DIARY

Book 555-A

Military Reports by Kamarck

March 13, 1941--July 28, 1942
Kamarck, Andrew M.
See Military Reports

Military Reports
Kamarck summaries, March 13, 1941—July 28, 1942...... 555-A 1-544
To: Secretary Morgenthau

These are items of significance that may have escaped your attention which Mr. Kamarck has culled from a week's reading of confidential material he goes over in Miss Chauncey's office.

The underlined portions are statements taken from the reports. The other sentences are Mr. Kamarck's own comments and evaluations.

Unless we hear to the contrary, a similar report will be prepared each week.

MR. WHITE
Branch 2056 - Room 214½
TO Mr. White
FROM Mr. Kamarck

Subject: The Most Significant Military Developments of the Past Week

1. The two German battle cruisers, Gneisenau and Scharnhorst (26,000 ton ships), were sighted on March 8th between the Canary Islands and the Cape Verde Islands off the bulge of Africa.

These war ships are the largest that the Germans have ever slipped out of the North Sea. With such formidable ships loose in the Atlantic, it will be increasingly necessary to guard merchant convoys with battleships. The presence of these ships in African waters may be an indication that Spanish bases are being used.

2. The Suez Canal has now been closed by German mines for about three weeks. Since the British Near Eastern armies are supplied in large part by way of the Canal, the closing of this route is serious. The mines are probably magnetic mines dropped from airplanes. Counter-measures are effective against such mines but evidently the British had not made sufficient preparations to meet this threat in the Suez Canal.

3. The Axis powers are steadily concentrating large forces against Greece. The situation does not appear very hopeful.

The Italians now have almost 500,000 men in Albania. This is triple the number of troops that were used in the initial Greek invasion last Fall.

The Germans now have 600,000 men in the Balkans. 300,000 of these are already in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian army, which doubtless could not be trusted to play an active part against Greece, has as its main function the manning of the Turkish frontier to protect that German flank during the Greek operations. Only around 75,000 Bulgarians are, therefore, on the Greek frontier.

The Greeks, as a maximum, probably do not have more than 400,000 men to use on all fronts. The British will find it difficult to send more than 100,000 men to Greece. The Allies, then, will be outnumbered on the whole by about 2 to 1.

As an offset to inferior numbers, the Allies, of course, possess the advantage of good defensive terrain, superior supply lines, and, as against the Italians at least, superior morale.
TO Secretary Morgenthau
FROM Mr. Kamarok

Subject: Summary of Attached Reports

**Egypt**

The British have retired to Sidi Barrani (127 miles from Tobruk). The axis forces have occupied Buqbuq, 25 miles east of Sollum and about 25 miles west of Sidi Barrani. (Source: M. I. D. Situation Report.)

Tobruk harbor has been temporarily closed because of German mines. A land attack on Tobruk was repulsed with heavy German casualties. The British had no casualties. (Source: Military Attache, London, April 26.)

**Greece**

The British hoped at most to be able to evacuate 40,000 men from Greece and to lose all their material. (Apparently, 48,000 men have been saved.) Practically no British air protection could be provided against the intense German air activity. The evacuation had to be carried out in darkness from the southern and eastern Peloponnesian ports. (Source: Military Attache, Cairo, April 25.)

During the fighting in Greece, one Australian battalion (perhaps 600 men) successfully held off a German mountain division in a pass south of Molos (northwest of Athens) for 40 hours. (Source: Military Attache, London, April 26.)

**Syria**

German officers in Yugoslavia are discussing an invasion of Syria by sea and air as the next move. The invasion would be preceded by heavy air attacks on British ships in the Aegean and would by-pass Turkey. (Source: Military Attache, Belgrade.)
Palestine

An oil pipeline in Palestine was sabotaged. (Source: Military Attache, London, April 26.)

Spain

75 airplanes have been moved from the Canary Islands to the mainland and Morocco. (This is an opposite movement from that reported about a month ago. At that time, the Spanish were reported as sending heavy reinforcements to the Canaries.) (Source: Military Attache, Madrid, April 28.)

England

In response to your inquiry, no combat missions have been given the Boeing B-17 bombers up to the present. (Source: London.)

During the week of April 24 no ships were lost in any of the Atlantic convoys. (Source: British Embassy, April 27.)
Paraphrase of Code Cables
Received at the War Department
at 12:15, April 25, 1941.

Cairo, filed 20:35, April 25, 1941.

1. Greece.

Losses of British during troops evacuation are severe.
There is practically no British air support and German air activity
is intense. All material in Greece will be lost but British Army
authorities hope to save 40,000 troops. Evacuation is proceeding
under cover of darkness from southern and eastern Peloponnesian ports.

2. Libya.

Italian casualties in an attack on Tobruk April 25
amounted to 500 killed or captured.

FILIERS

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Under Secretary of War
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3
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Paraphrase of Code Cables
Received at the War Department
at 12:46, April 26, 1943.

London, filed 21:10, April 26, 1943.

1. British Air Activity over the Continent.

a. Daylight, April 25.

Several hits were observed during attacks on Axis shipping
off the Dutch and Danish coasts.

b. Night of April 24-25.

Kiel was bombed by 68 British bombers, Le Havre by 21 and
Gotenborg, IJmuiden and Wilhelmshaven by 22. A smaller number made raids
on Brest.

2. German Air Activity over Britain.


Raids of minor proportions took place in the Liverpool,
Newcastle and Firth of Forth areas. No reports have been received of
damage and contact was not gained by night fighters.

b. Daylight, April 25.

Raids over Britain were on a reduced scale. Eight planes
were observed over the coast in the vicinity of Brighton.

3. Air Losses, British Theater.


One plane failed to return after raids over Germany and
occupied territories.

b. German. Daylight April 25.

One plane was shot down during raids over Brighton.
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4. British Air Activity, Middle East Theater.
5. Daylight, April 25.

From Egyptian bases bombing attacks were made on the harbor at Rhodes and heavy concentrations at Crete, Suda and Arabia.

The same day attacks were made on Tripoli by British planes based at Malta.

6. German Air Activity, Middle East Theater.

No damage to military targets was reported in an attack on Tobruk by 31 German dive bombers.

German planes continue to bomb heavily roads leading to the Greek coast and parts in the rear of British troops.

7. German Air Activity, Middle East Theater.

Three German dive bombers were shot down during attacks on Tobruk. No British planes were lost.

Up to 11:00, April 25, British authorities had no accurate information in regard to the situation of British troops in Greece with the exception that one battalion of Australian troops was reported to have held off successfully one German mountain division in a mountain pass south of Nafplio for 40 hours. The British continue their withdrawal with unknown troops.

8. A 9,000-ton Italian freighter was sunk by British naval units off Tunisia. Two Axis tankers were sunk by British aircraft, one off Stavanger and one off Brest.

9. MIS.

The harbor of Tobruk has been temporarily closed to shipping on account of mines dropped from planes. Heavy casualties were suffered.

CONFIDENTIAL.
by German troops in a heavy infantry attack on Tobruk. The attack was
repulsed without British casualties.

10. Alexandria.

British columns advancing on Deirye are being delayed by
road demolitions. The advance, however, continues.

11. Palestine.

An oil pipe line has been sabotaged near Beisan.

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Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
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G-3
Air Corps

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SITUATION REPORT

I. Western Theater.

Air: German. Main effort last night was made against Plymouth in considerable force. There were scattering minor attacks along the southern and eastern coasts of Great Britain.

British. Limited offensive activity. The battle cruisers at Brest were again attacked.

II. Greek Theater.

Ground: German troops have occupied the town of Tripoli in the center of the Peloponnesus. The British forces in Greece continue reembarkation from the beaches along the south and southeast coast of the Peloponnesus. The small ports of Nauplia and Kalamata in this region are still held by British troops.

Air: German attacks on the British evacuation are believed to have continued.

III. Mediterranean and African Theaters.

Ground: Axis forces have advanced as far as Bugbug which is about 25 miles east of Sollum. British forces have withdrawn to Sidi Barrani, the farthest point of Graziani’s advance and 25 miles to the east of Bugbug. This latest withdrawal further isolates the British force, estimated as the equivalent of a division and a half including limited mechanized equipment, which is encircled in Tobruk, now 127 miles to the rear.

Air: No reports of activity.
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Paraphrase of Coda Note
Received at the War Department at 7:30, April 26, 1941.

Madrid, filed April 26, 1941.

Answering inquiry, report that 75 planes from Casarrrieso were moved as follows: 40 to the Peninsula and 35 to Málaga area, Spanish Morocco.

RASHER

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Budapest, filed 19:30, April 28, 1941.

1. On April 26th and 27th German motor transport was observed moving north through Budapest. Newspaper reporters say that German officers in Yugoslavia are discussing a direct attack against Syria by sea and air as the next German move. This attack, preceded by heavy air attacks against British ships in eastern Mediterranean, would by-pass Turkey. Also they state that only 4 motorized divisions were required for the Yugoslav campaign.

2. The partial demobilization of the Hungarian army is now apparent.

PARTRIDGE

Distribution:
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Personal and Secret.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I enclose herein for your personal and secret information a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,
United States Treasury,
Washington, D. C.
Telegram from London dated April 27th.

1. Naval. During week of April 24th there have been no losses in Atlantic convoys, shipping losses generally are lower.

2. Two East Coast convoys unsuccessfully attacked off Cremer and in the Thames Estuary 26th.

3. Norwegian merchant ship damaged Fokker Wolfe with assistance of Hudson aircraft and enemy dropped no bombs.

4. His Majesty's Ship York torpedoed March 26th has sustained further damage from near miss bombs in Suda Bay.

5. Tenth Canadian troop convoy arrived safely in the Clyde April 19th.

6. Reports so far received state Australians amounting to about one brigade have left Greece.

7. Military. Yugoslavia. Yugoslavs attempted to block the Danube. Four points near the Iron Gates successfully blocked by sinking ships. Attempt to block a fifth less important place was only partially successful. The large railway bridge over the Danube at Belgrade was demolished causing obstruction.

8. Bulgaria. It is reliably reported that Sofia is crowded with German wounded and private houses have been commandeered to supplement hospital accommodation.

9. Southwest France. Air reconnaissance Franco-Spanish frontier April 22nd showed no unusual movement on roads or railways but revealed large number of dumps of material. Seven divisions including one motorized are believed to be in area Bordeaux-Mondays.


11.
11. **Ethiopia.** 24 South African aircraft fighters destroyed two fighters and four motor vehicles on enemy aerodromes. One aircraft lost.

12. **German Air Force.** 26th. During day small formation sweeps over Southeast England dropping few bombs. One enemy fighter and two of own shot down.

13. **Night of 26th/27th.** About 130 enemy aircraft came over. Night fighters probably destroyed one enemy aircraft.


15. **Home Security.** Night of 26th/27th. Light attack on Merseyside and South Lancashire caused only minor damage and few casualties.
TO Secretary Morgenthau

FROM Mr. Kamarck

Subject: Weekly Military Report: The State of German Morale

(This is based on two independent sources which agree on practically all important points. One source is a Military Intelligence Bulletin derived largely from British data. The other source is an article in the May Infantry Journal written by an American engineer who lived in Belgium during the invasion and occupation.)

The Army

1. Morale in the army is still very high. This is due to the Nazi indoctrination, the successes in the war and to the fact that pay in the army is very high. Morale has, however, slumped somewhat from the spring of 1940 when it seemed that the war would soon end in a German victory.

