest of members of foreign allied governments or missions. Broadly speaking it was decided that we should obtain the agreement of the S.S. representatives of the countries concerned and that the responsible minister should then be approached so that he could be given the opportunity of withdrawing diplomatic privilege before the arrest was made. The Security Services felt that any other kind of previous notification would only lead to the destruction of any compromising documents.

I lunched with Stewart Menzies. He told me that the invasion project had been worked out in every detail including practice in climbing up cliffs. It had
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unknown. The Navy and Army had both had misgivings and the matter had been referred to Keitel. Meanwhile people in Berlin and elsewhere in Germany were getting impatient and were unable to understand the delay. Something has obviously gone wrong. S.I.S. have successfully dropped Dutchmen by parachute on the continent who are giving them useful information. One rather alarmist report was sent over yesterday that the Germans were getting steam~~ed~~ up. Menzies said that the meeting between Ciano and Ribbentrop had been unsuccessful. The Germans are trying to press the Italians into action. The latter seem reluctant to commit themselves too deeply.

Dakar has been a disaster as we were expecting someone from the Petain Govt. and arrangements were on foot to get Martinique and its ships and aeroplanes handed over to ourselves. It is feared that Dakar may prejudice these negotiations.

S.I.S. have learned from a very good source that the Russians have been making approaches to the Czechs and have been urging them to commit acts of sabotage. This is a very interesting development.

It has now been decided that most of B. is to go to Belnheim. We are keeping up only our police sections and B.24. I do not know how it is going to work. Ultimately the staff here are to go forward to some house in the centre of London. W. in

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the meantime are going to Barnet on account of R.S.S. who have lines from there to their various stations.

September 28th

Another eventful day. The Germans sent over fighters instead of bombers. The result was 7 to 8 in their favour. Presumably they came in superior number but the change of tactics is rather interesting. It probably means that they are trying to wear down our fighter force.

September 29th

The move was started and everything seems rather chaotic. It has been decided that Cookie is to run the London region.

September 30th

Three people arrived in a rubber boat in the early hours of this morning on the east coast of Scotland somewhere near Banff. A man and a woman, the latter calling herself Vera ERIKSON and the former Francois De DEEKER. They appeared at Gordonstown station looking somewhat bedraggled as they had been obliged to wade ashore. They aroused the suspicion of the station-master, who sent for the local inspector. On opening one of their boxes a two-way wireless set was found. Both have been arrested and are on their

way to London. Another man has been seen in the company of these two. He is said to have taken a ticket for Edinburgh. The local police have been informed and steps are being taken to have the train searched. There is a suggestion that there may be a 4th, but this is based on the fact that the boat, which incidentally had aluminium oars and may therefore have been carried by a seaplane, was big enough to hold four people.

October 1st.

The other man has been caught at Edinburgh. With characteristic stupidity he had left his suitcase, wet and covered with seaweed and sand, at the cloakroom. The local porter who had a good nose thought there was something fishy and sent for the police. The man was arrested. His name is WALTI and he has a Swiss passport. He has been sent to London. Vera E. and De DEEKER have been questioned. Vera's story is that she was going to London in order to hand over the wireless set to a man called WILKINSON, who was tall and thin with fair hair, who would call on her at the Dorchester Hotel within the next five days. She began by saying that she knew nothing about DE DEEKER but eventually admitted that both he and WILKINSON had come over with her in the same boat. They had started in a ship called the "Northern Star" but failed to get through the blockade and had gone back to Staven-

gar whence they had taken a seaplane.

I attended a meeting in the D.M.I.'s room to discuss the establishment of a new committee to be known as the W. Committee for the dissemination of false information. The three directors of intelligence, Steward, myself and a representative of M.I.9 were present, also Cavendish Bentinck of the F.O. D.M.I. is very anxious to centralise the dissemination of rumours and false information and to take stock of the channels through which such information could be distributed. I said that as far as we were concerned it was essential that we should get quick answers to any questionnaires or enquiries that we received from the other side. We wanted first of all to know the truth and secondly how much of it could be put over. Having obtained this information we would then send down our agent to see how much of it he could pick up of his own accord. It had to be borne in mind that we were mainly purveyors of true information, but that by putting over a half-truth we might be able to assist a line put out by some other dept. At the moment it seems that E.H., M.E.W., S.I.S. and N.I.D. are all circulating false rumours. Some of them have come back to our agents for confirmation. We are thus in the position of having to contradict information put out by another dept. It was suggested at the meeting that ^{as} I.S.S.B. ~~who~~ was already disseminating false information to cover

various operations, we should, rather than set up some new committee, build up something round I.S.S.B. D.M.I. suggested that all rumours and false information should be pooled in I.S.S.B. and that we should submit our questionnaires to the secretary who would provide the answers. + expressed doubt about the speed with which such an enquiry could be made and D.M.I. said that in cases of emergency we could always go direct to D.s of I. In the mean time the W. Committee would meet about once a fortnight in order to assist on the main rumour policy.

Theo is attending a meeting of the Aliens Advisory Committee which is considering the recommendations of the Ascot Committee. We are to take a firm stand on the release of enemy aliens for employment in industry.

October 2nd

The interrogation is still going on but De DEEKER and WALTI refuse to say anything and Vera is obviously lying.

A friend of Rothschilds, Alan Hotchkin, turned up at Tring tonight. He is I believe one of the most eminent scientists that Cambridge has turned out for a great many years. He is only about 28 and is at present working on the R.D.F. He was extremely interesting on the developments going on to which he attaches great importance. Much of the conversation was rather technical, but I gathered that our

predictors on A.A. guns have completely solved the question of range and that a good deal has been done towards the solution of the difficulty of obtaining an accurate line of fire. As soon as this difficulty has been overcome it will be possible to deal very successfully with aeroplanes by night. The application of this invention by medium and short wave is the subject of experiments, through fitting the apparatus in Blenheim Bombers. They have brought down 10 or 15 machines by night, and by December the design should have been perfected and fitted to a number of machines. The application of short-wave to this problem is being developed but will not be ready until about February. It is I believe possible for the Germans to jam this apparatus but so far they do not seem to have done so in spite of the fact that they must have got some of our predictors in France. There has also been a rumour that one of our planes fitted with the apparatus came down by accident in France about a fortnight or 3 weeks ago. Hotchkin explained to me how the R.D.F. stations round the coast were able to give about half an hours warning before any raid took place. There is apparently a screen on which the planes appear in the form of little spikes as they are flying in to assemble before the raid takes place. When they are all assembled a rather thick black pyramid is discernible which represents the concentration. As soon as these concentrations are seen our Fighter Command is warned.