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S E C R E T.

C.O.S.(40)165th Mtr.

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WAR CABINET.

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE.

MINUTES of Meeting held on 3RD JUNE, 1940,
at 10.0 a.m.

P R E S E N T:-

Air Chief Marshal Sir Cyril L.N. Newall,
Chief of the Air Staff. (In the Chair).

Admiral of the Fleet
Sir Dudley Pound, First Sea
Lord and Chief of Naval
Staff.

Major-General A.E. Percival,
Assistant Chief of the Imperial
General Staff (representing the
Chief of the Imperial General
Staff.

Major General H.L. Ismay,
Offices of the War Cabinet.

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT:-

Air Marshal R.E.C. Peirse,
Vice Chief of the Air Staff.
(Items 3 & 4).

SECRETARIAT.

Colonel L.C. Hollis.
Major A.T. Cornwall-Jones.
Major C.R. Price.

1. THE GENERAL SITUATION.

THE COMMITTEE took note of the following Summaries of information.

- (a) Cabinet War Room Record No. 274 summarising information received during the period 0700 hours 2nd June to 0700 hours 3rd June.
- (b) Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee's Special Report No. 21, summarising main developments from 0900 hours 2nd June to 0900 hours 3rd June.

Reference:-

CAB 79/4

MINUTE RECORD OFFICE

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2. WESTERN FRONT - BRITISH MILITARY POLICY.

(Paper No. C.O.S.(40)421 (Draft)).
(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(40)150th Meeting,
Minute 3.)

THE COMMITTEE considered a draft Report prepared according to instructions by the War Cabinet on recommendations as to the reply which should be given to the French demands for assistance on the Western Front.

After going through the draft Report paragraph by paragraph it was agreed :-

To instruct the Secretary to submit the Report² over the signatures of the Chiefs of Staff to the War Cabinet, after incorporating the amendments agreed on at the meeting.

3. EVACUATION OF ALLIED TROOPS FROM DUNKIRK.

(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(40)162nd Meeting).

AIR MARSHAL PEIRSE asked whether the Fighter Command would be required to provide patrols over Dunkirk during the evening 3rd June and early morning 4th June as he understood that evacuation would only be carried out in darkness. The Fighter Command was now completely disorganised and in order to find 4 squadrons for this patrol duty it was becoming necessary to use the bits and pieces of 8 squadrons. If a dusk patrol was required that night in addition to a dawn patrol next morning, it would be necessary to bring the 3 remaining intact squadrons down from the North.

SIR DUDLEY POUND said the nights were too short to permit tonight's operation to be carried out completely in darkness. The approach to Dunkirk that night would be made in darkness but ships could not be clear of the danger area by daylight the next morning. A dusk patrol would therefore not be necessary but a patrol early on 4th June was essential. Every effort should be made to persuade the French to complete the evacuation of Dunkirk that night. If this proved impossible further evacuation would have to be carried out the following night under cover of darkness without the dawn protection from any fighter patrols.

After some further discussion the COMMITTEE agreed:-

- (a) That Fighter protection by day should only be given on intercepts by R.D.F.
- (b) That no Fighter patrols should operate on the evening 3rd June.
- (c) That Fighter patrols on the previous scale should operate early on 4th June.

²Subsequently circulated as Paper No.C.O.S.(40)421
(Also W.P.(40)189).

³W.M.(40)152 Conclusions, Minute 2.

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4. GERMAN INVASION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

It was suggested that the Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee might be instructed to prepare a comprehensive and co-ordinated Summary of the likely forms and scales of attack that Germany could bring to bear on the United Kingdom in the near future. The subject had been more or less covered by memoranda already prepared but many of these were now out of date.

It was agreed :-

To instruct the Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee to prepare a short memorandum on the lines suggested above.

Richmond Terrace, S.W.1.

3rd June, 1940.

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