2. The main reasons for the fall in morale are the desire of the men for the war to end so that they can return home and the fear that an invasion attempt against England will result in severe casualties. In addition, the letters from home are disquieting. In spite of the victories the economic position at home has not improved. The soldiers are also worried by the fear that the British bombing may kill some of their people at home.

3. Morale is weakest among the troops in the occupied countries. Of the different sections, the Austrian troops have the poorest morale, the Bavarians next. The Austrian troops in Norway demonstrated a strong unwillingness to be used in an invasion of England. Severe disciplinary action had to be taken.

4. The German soldiers still have complete faith in Hitler although there persists some dislike of the other Nazi leaders and of the Nazi Party.
The Civilian Population

1. The people at home show surprisingly little enthusiasm for the successes won. This may be due to the fact that the victories did not improve economic conditions.

2. The British air raids are having an exhausting effect on the people and are affecting output.

3. Many families have had no news of husbands or sons. It is generally believed that casualties have been heavier than officially announced.

4. In spite of all this, there is still complete faith in the leadership of Hitler.
TO Secretary Morgenthau
FROM Mr. Kamarck
Subject: Summary of Attached Reports

Next German Move

British Military Intelligence believes that the Germans will attempt seizure of Crete and occupation of Spain and Portugal. (Military attache, London, May 1).

Spain

There is no verification of the report that the Germans are moving through Spain in the direction of Gibraltar. (Military attache, Madrid, April 30).

An unconfirmed report states that new fortifications are being constructed in northwestern Spain. There are also supposed to be 1700 sailors in this area. (Military attache, Lisbon, April 30).

Russia

British Military Intelligence has information that Germany has demanded that Russia permit a German mission to handle the procurement and the transport of supplies intended for Germany. These demands include control of the transportation system. (Military attache, London, May 1)

There is a rumor in Moscow that military forces have had to be transported to counteract unrest among the people on the western border of the Soviet Union. The American Consul was informed that thousands of Germans and Ukrainians have been exiled and hundreds shot because they participated in a movement of separation from the Soviet Union. The German Fifth Column continues to infiltrate across the border. (Military attache, Moscow, April 30).

The Germans have moved four German divisions from the Balkans northward through Budapest since April 26. (Military attache, Budapest, April 30)
Libya - Egypt

A Glenn Martin bomber on reconnaissance patrol observed and machine-gunned one hundred German troop transports near Benghazi. (Military attaché, London, April 30)

50 long-range German bombers have been observed in Libya. (Military attaché, London, April 30)

At Alexandria, there are the following ships of the Greek navy:

A cruiser, 6 destroyers, 2 torpedo boat destroyers, 4 submarines, 1 submarine on the way. The Yugoslavs are represented by 1 submarine and 2 motor torpedo boats. (British Embassy, April 27 report from London.)

Greece

The Germans have in Central Greece

200 Fighters
100 Stukas
25 Army Cooperation planes

(Military attaché, London, April 30)
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Transmittal of Note Indicating
Suspended of the Key Agreement
on May 20, April 28, 1942.

Reported movement in direction direction, through
Spain, not verified. Fuel infiltrations into Spanish portion
of Morocco are small.
In Atlantic provinces, meteorological stations are furnished with instruments of an unlined type are being constructed, according to a suitable source which also reports the presence in that area of numerous hatched submarine tunnels. These reports are not confirmed.

Distribution

For the Principal

Headquarters of War

The

Commander

of the Intelligence

Headquarters

Of the

Department of Staff, C.S.

Intelligence

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To: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

From: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

June 21, 1943

It is reported that there is a great deal of shifting of military forces to combat unrest among the people on the western border of Russia. The American consul interviewed a number of Ukrainians and told him that thousands of Ukrainian and Russian have been killed, while hundreds have been shot because they have actively participated in movement toward separation from the Soviet Union. It has been also reported that shelter has been afforded members of the German Fifth Column the continued infiltration across the frontier.

SUBJ

Maj. Gen. W. F. J. Wilson

Office of the Chief of Staff, C.O.S.
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Paraphrase of Code Sublegren
Received at the War Department
at 1323, April 30, 1942.

Budapest, filed April 30, 1942.

1. Four German Divisions moving northward by motor
through Budapest since April 26th.

2. It is believed that Hungarian troops are policing
Serbian areas south of the Danube, in addition to the areas north
of the Danube which Hungary intends to annex. Hungarian officials
and railroad personnel are also operating in Serbia, thereby
releasing German personnel for duty elsewhere.

PARTRIDGE

Distribution:
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Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
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London, filed 19:00, May 1, 1941.

1. **British Air Activity over the Continent.**

2. **Night of April 27-28.** Hanover, Gottingen, Bitterfeld, and several airfields in the Netherlands were targets for an attack of 120 British bombers. The German battleships at Brest Harbor were again bombed by the Coastal Command without definite results having been observed.

3. **German Air Activity over Britain.**

4. **Night of April 27-28.** There was little German activity and what there was was limited to the single planes in flights around the east and northeast coast of Scotland. No damage was reported.

5. **May 1, 1941.** German operations were of moderate proportion, chiefly coastal patrolling.

6. **Night of April 28-29.** It is estimated that 200 planes were employed in German raids on England chiefly in the vicinity of Plymouth. Destruction and casualties were very high.

7. **Air Losses British Theater.**

8. **British.**

   1. **Night of April 27-28.** In the raid by 100 bombers over the Low Countries one plane was lost.

9. **German.**

   1. **Night of April 27-28.** In the raid on Plymouth five German bombers were shot down.

10. **British Air Activity Middle East Theater.**
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8. **Early April 20th.** Seven bases in Egypt British bombers attacked the German airfields at Beheira and Rosetta and the port of Suezport.

9. **German Air Activity Middle East Theater.**

10. **April 19th.** Tel Aviv was again attacked by 10 German dive bombers.

11. **March.** Early April 20th. The British claim that in four attacks by German bombers no damage resulted.

12. **German Air Activity Middle East Theater.**

13. **April 19th.**

14. (1) **Aviaplan.** Ten German dive bombers were shot down and two damaged in attacks. Several troop transport planes were destroyed at the German airfield near Beheira.

15. (2) **Haifa.** Four Axis bombers were shot down.

16. German and Italian agents have resumed their anti-British activities in the Iraq area.

17. **British Military Intelligence** estimates that the Germans will attempt the occupation of Crete and that they will advance in the Heraclea Peninsula to take possession of all the Atlantic coast remaining in neutral hands.

18. The press reports that 20,000 German troops have been landed in Finland. We find no authoritative confirmation here. **British Military Intelligence** considers it improbable.

19. **British Military Intelligence** information which we consider authoritative states this meaning that demands have been made on Russia by Germany, that a German mission be permitted to handle procurement and transport supplies intended for Germany including control of the transportation system.
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London, slit of May, April 25, 1941.

1. British Air Activity over the Continent.

2. Night, April 23.

Attacks on barges and sea traffic off the Norwegian, Belgian, and French coasts by medium and heavy bombers resulted in damage to two ships. Two offensive missions were performed by fighter squadrons over the coasts of Occupied France and the vicinity of the Straits of Dover.

3. German Air Activity over British.


Fifteenth mission another fairly heavy raid and lighter attacks were made in the vicinity of Cardiff with single planes over East Anglia and Kent.

5. Daylight, April 27.

There were only small and brief operations over Kent. However, heavy fighter planes were active off the English coast.

6. Air Raids, British Ships.


British night fighters shot down one German plane.


Two British planes were lost in an attack by 89 aircraft against the two German battleships in Brest harbor. No damage was observed.

9. British Air Activity, Middle East Theater.

10. Libya.

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The port of Suez was bombarded by British aircraft based on Egypt. One hundred troop transport planes were observed and machine gunned by a single Italian Martin reconnaissance patrol.

   British planes based on Crete escorted troop convoys.

5. Italian Air Activities, Middle East Theater.

   Italian forces in Tobruk were attacked by 22 dive-bombers. Excellent damage was 44 casualties and some damage to guns and equipment, all of which can be repaired.

   All ships landing and at sea with British troops from Greece were heavily bombarded by the Italians. Casualties were heavy in both ships and troops.

6. Italian Air Activities, Middle East Theater.

8. Daylight, April 29.
   In a machine gun attack by single reconnaissance plane on troop transport planes at Bauza, one was destroyed and several others damaged.

The following is a British Military Intelligence estimate of the German Air Force in Central Greece:

Fighters, about 200
Bombers, about 100
Also several Army Cooperation Squadrons
About 20 long range bombers have been observed in Libya.
6. Night of April 22.

A British convoy proceeding east was attacked by a submarine 300 miles south of Iceland. An 8,000-ton tanker was sunk and three other ships attacked by torpedoes, the fate of which is not known. North of Scotland a Norwegian freighter was sunk by submarine attack.


Up to the present it is estimated 35,000 troops have been evacuated from Crete.

Distribution:

Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, O-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Air Corps
O-5
Personal and Secret,

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I enclose herein for your personal and secret information a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,

United States Treasury,

Washington, D. C.
Telegram from London dated April 28th.

1. **Naval.** Fatia anti-aircraft ship sunk by aircraft - torpedo off Tyne 21/50/27.

2. **Following Greek warships at Alexandria.** Averoff with Flag Admiral Kavalias, 6 destroyers, 2 torpedo boat destroyers, 4 submarines 1 expected, 1 repair ship. 1 Yugoslav submarine, 2 motor torpedo boats also reported at Alexandria. Glenearn special service ship off South West Greece and Rover in Suda Bay both damaged by near miss bombs.

3. So far reported 26,000 British troops evacuated from Greece. About 16,000 to follow.

4. **Sunderland on night flight to Narvik 27/28** reported no enemy units.

5. **Lady-Bird** has bombarded Gazala, Aphis. An enemy column at Halfaya Pass Sollum Escarpment.

6. Reference to attack by our destroyers on enemy convoy 16th; reconnaissance now reveals wreck of Folgore class. Also probably 1 Folgore 1 Spica and Luca Tarigo sunk.

7. During three air attacks on East Coast convoys 27th 1 Dutch ship damaged. On 26th in addition to 1000 ton merchant vessel sunk by bomber command 1 4000-ton ship and another damaged in the North Sea.

8. **Royal Air Force.** Night of 27th/28th. All operations cancelled.

9. **German Air Force.** Night of 27th/28th. 101 enemy aircraft plotted 32 were minelaying, 45 attacked Portsmouth. Considerable damage to property. Several fires caused, three in dockyard serious, all under control. Night fighters destroyed 1 enemy aircraft, damaged another.
TO Secretary Morgenthau
FROM Mr. Kamerck
Subject: Summary of Attached Reports

**Libya**

Four ships arrived at Benghazi on April 25th with fuel and bombs for the Axis forces.

Three more ships left Tripoli on April 26th for Benghazi with fuel, bombs and ammunition. (British Embassy, London telegram, May 1)

(These were days when the British fleet was occupied in the evacuation from Greece.)

It is believed that the whole of the German 15th Panzer division has now arrived at the front lines. (Military Attache, London, May 2).

(This division is a full-sized Panzer division having 424 tanks. It disembarked at Tripoli on April 18 and was expected to reach Tobruk by May 8, according to our military attache at Cairo.)

**England**

In the German air attack on Plymouth on the night of April 29th, the Germans inflicted considerable damage to a new British destroyer and slight damage to a new cruiser. (British Embassy, May 1, telegram; Military Attache, London, May 2)

The Royal Air Force used 10 Sterling long-range bombers against Berlin. 82 other bombers attacked Kiel the night of April 30th. (British Embassy, May 1, telegram)

**Central America**

On April 29, Costa Rica delivered Carl Bayer, Nazi leader in Costa Rica, to the Canal Zone to be deported to Germany via Japan. Immigration officials are holding Bayer for the first Japanese boat.
London, 26th April, 1940.

1. British Air Activity over the Continent.

2. Night of 1st April.

Axis merchant shipping at Brest, Mers-el-Kebir, Flushing and Antwerp was attacked by a formation of medium British bombers. Other medium bombers carried out raids on priority storage installations at Rotterdam.


One British plane carried out raids on Brest and North German airfields and engaged in bombing attacks on Hanover and Wilhelmshaven. During the same night four British bombers attacked Rotterdam. Two were dispatched against targets in Berlin and a large force of 52 carried out raids onHamburg.

2. German Air Activity over Britain.

5. Night of May 1-2.

Targets in South-east Scotland and at Milford Haven and Liverpool were attacked by medium-sized formations of German planes.


A small number of German planes engaged in patrol duty along the River Thames and only one German plane penetrated the condensation of England.

8. Night of April 29-30. German aircraft inflicted considerable damage on a recently built British destroyer at Plymouth.

2. Air Losses: British.

8. British.

There were no British plane losses in this period.

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33

The German plane was damaged and one was shot down by British night fighter planes during the night of May 16.

4. British Air Activity, Middle East Theatre.

A large number of Axis motor vehicles were wrecked as result of British attack on a motor transport concentration between Hankah and Qantara. British planes also carried out raids on the airfields at Qantara, Hankah and Rosetta, during which nine Axis planes were destroyed.

5. Axis Air Activity, Middle East Theatre.

On the night of April 29-30, Axis bombers carried out an attack on Maba. Severe damage was inflicted on a British mine sweeping vessel and on a British destroyer. In the Libya Theatre Axis dive bombers again raided Tobruk. During daylight hours of May 1, Axis planes carried out six raids on Tobruk.

6. It is thought that the whole of the German 19th Armoured Division is now in the Suez Isthmus in the Egyptian campaign.

7. Activity in the vicinity of Tobruk continues to be intense. It is reported that the outer defences of this town have been broken through by a total of 60 German tanks.

8. It is feared that the Emdal Army may attack the British held Abraham Line at any time. The Emdal attention continues to be intense and severe.

9. No authoritative figures are available as to the number of British troops evacuated from Greece but it is said that the following evidence is reasonably correct - of the 59,000 British troops sent to Greece, a total of 42,000 have been safely evacuated. This evacuation has been completed.

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Distribution:

Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Chief Secretary of War
Office of Chief
Assistant Chief of Staff, C&I
Vice Chief Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Air Corps
May 3rd, 1941.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I enclose herein for your personal and secret information a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

The Honourable

Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,

United States Treasury,

Washington, D. C.
Telegram received from London

dated May 1st, 1941.

Naval: One destroyer and one minesweeper badly damaged by air raid Malta night of April 29th-30th. Yard craft and stores also suffered. One minesweeper damaged by mine deep Malta.

2. New cruiser slightly damaged by bomb Plymouth night of April 29th-30th.


4. On April 29th Naval units carried out heavy bombardment of enemy N/T concentrations southeast of Tobruk.

5. Armed boarding vessel Cavina captured Italian tanker Senegro, 6,466 tons, loaded fuel oil in North Atlantic.

6. Early April 30th Air officer commanding Iraq informed by Officer Commanding an Iraqi mechanised unit that “in the course of training” he had taken up positions on hills surrounding Habbaniya and any aircraft or troops leaving cantonment would be fired upon. He was told this contrary to Anglo-Iraqi treaty and that aircraft would carry out normal training.

7. Enemy intelligence. German supplies to North Africa. 4 ships arrived at Benghazi on April 25th (2 over 3,000 tons) with fuel and bombs. 3 more ships left Tripoli for Benghazi on April 26th with fuel bombs and ammunition.


Stavanger/
Stavanger of 5,000 and 4,000 tons respectively.


10. Night of April 30th/May 1st. 96 bombers despatched, attacked Kiel (82) Berlin (10 Stirlings) Rotterdam 4. All returned safely.


12. April 30th and night of April 30th/May 1st. Enemy activity slight.
PANAMA, filed April 29, 1942.

On April 25th by special TACA plane Earl Rayner, Earl Leader in Costa Rica, was delivered to the Canal Zone, at the request of the Costa Rican Government, to be deported to Germany via Japan. Further details later. Awaiting passage on the first available Japanese boat, he is now in the hands of Immigration Officials at Canal Zone Quarantine.

VIA VESSEL

Distribution:

Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
TO Secretary Morgenthau

FROM Mr. Kamarck

Subject: Summary of Military Reports

Egypt

Around May 1st, a large troop convoy arrived at Suez. On May 3rd, two more convoys totalling 200,000 tons arrived. Another convoy of 164,000 tons was expected shortly after May 3rd. (These convoys probably brought around 50,000 soldiers or almost doubled the previous English strength in Egypt.) (British Embassy, London telegram, May 3)

Libya

It is anticipated that the axis "effort in Libya is shortly to be increased". Reinforcements of men and material are being transported to Cyrenaica by air. (British Embassy, London telegram, May 2)

In the May 1st attack on Tobruk, the axis lost eleven tanks; four of these were lost in mine fields, four by fire from English tanks and at least 3 by Molotov cocktails (bottles of gasoline according to the Spanish Civil War example). The British lost twelve tanks; seven were knocked out and five broke down mechanically. (The British lost some tanks in Greece from mechanical troubles too.) (British Embassy, London telegram, May 2)

According to our military attache in Rome, there are 23 axis divisions in North Africa (450,000 men). He reports that the Germans have five panzer divisions, two motorized divisions and one infantry division (about 150,000 men). The Italians have one armored division, two motorized divisions and twelve infantry divisions (about 300,000 men). (Comment: This is triple the forces our military attache and British Military Intelligence report as being in North Africa. Five German panzer divisions in North Africa would represent one half of the total panzer strength used against France last year.)

600 German and 450 Italian planes used in the Balkans are now free. The Germans have available for use in the Eastern Mediterranean, two air armies with a total strength of 1,500 combat planes. (Rome, Military Attache, May 2)
Iraq

The Iraqis have put 22 British planes out of action. Surrounding the Habaniya airport, the Iraq army has in position, one infantry brigade, one mechanized brigade of twelve armored cars and probably one mechanized machine gun company. (The total is not likely to be more than several thousand men) (British Embassy, London telegram, May 3)

Spain

Nazi troops have been concentrating in Occupied France near the Spanish border for about ten days. Actual entry into Spain has not been reported. (Vichy, Naval Attache, May 2)

Russia

The Italian ambassador in Moscow does not believe Germany will move against the Soviet Union this year.

The Japanese military attache in Moscow states that the report of the transfer of the Russian 15th Army from the Far East to Western Russia is propaganda. (Moscow, Military Attache, May 5)

While there are many rumors in Hungary of an imminent attack by Germany on Russia, our Belgrade military attache thinks this is unlikely. The German military and air attaches in Hungary are going home on leave to Germany for a month. It is, therefore, doubtful if anything important will happen in this area.

On May 1st, another German motorized division passed through Budapest going north. (Budapest, Military Attache, May 2)

German aircraft, artillery and other military supplies have been coming to Japan via the Trans-Siberian. (This explains whom the ban on military shipments across Russia was designed to hit—if the ban is enforced.) (Tokyo, Military Attache, May 2)

Balkans

All kinds of ships, ocean-going, as well as Danube River ships, are being concentrated at Constantza, Romania. (This may be preparation for a naval-land expedition against Istanbul.) (Bucharest, Military Attache, May 2)

Traffic on Danube has been seriously curtailed by the bridges destroyed at several Yugoslav towns. (Belgrade, Military Attache, May 2)
The total of British soldiers evacuated from Greece comes to 43,000 out of an estimated total of 55,000 to 56,000. Not more than 500 of those embarked were lost. (British Embassy, London telegram, May 2)

England

On May 1st, a lone German bomber dropped five bombs on the Whitehead factory (presumably a torpedo plant), Weymouth and interrupted production. (British Embassy, London telegram, May 2)

Germany

The Russian military attache at Budapest informed our military attache that the present German airplane production is 4,500 per month. (Belgrade, Military Attache, May 2)

Italy

The total effective Italian air force totals only 1,050 airplanes. Of these, 700 are land based combat planes; 250, army and navy reconnaissance planes; and 100 are seaplanes. (Rome, Military Attache, May 2)
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 5th, 1941.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I enclose herein for your personal and secret information copies of the two latest reports received from London on the military situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,
United States Treasury,
Washington, D.C.
Page 34

Received May 19, 1941

Redacted Unclassified
Rotterdam petrol stores successfully attacked by one aircraft. 10 aircraft bombed Den Helder hitting power house and dock installations. One aircraft missing.

5. Night of May 1st/May 2nd. Bomber command operations cancelled but 5 coastal aircraft attacked Brest, 3 dropped mines there.

6. **German Air Force. May 1st/May 2nd.** 73 aircraft operated all but 2 against Liverpool area. No heavy damage caused and casualties not serious. Night fighters destroyed one bomber and damaged another.

7. Tobruk was bombed 6 times each day April 29th and April 30th. Two Junker 87s destroyed and two damaged by anti-aircraft fire.
Telegram received from London

dated May 3rd, 1941.

Naval. A/8 trawler bombed sunk May 1st off Start Point. During air raids Malta "Encounter" and "Jersey" were further damaged and one auxiliary mine-sweeper sunk. "Jersey" sunk by mine May 2nd.

2. May 2nd. His Majesty’s ships in Persian Gulf were ordered to commence hostilities against Iraq. A large troop convoy arrived at Susa a few days ago, two other convoys totalling about 200,000 tons have just arrived, and another totalling 164,000 tons due shortly.

3. Military. Tobruk. Determined attacks by enemy from direction of Aerona on western perimeter throughout May 1st resulted in capture of our foremost defended localities on 9,000 yards front. Enemy tanks concentrating on infantry forward posts. Counter attack on with tanks, portion of enemy withdrew after losing 4 tanks in mine fields, at least 3 by Molotov Cocktails and 4 knocked out by our tanks. Our losses during the day were 3 infantry and 4 cruiser tanks while additional 5 infantry tanks broke down mechanically. That evening counter attack by one battalion was unable, owing to enemy tank action, to restore all localities and general line was adjusted to exclude salient at El Medwar.

4. On the morning of May 2nd 50 medium tanks followed by two companies of infantry advanced against our new line but were stopped by artillery fire.

5. Iraq. May 2nd. Operations began round Habanniya aerodrome. Iraqi artillery fire continued in spite of active bombing but later subsided owing to suspected shortage of ammunition. Up to now we had suffered/
suffered about 60 casualties. 22 of our aircraft were put out of action. Iraqi aircraft made unsuccessful bombing and machine gun attack on camp. Iraqi forces in this area were estimated at about 1 infantry brigade, 1 mechanised artillery brigade of about twelve armoured cars and probably one mechanised machine-gun company.

6. Similar situation exists at Basra where an Iraqi battalion is reported dug in north of the town with a peak battery guarding southern approach to the railway bridge on Basra-Baghdad railway.


8. **Night of May 2nd-3rd.** 119 aircraft despatched against Hamburg industrial centre (94) Essen Docks (22) and Rotterdam petrol stores (3). Four of our aircraft have not reported to base.

9. **Mediterranean.** May 1st. Destroyer and merchant vessel were sunk and on May 2nd direct hits were scored on 3 merchant vessels and on a destroyer by Klenheims off coast of Tunis.

10. **Night of April 30th-May 1st.** Benghasi attacked, many fires started and ammunition dump destroyed.

11. **German Air Force.** Night of May 2nd-3rd about 190 enemy aircraft operated, Liverpool area main target. Three aircraft destroyed by night fighters and one by anti-aircraft fire.

12. **Tobruk** attacked by dive bombers escorted by fighters on May 1st. Four HE 109s were shot down, one Hurricane being destroyed.
CONFIDENTIAL

Reproduction of Code Document
Received at the War Department
at 1401, May 2, 1943.

June 3, filed May 2, 1943.

In reply to your telegram numbered 479, divisions now in
North Africa are as follows:

**Infantry**

**Italian** 1

**German** 3

**Infantry**

**Italian** 2

**German** 2

**Infantry**

**Italian** 12 (organized from elements of the
colonial police)

**German** 1

The Italian divisions are for the most part organized for motor
transportation but have not organic transport enough to move
them. In addition, there is also the Royal Corps of colonial
troops. The forces listed above are being increased as troop
movements continue.

Six hundred German combat planes and 450 Italian combat planes
have been released by the close of operations in the Balkans.

For use in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean and in Africa,
the Axis powers now have available 2 German air armies. Their
total strength is 1,900 combat planes, land-based, and remains
not otherwise provided for. The total effective forces of the
Italian Air Force consist of 700 land-based combat planes; 250 away

CONFIDENTIAL
and many reconnaissance planes; 100 reconnaissance planes. It will be possible to enlarge the German air force as fast as fuel and bases reach Africa for them.

VIEW

Distribution
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Air Corps
According to official sources, concentration of Nazi troops in occupied France near Spanish border has been in progress for about ten days, but actual entry of such troops into Spain has not been reported.
Budapest, filed May 2, 1941.

The Russian Military Attache has informed me that the present German airplane production is 4500 per month.

River traffic on the Danube and Tissa has been seriously curtailed by bridges destroyed at Gombos, Ulvidek, Titel and Zenta. (The last two towns are on the Tissa).

Many rumors here of imminent attack by Germany on Russia but it seems unlikely. The German Military and Air Attaches are about to go on leave to Germany for a month, hence doubtful if anything important will occur in this area.

Another German motorized division moved northward May 1st. None today.

PARTRIDGE

Distribution:
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Paraphrase of Code Telegraph
Received at the War Department
at 8:157, May 8, 1943.

Mосcow, filed May 8, 1943.

1. The Italian Ambassador does not believe that Germany
   will move against the Soviet Union this year.

2. The movement of the 13th Army from the Far East is
   alleged by the Japanese Military Attaché to be propaganda.

3. The Japanese Assistant Military Attaché to Moscow
   stated that he will depart from Moscow on May 8 to go with
   Nantesha on a mission to bring about better feeling between
   the United States and Japan.

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Secretary of War
State Department
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Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
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Tokyo, filed May 2, 1941.

No first hand information this office about arrival in Japan of military missions from Germany and Italy though such missions have left Japan for these countries. No more discernible at present which might be interpreted as preparatory to military action under Article 3 Tripartite Pact though Japanese strength in Indo-China, Borneo and Formosa increased greater than normal under China War conditions and may be there in readiness for move against Singapore or East Indies. Also removed that Japanese naval and Air Force strength increased Borneo. Not in position to evaluate these rumors. German aircraft, artillery and other military supplies coming to Japan via Trans-Siberian Rd.

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Secretary of War
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Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence

CONFIDENTIAL
Peshawar, filed May 2, 1943.

All kinds of ships, coming-going as well as those employed on the Burdees, are being concentrated at Constantia. This report is considered reliable although the purpose for which this shipping is intended is not clear.

RESTRIC TED
Subject: Summary Tabulation of Royal Air Force Raids to May 1, 1941 (Based on Hanson Baldwin's Data)

A. Number of Areas Attacked

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Description</th>
<th>Number of Attacks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Germany</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In occupied areas</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Italy and Sicily</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Analysis of Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Description</th>
<th>Number of Attacks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ports, docks and shipping</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airdromes and seaplane bases</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial plants</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil refineries, synthetic oil plants and tank farms</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of above</td>
<td>2,530</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Leading Cities Attacked

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Description</th>
<th>Number of Attacks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamburg (port)</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bremen (port)</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cologne (industrial center)</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilhelmshaven (port)</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emden (port)</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gelsenkirchen (synthetic oil)</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiel (port)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin (industrial center)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mannheim (industrial center)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essen (industrial center)</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanover (synthetic oil)</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of above (11 cities)</td>
<td>503</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Occupied Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of Attacks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boulogne (port)</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calais (port)</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ostend (port)</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flushing (port)</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brest (port)</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorient (port)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total of above (6 cities)**: 360

### Italy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of Attacks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turin (industrial center)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naples (port)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total of above (2 cities)**: 20

### D. Total Royal Air Force losses in these raids to May 1

| Losses | 600 planes |
MAY 5 1941

new York times

the battle of the air

By HANS W. BALDWIN

The heavy German bombings of British ports continued last week with Liverpool and the Mersey side subjected to some of the most severe attacks of the war.

The new building large raids against Britain are now made probably by from 300 to 600 planes, but at the moment the largest forces the Germans could employ, but forces that they can continue employing indefinitely. Raiding of this type by night, with small losses to the Germans, and with large ports cities and docks as the principal objective, is having, and is certain to have, cumulative effect upon the British war effort. On the other hand, there is another side to this picture: it presents many of the cities of Germany blasted by bombs and a small, but steadily increasing toll of Nazi night bombers.

Official figures for the first twenty months of the war, up to May 5, just made available from British show that British aircraft have bombed over 270 areas in Germany, 360 others in German-occupied territories and twenty-seven in Italy and Sicily, a total of 937 objectives. The figures show the British preoccupation with the so-called invasion ports and German submarine and naval bases that have been raided repeatedly and heavily by the Royal Air Force. The total number of raids on ports, docks and shipping is about 550.

Boulogne has been bombed 61 times, Calais 67, Hamburg 68, Ostend 64, Flushing 63, Bremen 62, Brest 57, WilhelmsHAVEN 48, Lorient 40, Ijmuiden 40 and Kiel 36 times. Berlins has been bombed 36 times, Naples 9 times and Turin 11 times. There have been some 650 raids on industrial plants, 61 of them on Cologne, 38 in Mannheim, 35 on Essen.

Losses More Nearly Equal

The British continue to knock away at Germany's oil refineries, synthetic oil plants and tank farms, although not with the same intensity as at other targets. Three hundred and thirty raids have been made on these objectives, 45 of them against Gelsenkirchen, 33 against Hanover, German airfields and aerospace bases have been bombed 700 times.  

In all of these raids the British have lost, since the war started, about 900 planes, including fighters on offensive sweeps, and have destroyed on the ground or shot down about 140 German planes that attempted to intercept them. All of this presents a picture of considerable damage to Germany and German-occupied territory at relatively little cost (average loss of about thirty bombers, or accompanying fighters, a month, plus most of the air crews that man them).

The R.A.F. offensive effort is still not equal in mass to the German totals, since it seems unlikely that the British are as yet able to send out from bases in Britain, an average of more than 100 bombers nightly. The British are hammering at widely dispersed targets, whereas the Germans are hitting at concentrated targets. Moreover, compared to the operations of last year, the German raids now seem to have somewhat greater continuity of effort.

Obviously, neither side has yet solved the problem of night bombardment, although the British seem to have made more progress than have the Germans. The British, since the beginning of this year, have shown growing confidence in their air strength and apparently have conducted more daylight sweeps near-by objectives, such as invasion ports and enemy airfields, than the Germans.

The German losses—about 800 planes—have been roughly divided in half in daylight air battles over Britain. The Germans lost two to four times the number of planes lost by the British.

The British estimate that the Germans have lost about 3,500 aircraft during the course of the war and 7,700 trained airmen. But only a very small portion of the number has been lost since the major air battles of last year tapered off in October and November. In the entire month of April eighty-seven German raiders were shot down over the British Isles, according to British official figures, as compared to the 100 to 200 lost daily in some of the air battles of last September.

The figures for German planes shot down over Britain this year have been officially estimated by London as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ground</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Anti-air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The indicated increase in losses is not a relative one, since obviously a great many more German planes were raiding Britain during April than during the bad weather of January.

It is likely that both sides are able to more than replace their total losses in planes and pilots.
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Paraphrase of Code Radingram
Received at the War Department
at 14:00, April 25, 1941

London, filed April 25, 1941.

I. Daily Cable.

1. British Air Activity over the Continent.

a. Daylight of April 24.

Fighter squadrons affected three offensive patrols over Occupied France attacking airfields. Two freighters were sunk off the Norwegian coast.


No results were observed after an attack by 67 heavy bombers on the two German battleships in the harbor at Brest. All British planes returned safely. A direct hit on one of these battleships in a recent raid has been claimed. The battleship was probably damaged. Le Havre was attacked by the Coastal Command.

2. German Air Activity over Britain.

a. Night of April 24-25.

German raids over Britain were widely scattered and on a reduced scale, chiefly over England, with a few planes attacking targets in Scotland.

b. Daylight of April 24.

There was very little German air activity over Britain except for strong defensive patrol of the Dover and Calais area and attacks on shipping.

3. German Air Losses, British Theater.

a. Night of April 24-25.

British night fighters damaged two planes.

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4. **British Air Activity, Middle East Theater.**

a. **Libya.**

(1) **Daylight of April 24.**

Planes based in Egypt continued fighter and bombing attacks on Axis landing fields, motor convoys and supply dumps at Casala, Bengazi and Berna.

(2) Tripoli airport was again bombed by planes based at Malta.

b. **Greece.**

(1) **Daylight of April 24.**

No British air operations are reported. Substantially all British combat planes have been evacuated from Greece and are now based in Egypt or Crete.

5. **German Air Activity, Middle East Theater.**

a. **Daylight of April 24.**

German air activities were on a minor scale except in Greece where the rear communications of the British forces as far as the Greek coast and particularly the roads Thebes and Corinth to Eleusis were subjected to heavy and uninterrupted bombing.

6. **German Air Losses, Middle East Theater.**

a. **Night of April 23-24.**

One German plane was destroyed in British raids on Libyan supply facilities and landing fields.

b. **Night of April 23-24.**

In the course of raids on Plymouth, HSS *LEWIS*, destroyer, (1918) 1090 tons, was severely damaged.

7. **Greece.**

a. **Night of April 23-24.**

In raids on Piraeus harbor, German planes sank one
destroyer and damaged a second and a hospital ship. Two other hospital ships were damaged; one off Messolonghi and the other off Negara.

II. The following is a summary of British Intelligence information to 0700, April 25:

1. In Italian East Africa the advance of British forces continues successfully.

2. Greece.

a. It is reported that a German Air-borne Division has been placed at the disposal of the High Command in Greece. It is thought that it will probably be employed against Crete or Athens.

b. An attack by a German Mountain Division was reported repulsed on the British front.

c. Small enemy parties were reported to have landed on Euboea, but later withdrew.

d. Small detachments of Germans have entered Prevesa.

e. German gun emplacements are being prepared on the shore of the Gulf of Lemaikos.

3. Libya.

a. Sollum.

British offensive night patrols are continuing with success.

b. Tobruk.

Ten Axis trucks loaded with troops, 3 planes and 3 guns were destroyed by British artillery.

LEE

Distribution:
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Air Corps
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3

CONFIDENTIAL.
SITUATION REPORT

I. Western Theater.

**Air:** German. Attack of moderate intensity was made on Sunderland on the night of the 25th-26th.

**British:** Normal attacks on northwestern Germany centering on Kiel. A light raid was made on Berlin.

II. Greek Theater.

**Ground:** German troops have reached Thebes. British forces, presumably covering the evacuation, are reported making a last stand on Mount Kitheron and Mount Gerania.

**Air:** No change.

III. Mediterranean and African Theaters.

**Ground:** North Africa. A German attack on Tobruk was repulsed. Patrol actions are reported in the Sollum area.

**Abyssinia (Ethiopia):** The British have continued pressure on the Italians at Dessye and near Gambela, capturing several hundred prisoners.

**Air:** Axis. Attacks on ground forces near Sollum. Malta was bombed. Attacks on shipping in the eastern Mediterranean.
Ankara, filed April 25, 1941.

Orders have been issued for the Army Service and the Reserve Officers' School to move at once from Constantinople to the interior of Turkey. Certain individuals connected with the schools, now on sick leave, have also been ordered to move. The two movements have caused a fairly serious congestion of the Eyüpshâne railroad. This action is of a precautionary nature.

KUSS

Distribution:
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence

Restricted
SITUATION REPORT

I. Western Theater.

Air: German. Offensive activity on a significant but reduced scale. The Liverpool area was bombed on the night of the 26th-27th. Last night the main effort was delivered against Portsmouth. Effective attacks on shipping are claimed.

British. Normal offensive activity. On Saturday night Hamburg was attacked heavily. Direction of last night's effort is undisclosed. Yesterday a small daylight raid, probably experimental, was made in the Cologne area.

II. Greek Theater.

Ground: German troops occupied Athens on April 27. This force comprised one armored and one motorized infantry division. German parachute troops captured the isthmus of Corinth on April 26. A German column crossed the Gulf of Corinth from Nicosolonghi on April 27. This column then captured Patras and Pyrgos. How the crossing of the Gulf was effected is not known.

The Italians have occupied the island of Corfu.

British forces are reembarking from Nauplia and other Peloponnesus beaches.

Air: Continuance of German close support plus attacks on shipping used in the British evacuation.

III. Mediterranean and African Theaters.

Ground: North Africa. Axis units on the evening of April 26, crossed the Libyan-Egyptian frontier at several points. It is impossible to state at this time whether the Axis offensive is underway or whether this action is merely a reconnaissance.

Abyssinia (Ethiopia). British forces closing in from the north and south have occupied Dessye.

Air: No reports of important operations.
SITUATION REPORT

I. Western Theater.

Air: German, Glasgow, Liverpool and the Clyde were attacked again. Air combat was reported along the Southeast coast and the British claimed nine Messerschmitts shot down.

British, Fires started at Hamburg and Le Havre.

II. Mediterranean and African Theaters.

Ground: North Africa. No special change in the situation.

   East Africa. British troops have occupied Quoram, about thirty miles south of Amba Alagi.

Air: Axis, Tobruk raided and one ship sunk in harbor.

British, Raids on axis bases in Eastern Libya.

III. Iraq and the Arab World.

Iraq forces driven from Habbania airfield, west of Baghdad. Nine British bombers and two transports destroyed on the ground by Iraq bombers. A watch is being kept for Axis transports carrying troops to Iraq or preparing to land troops in Syria. The pipe line to Haifa is in Iraq control only at Kirkuk, Fort Rultah and two minor points, but these are important junctions of transportation also.
Paraphrase of Code Telegram
Received at the War Department
at 10:45, April 25, 1942.

Lisbon, filed April 25, 1942.

Another Infantry Battalion sailed for Malta (Aegaeon)
on April 24.

Distribution:
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Assistant Chief of Staff, 6-8
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Paraphrase of code radiogram
Received at the War Department
at 19:43, May 5, 1943.

Ankara, filed May 5, 1943.

The tone of the Turkish press toward Germany is less
belligerent. There are appearing articles on England which
are mildly critical.

SSS

Distribution:
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
A. C. of S., O-3

RESTRICTED
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Paraphrase of Code Cabledgram
Received at the War Department
at 1600, April 26, 1941

Berlin, filed 16:30, April 26, 1941.

1. Germany has had unusual success in handling her supply situation in all campaigns. The principles underlying her supply operations have been in general enunciated in Report No. 16833.

However, under the stress of war there have been some slight moderations:

vis:

2. The National Socialist Motor Corps has created members of motor transport and traffic regulation battalions.

3. The "Todt" organization (G-2 Note: The organisation which constructed the West Wall) has created a large number of labor units to assist the pioneers in repair and maintenance of roads.

4. Air superiority has also been a major factor in the success of the German supply operations. This air superiority has prevented the enemy from interfering seriously with the movement of German supply columns, and has permitted the Germans to avoid time consuming precautions against enemy aircraft.

5. I desire to stress also the following points in the German methods.

6. All manufacturing, transportation, and supply institutions are under military control.

7. Supplies are distributed in depth.

8. Reserves are maintained at all time.

9. Loading is done in such a way as to avoid unnecessary re-handling.

10. Columns are protected by mobile antiaircraft guns.

CONFIDENTIAL
11. Coordination and cooperation of all units and agencies; rail, water, and air; to transport the appropriate material, when and where needed. Able and energetic leadership.

12. The existence of an organization for the prompt seizure of supplies and exploitation of factories in occupied territory.

13. Depots are placed in peace in areas suitable for projected operations.

Distributions:
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4
Quartermaster General
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE May 7, 1941

TO Secretary Morgenthau

FROM Mr. Kamarok

SUBJECT: Summary of Military Reports, May 7

England

A new cruiser, Sirius, being completed at Portsmouth, was hit by a bomb on the night of May 3-4.

During the same night, a total of 270 German bombers operated over England. The Central Railway Station at Liverpool was forced to close temporarily. Production at the Vickers Armstrong Naval Construction Works at Barrow in Furness was seriously affected.

In the raid of May 4-5 on Belfast, the shipyards and the Shorts aircraft factory (probably building Short Sunderland flying boats) were damaged. (British Embassy, London telegrams, May 4, May 5)

Turkey

According to our Military Attache in Bulgaria, there are various indications (unspecified) that a Turkish-German agreement has been reached. The Turkish Military Attache in Sofia, however, is sure a stand will be made against Germany. (Sofia, M.A., May 5)

There are stories in Ankara that the Russo-Turkish frontier has been closed but these are denied.

The German consulate at Istanbul is reported to have acquired 40 additional "assistants" recently.

The Germans and the Turks are cooperating in rebuilding the bridges that were blown up by the Greeks on the Turkish frontier. (Ankara, M.A., May 5)

Iraq

Iraq forces have seized three towns on the pipe line to Haifa. At Bacra the British have driven the Iraqis back from the airport, power station and docks. (London, M.A., May 4)
Balkans

German troops are reported to be moving northward through Romania. (We have had reports of movement northward through Budapest.) (Sofia, M.A., May 5)

The total number evacuated from Greece comes to 51,640. (This may include Greeks in addition to the 43,000 English reported a few days ago.) (British Embassy, London telegram, May 4)

Libya - Egypt

According to Vichy estimates, the axis has 11 divisions in Libya. Of these, two are German panzer divisions and one a German motorized division. (This is less than half the 23 divisions our Rome Military Attache reported.)

The axis is estimated to have 500 airplanes in Libya; 200 Italian, 300 German. (Vichy, Naval Attache, May 3)

British planes from Malta bombed an axis convoy; one destroyer was sunk, one damaged; one cargo boat was sunk and three damaged. (London, M.A., May 3)
Personal and Secret.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I enclose herein for your personal and secret information a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,

United States Treasury,

Washington, D. C.
Telegram from London dated May 4th.

1. **Naval. Home Waters.** Night of May 3rd/4th. His Majesty's Cruiser "Sirius" (completing) hit by bomb at Portsmouth. Damage also done to dockyard.

2. **North Atlantic.** Italian ship (5,600 tons) with fuel oil for Brest intercepted 350 miles from North Azores and has sunk. French ship (3,500 tons) intercepted by Ocean boarding vessel on May 1st arrived at Gibraltar.

3. **Attacks on Shipping.** May 3rd. Two convoys bombed off East coast, one Norwegian ship (13,050 tons) being sunk and one (1,150 tons) damaged.

4. **British ship (7,310 tons) independently inward bound reported being fired on by U-Boat 450 miles from west Iceland (C.).**

5. **Total numbers evacuated from Greece 51,640.**

6. **Royal Air Force.** Night of May 2nd/3rd. 81 tons of H.E. (including 7 very large bombs) and 12,500 incendiaries dropped on industrial centre of Hamburg with good results in clear weather. Bremen (16 tons) and Rotterdam petrol, harbour also attacked, fires started.

7. **May 3rd.** Blenheimes obtained hits on 2,000 ton cargo ship (stern awash) 500 ton trawler (down by the bow) and 5,000 ton cargo ship (damaged) in Channel.

8. **Night of May 3rd/4th.** 144 aircraft despatched to attack Cologne industrial area (101) Brest (Scharnhorst and Gneissdau) (33) Rotterdam (9). All crews returned safely.

9. **Libya.** Night of May 1st/2nd. Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour and M.T. near Derna.

10. **Iraq.** On May 2nd and May 3rd. Wellingtons attacked Iraqi forces Habbaniya and bombed enemy positions. Landing grounds still in use by our aircraft.
11. Night of May 3rd, May 4th. 270 bombers operated. Our night fighters destroyed 12, probably destroyed another two, damaged two. One Spitfire destroyed.


May 7th, 1941

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I enclose herein for your personal and secret information a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. Secretary

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Henry Morgenthau, Jr,

United States Treasury,

Washington, D.C.
Telegram received from London
dated May 5th, 1941.

**Naval.** Parachute mine dropped in
Maveney Dock Lowestoft night of May 3rd and 4th.
Sank one M/S trawler and damaged an A/F trawler.
2. Gloucester on passage in Mediterranean was
   bombed and damaged April 4th (sic).
3. During air raid on Liverpool night of
   May 3rd/May 4th the "Adventure" minelayer slightly
   damaged, eight merchant ships sunk or burnt out and
   one damaged.
4. Two convoys on the East Coast night of
   May 4th/May 5th bombed without damage but South Down
   shot down one enemy aircraft.
5. **Military.** Libya.
   Counter attacks by our
   troops Tobruk on night of May 3rd/May 4th unsuccessful
   owing to the enemy's bold use of tanks, machine guns,
   flame throwers. Enemy casualties thought severe.
6. Dump of Royal Air Force bombs abandoned seven
   miles east of Sellum destroyed by our patrols during
   night of May 2nd/May 3rd.
7. Iraqi reinforcements which have reached
   Samawa on Euphrates by rail from the North likely to
   be used to attack our camp at Shaiba and Basra port
   area. Rashid Ali has informed His Majesty's Ambassador
   that if any Government building in Bagdad is bombed
   buildings in which British subjects are collected will
   be bombed.
8. **Royal Air Force.** Night of May 4th/May 5th.
   97 aircraft sent to battle cruisers at Brest, ten to
   Havre and nine to Rotterdam and Antwerp. All returned
   safely.
9. [AIR for May 2nd. Aircraft from our flying training school carried out nearly 200 sorties - 16½ tons of bombs dropped on enemy gun emplacements, troops and transports around Habbaniya. We lost 2 aircraft in the air, 2 on the ground and others damaged on the ground.

10. During the night May 2nd/May 3rd Wellingtons attacked Baghdad aerodrome causing heavy damage to buildings and aircraft and in daylight attack May 4th destroyed 24 enemy aircraft on the ground; during these operations one enemy fighter shot down, 2 more unconfirmed.

11. German Air Force. Night of May 4th/May 5th. Estimated 220 aircraft operating mainly against Liverpool, Belfast and Barrow areas. About 15 others against shipping and 25 enemy night fighters over East Anglia. Preliminary reports indicate that our night fighters destroyed two, probably destroyed 5 and damaged 5 more; anti-aircraft shot down one.

12. Malta. Night of May 3rd/May 4th; during raid by about 40 aircraft considerable damage done to military and civilian property; one enemy aircraft shot down and another damaged by anti-aircraft fire.

13. Home Security. Night of May 3rd/May 4th; Liverpool. This raid heaviest yet on Merseyside. Central Post Office was burnt and there were many other large fires. At 8.00 p.m. on May 4th several were still visible. The Central Railway Station is temporarily closed, as well as several local lines on account of debris and unexploded bombs. Casualties at present 406 killed and 641 seriously wounded. Barrow in Furness
Production at one Vickers Armstrong Naval
Construction Works said to be seriously affected.

14. Night of May 4th/5th. Belfast; large
fires were caused in the city and damage occurred
in shipyards and at Shorts aircraft factory.
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Paraphrase of Code Cablegram
Received at the War Department
at 24:36, May 5, 1941.

Sofia, filed May 5, 1941.

I have it on trustworthy authority that the Germans are moving troops northward through Rumania and Budapest. The Military Attache of Turkey here again assures me that the Turks will stand firm against the passage through their country of the troops of any other state. In spite of that, however, there are various incidents which suggest an agreement with the Germans.

JANIN

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State Department
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Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence

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Adana, filed May 4, 1941.

Dear Minister: a railroad bridge was blown up by the Greeks during the German attack. Also two railroad bridges over the Maritza River. The appearance of the bridges near Blivin (Adrianopole) indicates that the Turks helped in this, although they strenuously deny having done so.

It is now agreed that the Germans will provide materials and the Turks will provide laborers for repairing the bridges. The Germans promise that they will make no use of the railroad line to bring either munitions of war or soldiers to Greek territory.

At present, freight is being sent by way of the Ruseo and Turkish freight is being given advanced priority. Stories are going about respecting a closing of the Ruseo-Turkish frontier, but meet with vigorous denials.

I have good reason to believe reports reaching me to-day that the Germans have taken Kytilea. About 50 additional assistants have joined the German consulate at Istanbul during recent weeks, according to reports.

Yours,

[Signature]

Distribution:

Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, S-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence

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Paraphrase of Code Telegram
Received at the War Department
at 20:08, May 3, 1941.

Vichy, filed May 3, 1941.

Airplanes in Libya estimated as follows:-- Italian 200;
German 200.

Axis troops in Libya estimated to be as follows:-- German
Divisions -- 3 Mechanized, 1 Motorized; Italian Divisions -- 1
Mechanized, 2 Motorized, 5 Infantry including one Black Shirt
Division. Some sources set German Divisions at 2 Mechanized and
4 Infantry, but this is thought high here.

[Signature]

(Note: Above estimates from Vichy are far below those of recent
date by H/A, Rome, who is believed to be a more accurate source for
information on this particular matter.)

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London, filed 1200, May 5, 1941.

1. British Air Activity over the Continent.


Two offensive sweeps were carried out along the coast of France by British fighter planes. A trio merchant shipping off the coast of Holland was bombed by British medium bombers over the sea. As a result, one British vessel was sunk on fire and a second one was sunk.


Five planes of the British Coastal Command carried out raids on the two 36,000-ton German battleships Emden and Scharnhorst at the port of Rostock. Adverse weather conditions caused the abandonment of all flights of planes of the Rostock Command.

2. German Air Activity over Britain.

2. Night of May 2-3.

Many widely separated places in the Midlands were subjected to German raids but the primary targets were again at Mersey River docks and Liverpool Bay.

2. Daylight, May 5.

A small number of German planes were plotted over North Ireland in the Belfast region and along the southern coast of Britain. Defensive patrols were maintained by the Germans along the French coast at Calais and over the Straits of Dover.

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3. Aircraft losses in the British Theater.

b. British.

There are no reports of British aircraft losses.

c. German.

Night of May 2-3. One plane was shot down by antiaircraft units and one was brought down by British night fighters.

4. British Air Activities in the Middle East.

b. Malta.

British planes based on Malta carried out a raid on an Axis convoy in the Mediterranean during which one Axis destroyer was damaged, one destroyer sunk, three cargo boats damaged and one cargo boat sunk.

c. Libya.

At Tobruk British fighter planes were over the city on patrol duty. British bombers carried out raids on Axis airfields and supply points at Acrena, Benina and Bengazi.

5. Axis Air Activities in the Middle East.

b. Malta.

A total of 33 German planes were used in one attack on the island and six other German planes took part in another raid. Only slight damage has been reported.

c. Libya.

German dive bombers cooperated with infantry and tank units in an attack on Tobruk.

6. Aircraft losses in the Middle East.

b. British.

There are no reports of British aircraft losses.
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2. Axis.

One Axis plane taking part in the attack on Malta was shot down and six German planes were destroyed in Libya.


A small number of Iraqi airplanes attacked the Kathana airfield with machine-gun fire and bombs. British bombers in Iraq carried out a raid on the Iraqi Artillery positions from which the Kathana airfield is being shelled.

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Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4
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Office of Naval Intelligence
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Paraphrase of Odes Cabledram
Received at the War Department
at 08:12, May 4, 1941.

London, filed 14:20, May 4, 1941.

1. **British Air Activity over the Continet**.

   A. **Daylight, May 3**.

   Four fighter missions were performed over Occupied France, and bombers attacked and sunk one Axis freighter and one trawler. Another freighter was set on fire.

   B. **Night, May 2-3**.

   Hamburg was heavily bombad by a large number of planes, and lighter attacks took place over Hanan and Rotterdam. Five Havoco attacked airfields in Occupied France.

2. **German Air Activity over Britain**.

   A. **Night, May 3-4**.

   Liverpool harbor and vicinity was again the principal target of German attack, other planes being active over London.

   B. **Daylight, May 3**.

   German air activity was on a reduced scale principally over the Thames Estuary, Cardiff and the coasts of Yorkshire, Dorset, Devon and Kent.

3. **German Air Losses British Theater**.

   Night of May 3-4.

   Eight fighters shot down three German planes and damaged a fourth.
4. **British Air Activity Middle East Theater.**

Mortar transport in the vicinity of Barra was bombèd by British planes and was also the harbor of Benghazi. Bombèrs and fighters attacked 100 meter vehicles in the vicinity of El Aden and destroyed thirteen. Many more were damaged.

5. **German Air Activity Middle East Theater.**

a. **Libya, Daylight May 5.**

Air operations were confined principally to air trans-

port flights.

6. **The following is British Military Intelligence informa-
tion received to 07:00, May 4:**

a. **Libya, May 5.**

British artillery broke up an Axis concentration of
tanks and Infantry at Tobruk. Further extensive operations on a
large scale are expected.

b. **Iraq, Daylight, May 5.**

The Iraq forces which have attacked Bashamiya airport
are still in position on the height surrounding it and are shelling
the British defenses. Casualties to the British are about 40 and two
planes have been destroyed on the ground. The Iraq forces have
seized Kutba, Kirkuk and Baaji on the pipe line to Kaifa. In the
vicinity of Basrah the British have driven the Iraq forces back from
the airport, the power station and the docks. British bombers have destroyed four pieces of Iraq artillery in the defense of Habbaniya.

Distribution:
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Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, 6-3
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Air Corps
6-3
TO Secretary Morgenthau  
FROM Mr. Kamarck

Subject: Summary of Military Reports

England

The Port of London is still operating though on a reduced scale. Out of thirty shipyards noted, one-third were serviceable. Warehouses had been damaged by fire. There were no sunken ships to be seen.

From a tour of the East End of London, the most outstanding impression received was the absolute refusal of the laboring population to be discouraged or terrified. (London, Military Attache, May 5)

Greenland

The Germans are concentrating troops and ships at Kirkenes in northernmost Norway. This may be for an invasion of Greenland (or Russia). (Helsinki, Military Attache, May 6)

Spain

The French believe an attack on Gibraltar is impending. A trainload of German "tourists" with anti-aircraft guns and spare parts for Stukas has recently entered Spain from France. (Vichy, Naval Attache, April 26)

According to the Spanish Military Attache in London, Spain could offer no effective resistance to passage of the Germans if they wish to move through Spain. He believes the Germans could reach Gibraltar in 48 hours from France and shortly thereafter close the Straits to ships by artillery fire. (London, Military Attache, May 5)

Russia

On April 27, 2,500 German soldiers, two armored cars, tractors, motorcycles and motor vehicles landed in Finland. (The Finns state that only 1,500 unarmed German soldiers landed in transit across Finland.)
Finnish military authorities anticipate a German-Russian clash. Other sources doubt the sincerity of the German promise to assist Finland against Russia. (Helsinki, Military Attache, May 6)

Military circles in Romania believe that the next German move after the Turkish question is settled will be in Spain or against Russia. The indications are that it will be against Russia.

The German military base was established in Romania primarily against the Soviet Union as the Germans, until recently, did not believe they would have to fight in the Balkans. The scale of German preparations in Romania can only be directed against Russia: there are twelve divisions in Moldavia alone.

According to the French Air Attache in Bucharest, the Poles have been offered an independent Poland if they will cooperate in a war against Russia. Finland and Sweden will cooperate.

The main attack, it is believed, will be along the line Warsaw-Moscow, secondary attacks through the Baltic against Leningrad and from Romania towards Odessa.

The earliest date mentioned for the attack is May 15. Our military attache, however, believes this to be too early. (Bucharest, Military Attache, April 25)

Turkey

An important Turk stated that Turkey is directing her efforts to preserve herself from partition between Germany and Russia. The English have lost considerable prestige and acquired the reputation of being lavish in promises but stingy in help.

A well-informed Englishman in Ankara states that he has little hope that Turkey will take part in hostilities. The German conquest of the Greek islands leaves only three ports available to the British in Turkey and these have relatively small facilities for shipping. (Ankara, Military Attache, May 3)

Syria

According to a French official, there are only 25,000 soldiers (white and colonial) in Syria with a limited supply of munitions. (Ankara, Military Attache, May 3)
LONDON, filed May 5, 1941.

1. In conversation with Colonel Burra, Spanish Military Attaché here, I was informed that Spain has no interest in entering the war but has not enough armed forces to oppose the passage of Germans if and when they elect to move through the country. Colonel Burra is an ex-Artillery officer with Military Intelligence experience. He is of the opinion that the Germans could reach Gibraltar with artillery from their present concentrations in the region of the Pyrenees in 48 hours by road. Within a short time thereafter they could deny the passage through the Straits by employing mobile medium artillery from gun positions other than Gibraltar.

2. On May 5d I made a tour of inspection through the East End of London which had again suffered severe damage in the recent heavy air raids. Thousands of homes of laboring class families have been ruined and other thousands will require repair before they can be used as living quarters. The most outstanding impression one received is the absolute refusal of the East End laboring population to be discouraged or terrified. The only exception to this is that a majority of Jewish shops have been evacuated from Stepney. I talked with an Air Raids Prevention Controller who is a Scotch Presbyterian Minister with an East End pastorate. He denied that there was any evidence of subversive or defeatist activity in this district where it would naturally be expected. He said that any
agitators that might have existed at the beginning of the war have either been run out or have changed their views in the course of air raids and bombing.

3. In the course of a tour of the dock area, it was noted that out of thirty shipyards one-third were serviceable and from them large freighters were unloading. One of these was a wheat ship which was discharging into elevators which had not been damaged. There were two ladies with American steel. Much damage by fire had been done among warehouses but there were no sunken ships to be seen and it is evident that the Port of London is still operating although on a reduced scale.

LEH

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Paraphrase of Code Radiogram and Cablesgram Received at the War Department at 19:17, April 26, 1941, and 9:24, April 26, 1941, Respectively

Vickly, filed April 25, 1941.
Vickly, filed April 26, 1941.

French opinion holds that attack on Gibraltar, with Spanish aid in Peninsula and in Spanish Morocco, is impending. From official source we are informed that a trainload of "tourists," with certain amount of Antiaircraft Artillery and Steuka spare parts, entered Spain from Emdays recently.

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Assistant Chief of Staff, O-S
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence

CONFIDENTIAL
Helsinki, filed 16:14, May 6, 1941.

Three special daily trains transported German troops and supplies to railheads from landing ports. On April 30th, 5 German ships discharged 2800 troops, two armored cars, tractors, 40 motorcycles, motor vehicles. Finnish military authorities anticipate German-Russian clash soon. Concentrations of German troops and vessels at Kirkose can be directed against Greenland. Other sources doubt sincerity of German promise to assist Finland.

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Assistant Chief of Staff, O-S
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CONFIDENTIAL
Bucharest, filed April 24, 1941.

Having settled the Turkish question either diplomatically or by military measures, the next move by Germany will be in Spain or against Russia. Indications here continue that it will be against Russia. I am still of the opinion that the German military base was established in Rumania primarily against the Soviet Union as the Germans until recently did not believe that it would be necessary for them to fight in the Balkans. At present there are 13 German divisions in Moldavia. Preparations on such a scale can be directed only against Russia. The movement of German troops into Rumania continues and Rumanian units are being shifted to the east. Now playing a lone hand, I have lost count temporarily of the number of German divisions in Rumania proper.

Military thought in Bucharest believes the German operations will be as follows: (1) Main effort direction Warsaw-Moscow; (2) move through the Baltic against Leningrad; and (3) from Rumania towards Odessa. Finland and Sweden will cooperate. A Swedish Military Attache has been appointed for the first time to Bucharest. While the German army moves across them, Slovakia, Hungary and Rumania will defend their respective frontiers. The French Air Attache here reports that the Poles have been offered a small independent Poland if they will cooperate against Russia.

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The earliest date mentioned here for the opening of this campaign is May 15th. To me this appears much too early. I believe that before an attack will be launched most of the German attack divisions will be brought to Romania from Greece and Yugoslavia, unless of course Germany has as yet undisclosed employment for her forces in the eastern Mediterranean.

Distribution:
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE May 9, 1941

TO Secretary Morgenthau
FROM Mr. Kamarck

Subject: Summary of Military Reports

Crete

British Military Intelligence is of the opinion that an attack on Crete may be expected at any moment. (London, Military Attache, May 3)

Syria

The axis mission in Syria is reported to be preparing an airfield for large scale use, presumably for air-borne German troops. The French commander in Syria intends to resist attack but the morale of his soldiers is low. (Total force, 25,000 with limited munitions) (London, Military Attache, May 3)

Russia

According to a well-informed German officer in Moscow, the German diplomatic and military moves regarding the Soviet Union are all bluffs. The purpose appears to be to hold Soviet troops stationary and to force future concessions to Germany. (Moscow, Military Attache, May 6)

German and Romanian troops are concentrating on the Russian frontier. Unofficially, it is reported that there are 15 German and 14 Romanian divisions in Moldavia (600,000 men). Maps of Bessarabia and southern Russia have been issued to the Romanian troops. All factory equipment is being evacuated from the border areas. The oil town of Buzau is being guarded by 200 German planes. The Romanians have refused to permit the American military attache to visit Moldavia and Constantza (report where concentrations of German troops and shipping have been reported.)

The Russians are likewise evacuating all supplies from south Bessarabia according to refugees. (Bucharest, Military Attache, May 6)
According to an excellent source, two German panzer divisions are moving through Vienna towards Poland. (Berlin, Military Attache, May 7)

(Comment: We have received reports now from every capital on the western border of Russia - Bucharest, Budapest, Berlin, Helsinki - telling of German preparations against Russia. The only counter reports have been from axis sources in Moscow - that the preparations constitute a bluff and a lone report from our Budapest attache that he does not believe there will be an attack soon.

It might be possible to dismiss the opinions of the axis representatives in Moscow as a part of the plan designed to lull Russia off guard. In my personal opinion, it is not likely that Germany will invade Russia now. The invasion may come later and the present maneuvers can, therefore, be regarded as equivalent to the two German rehearsals against Belgium and Holland in November 1939 and January 1940.

There are two reasons why an attack on Russia is not an immediate possibility. The first is that there has been no propaganda campaign of preparation. The propaganda-wise Third Reich did not attack even Yugoslavia without such a psychological preparation. The second reason is that the Germans have been consciously attempting to avoid their mistakes in the last war - one of the most important of which was a war on two fronts. It is possible that they will duplicate this mistake.

The most likely explanation for the German preparations against Russia are that Hitler is attempting to frighten Russia and to force her to abandon her recent policy of opposition - the Yugoslav Pact, banning the shipment of arms to Japan. It is possible that Germany may over-estimate Russia's fear of war and a war may still develop.)

Yugoslav-Greek Campaign

London estimates the Germans used 1,050 combat and 450 transport planes in the Balkan campaign. 100 planes were destroyed or damaged in aerial combat. One-half of the air forces were probably unserviceable at the end of the campaign.

The Germans had 65 divisions (over 1,000,000 men) in the Balkans and used 32. Casualties inflicted by the British alone probably totalled 25,000.
If the German troops now being transported out of the Balkans are to be used for an invasion of England, they will not be ready for six to eight weeks.

Hitler probably minimized the casualties in the Balkans because of the apathy of the German home population towards the continuous military campaigns, each time in more distant areas. (London, Military Attache, May 7)

The Italians, likewise, believe that the reported German losses are lower than the facts justify. (Rome, Military Attache, May 6)
SECRET

By authority A. G. of S., 0-2

Received at the War Department at 7:30, May 3, 1941.


1. 

From sources considered authoritative information has been
received that the present Government has asked for aid from the Axis. It
is also reliably reported that the Axis mission in Syria is preparing an
airfield there presumably for early large scale use, which British Military
Intelligence is of the opinion will be for air-borne German troops. The
Commander of the French forces in Syria says that any Axis attack will be
resisted but the morale of his troops is considered low.

2. 

British Military Intelligence was, as of this morning, of
the opinion that an attack on Crete may be expected at any moment.

3. 

Up to 15:00, May 24, the Outer Defense Lines had been penetrated
by 60 German tanks, of which three had been destroyed by Molotov cocktails,
four by British tank attack, and four by mines. British lost by enemy action
four cruiser and 5 Infantry tanks, 5 Infantry tanks were lost by mechanical
failure. Artillery fire was successful during the day of May 2 in breaking
up an attack by 30 German medium tanks and two companies of Infantry.

4. 

British Military Intelligence expects that the German operations
in Libya will soon be on an increased scale. Reinforcements in men and

SECRET
equipment are being hurriedly transported to Eastern Libya by air and
the 10th Armored Division is being moved into the forward areas.

2. The number of troop-carrying aircraft in the advance
areas of Libya have been increased and it now thought that 5,000 or 6,000
troops, of which 2,000 or 3,000 could be combat troops and the rest air
ground personnel, could be transported.

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Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, O-9
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Air Corps
O-3

SECRET
London, filed 19:00, May 7, 1941.

1. The following is submitted in answer to your request for information in regard to German losses and troops engaged in the Balkan Campaign. Air authorities have estimate that the German strength in planes during the campaign was about 1,050 combat and 450 transport. Of these they claim that 300 were destroyed or damaged exclusive of those lost by reason of fire from ground troops. They estimate that one-half of German air forces were unserviceable by the end of the operation.

2. Their estimate of casualties among German troops covers only those caused by British troops. This figure they place at 25,000. Although they admit that it is impossible to verify because of the constant retirement to successive positions. In spite of newspaper reports of extremely severe casualties among the Germans, I believe this figure should be reasonable.

3. It is the opinion here that German casualties were minimized by Hitler because of the apathy of German public opinion toward continuous military campaigns, each time in more distant areas. Everyone with whom I have talked who has returned from Germany has spoken of this apathy.

4. There is evidence that the surplus troops used in the Greek campaign are being evacuated westward for employment in the next operations - possibly in an invasion of England or possibly passage through Spain. If the objective is an invasion of the United Kingdom,
it would require a preparation period of a month and a half to eight weeks.

5. Reports on these operations which have been received through the period covered by them and from all sources indicate that there were available to the Germans throughout the whole area of the Balkans a minimum of 65 divisions. About 50 of these were actively employed.

6. The only positive identifications made by the British as facing their units in combat are as follows: Armored divisions: the Second, Fifth and Ninth. Mountain divisions: the Sixth and possibly the Fifth. There were in addition facing them the Adolph Hitler SS Division and an Infantry Division not identified.

LNN

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State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3
Air Corps
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Paraphrase of Code Teletype
Received at the War Department
at 8:00, May 7, 1941

Moscow, filed May 6, 1941.

German diplomatic and military moves re U.S.S.R.
at this time are all bluffs according to a statement of a
well-informed German colleague. The purpose appears to be to
force future concessions to Germany and hold Soviet troops
stationary.

YEFFON

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War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence

CONFIDENTIAL
BUCHAREST, filed May 6, 1941.

1. German troops have been moving from Bulgaria through Dobrudja toward East Roumania during the past few days. The Russian General Staff has categorically refused permission to the military attaches to visit Moldavia and Constantina.

2. Unofficial sources report 16 German and 14 Romanian divisions and several hundred German planes are now in Moldavia. There are said to be 200 German planes of the latest type in Roumanian bases of Roumania and southern Russia have been issued to Russian troops. All machinery and other factory equipment have been ordered evacuated from Galicia, Buklia, Trans and Rada. Refugees say the Russians are evacuating south Roumania and are taking everything from rails to dear handles.

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Paraphrase of Code Telegram
Received at the War Department
at 10:16, May 7, 1941.

Berlin, filed May 7, 1941.

Italian troops have occupied the islands of Amorgos, Anapha, Ios, Thera, Naxos, Faros.

One purpose of these occupations is to secure the use of the commercial water route from Trieste to the Black Sea.

I have learned from a source which I consider is excellent that two German armored divisions are moving through Vienna in the direction of Poland.

FEITON

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Paraphrase of Code Cables
Received at the War Department
at 16:35, May 6, 1941.

June, filed May 6, 1941.

In reply to your telegram numbered 477. The statements
made by Herr Hitler in his recent speech with regard to the German
troops used in the Balkan campaign correspond closely to reports
previously made here. It is generally held here, however, that
the German losses, as reported, are lower than the facts justify.

FISK

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CONFIDENTIAL
TO Secretary Morgenthau

FROM Mr. Kamarok

Subject: Weekly Military Report: Relative Strengths in the Middle East

Summary

The British probably have at least 200,000 men in Egypt and Crete, with a total of almost 500,000 in the Middle East, according to Churchill. There are various estimates of the axis land strength from 120,000, by our Cairo Attache on April 25, to 460,000 by our Rome Attache. The most likely figure is 150,000 to 200,000 men.

We have no complete information on the total tank strength of the two sides. The axis has at least 600 tanks, while the British probably do not have more than 250.

The British now have around 250 airplanes in Egypt and Crete, with an additional 200 at Takoradi, mostly unassembled. The axis appears to have 400-500 planes in Libya with another 1,000 planes elsewhere in the Middle East and an additional 1,600 to be made available.

I. Land Forces

A. British

Churchill announced that the British have almost 500,000 men in the Middle East. In the middle of April, the British had 50,000 men in Egypt and Libya. Since then, four troop convoys have arrived and possibly a fifth. These convoys have probably brought in at least 100,000 men. 50,000 soldiers were evacuated from Greece.

The minimum number of troops in Egypt and Crete would be, therefore, 200,000 men, not all of whom are available for immediate duty. The garrisons in Palestine, Sudan, Aden and other Arabian ports, the fighting forces in Italian East Africa and Iraq, altogether should total over 100,000 men. This leaves 150,000 to 200,000 men unaccounted for.
While there have been no recent figures on the total British tank strength, it is not likely that the British would have more than 250 tanks in Egypt. As late as three weeks ago the British had only around 50 tanks in the western desert.

B. Axis

The estimates of the strength of the axis land forces in north Africa vary widely. The lowest was that of our Military Attache at Cairo on April 25, based on British sources, which put the figure at 6 divisions or 110,000 to 120,000 men. The highest was that of our Rome Attache who stated that there were 23 divisions in north Africa or 460,000 men. The most likely figure is 150,000 to 200,000 men.

In any case, the lowest estimate of the axis tank force in north Africa is 600 tanks. If the Italian source of six panzer divisions is correct, there would be around 2,000 axis tanks in Libya which seems to me to be somewhat fantastic at the present time.

Axis Land Forces in North Africa
(According to different sources)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rome (May 2)</th>
<th>Berlin (May 6)</th>
<th>Vichy (May 3)</th>
<th>Cairo (April 25)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>German divisions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panzer</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorized</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Italian divisions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panzer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorized</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total - Men</strong></td>
<td>460,000</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>220,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. Air Forces

A. British

A Western Desert Air Command under Air Marshal Tedder is being organized. This will comprise eventually a fighter wing (about 200 planes), a bombardment wing (about 100 planes) and an army cooperation squadron (perhaps 150 planes).

On April 25, the British had only slightly more than 200 airplanes in Egypt and Cyprus. (The total now would probably be around 250). In the whole Middle East the British had, on April 25, 695 airplanes. 215 of the total were still at Takoradi, mostly awaiting assembly. Another 217 were thoroughly obsolete (eight years old and older) and can only be used against Iraqis and similar opposition. Approximately 60 airplanes were located in Malta.

The Royal Air Force plans to put a squadron of Curtiss Tomahawks in action on May 10. The Royal Air Force in Egypt now has about 50 Tomahawks and 15 Tomahawks are expected to arrive in Egypt every week from Takoradi. The generator correction to the Tomahawks suggested by Washington appears to be working out very well.

The Glenn Martin Maryland bombers have been operating efficiently on scouting and bombing missions for a number of weeks.

Distribution of Royal Air Force in Middle East on April 25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Egypt and Crete</th>
<th>Fighters</th>
<th></th>
<th>Bombers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hurricanes</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Blenheim (also used as fighters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tomahawks</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Wellingsons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Martins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Fighters</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Total Bombers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total - Egypt and Crete</td>
<td>204</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Aircraft</td>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Unassembled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Malta</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fighters</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hurricanes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bombers</strong></td>
<td>Wellesleys</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Martins</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Bombers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous</strong></td>
<td>Sunderland, Valentines, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Malta</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aden, Iraq &amp; Sudan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous Obsolete planes</strong> (Vincents, Harts, Gaunlets)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Takoradi</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fighters</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tomahawks - total</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>(Unassembled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hurricanes - total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>(Unassembled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Fighters</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Unassembled - 161)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bombers</strong></td>
<td>Blenheims - total</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>(Unassembled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Martins - total</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>(Unassembled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Bombers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Total unassembled - 39)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Takoradi</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total - All Middle East</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Axis Air Forces

We have had various reports on the axis air forces in the Middle East. While the range of estimates is fairly wide, there is some agreement among them. In Libya, around May 1 the axis had 400 to 500 combat airplanes, not including 100-200 troop transports. About half of these airplanes are German.

The German airplanes in Libya are apparently a part of the Sixth Air Fleet operating in the Mediterranean and totalling 1,600 airplanes (600 pursuit, 400 Stukas, 600 other bombers). This information coming from our Military Attache in Berlin agrees, in the main, with the estimates at Cairo. According to Rome and Berlin, however, the Fourth Air Fleet, which operated in the Balkans, will also soon be made available for action in the Middle East.

The maximum air strength that the axis will dispose of in the Middle East, according to these reports, will be over 3,000 airplanes. However, it is doubtful whether anything like this number can actually be brought to bear on any one front in view of the number of air bases that would be required.
TO Secretary Morgentau
FROM Mr. Kamarok
Subject: Summary of Military Reports

England

During the German attacks on Belfast the night of May 4th, the HMS Furious (aircraft carrier) was damaged.

On the night of May 5-6, 440 German planes attacked England. 390 of these were heavy bombers carrying 1-1/4 tons of bombs each.

Turkey-Russia

There is a report from official Romanian sources that German troops will enter Turkey, with her consent, on about May 10th. The troops will penetrate to the Iraq oil fields and to points south and north of the Caspian Sea. As a result, the action (war?) between Russia and Germany should occur in June at the latest. (Bucharest, Military Attache, May 5)

The German army concentrations on the western Russian frontier still exist. The Germans now have the following troops in areas adjacent to Russia:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Divisions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Prussia</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posen area</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Poland</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldav</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>91</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(This report, if accurate, represents a slight decrease in the German concentrations except in the case of Finland. The preceding report showed 3 divisions in Finland.)
Troops were embarked at Konigsberg on April 30th for an unknown destination (Finland?). A Seventh Air Fleet, it is reported but unconfirmed, is being formed in the Baltic Sea district. Troops are being withdrawn from Yugoslavia and sent north and northeast. (Berlin, Military Attache, May 6)

Libya-Egypt

British do not intend holding against major attack any positions west of Marsa Matruh. (Cairo, Military Attache, May 4)

Seventy-eight air fields now exist between Alexandria and Marsa Matruh, others are being made ready.

Shipping between Italy and Tripoli is being attacked by air, sea and submarine. Attacks on Tripoli have been only slightly successful in destroying port facilities.

The British fleet at Alexandria is now unbalanced and with an excess of heavy ships over light. This is due to the fact that the recent loss of three destroyers (in the evacuation) has not been made good. The Fleet Air Arm is also below strength because of modifications being made to airplane engines and the necessity for the installation of arrester hooks on the Brewaters. (Cairo, Military Attache)

Spain

According to Belgian airmen, the Belgian consul at Vigo, Spain, states that there are two divisions of Germans not in uniform along the north Spanish coast. The Germans have submarine bases in the Spanish ports of Pontavedra (just north of Portugal) Gijon and San Sebastian (both on the Bay of Biscay). Small German submarines are being carried out to sea in Spanish ships. (Lisbon, Military Attache, May 3)

Germany

The Germans have been testing tank-carrying airplanes and 12-seater and 25-seater towed gliders.
Balkan Campaign

Our Sofia and Bucharest attaches believe Hitler's figures on troops used and casualties in the Balkan campaign are correct. (Bucharest, Sofia, Military Attaché, May 8)

An important part in the campaign was played by the S.S. Regiment Adolf Hitler. These are picked Nazis, well trained and well fed. Use of the drug Pervitin probably accounts for the astonishing endurance of these men. German aviators are definitely known to take this drug in tablet form. (Bucharest, Military Attaché, May 8)
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London, Staff No. 8, May 7, 1941.

1. British Air Activity over the Continent.


Operations consisted mainly of offensive patrols against shipping along the Belgian and Dutch coasts.

3. Night of May 3-4.

One hundred fifty heavy bombers attacked Antwerp and several small groups made attacks on Frankfurt, Calais, Zeebrugge, Ostend, and Dunkirk. Twenty bombers from the Coastal Command operated against enemy shipping and the ports of Steenwerck and St. Nazaire and the seaplane base at Dunkirk.

4. German Air Activity over Britain.

5. Night of May 6-7.

Once again the German attacks were on a large scale and struck principally at Harrodsfield and Cipistead with very small attacks on East Anglia and east coastal towns.


In all, 404 German planes attacked Britain. Three hundred ninety of these were long range bombers each of which it is estimated carried one and one-fourth tons of bombs (including incendiary).

7. Night of May 4-5.

During the attacks on Britain this night, German planes damaged 26F PLEURUS at Belfast.

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7. **Aircraft Losses British Theater.**

8. **British.**

In all of the air operations during the night of May 3-4, no British aircraft were lost.

9. **German.**

Two German planes were destroyed and one damaged by R.A.F. planes operating over the Channel. The latest figures on German planes losses on the night of May 3-4 are 8 destroyed and 1 damaged by night fighters, and 1 destroyed, 1 probable by antiaircraft.

10. **British Air Activity Other Theaters.**

11. **Egyptian Theater.**

British planes based in Egypt attacked Bengazi harbor and airstrips at Derna, Barda, Gemal and Benina. At Benina at least 9 Axis planes were destroyed on the ground. Axis Alegi was also bombed and ammunition dump blown up.

12. **Iraqi Theater.**

British planes continued their attacks on Iraqi gams, troops and planes.

13. **Axis Air Activity Other Theaters.**

Thirty-six German planes bombed Axis airstrips on Malta. Sixteen German planes staged a dive bombing attack on British ships in Suda Bay, Crete. One British vessel was struck and beached.

14. **Aircraft Losses.**

15. **British.**

No reports have been received concerning British losses.

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In the attack on Malta 1 German plane was destroyed and in the attack on Crete 2 others were destroyed and 3 damaged.

7. Military Activities.

2. During the night of May 8-9, British patrols operated from Selim to Haifa but discovered no enemy troops.

4. In Alexandria, the British troops staged a successful attack on Haifa (approximately 40 miles north of Suez).

7. royal troops have left the plateau south of Helwan and the situation around Conv is without activity. British reinforcements have reached sea.

8. Naval Activities.

A British submarine attacked and sank 3 Axis vessels off Haifa. A British hospital ship HOSPITAL was beached and not driven by German planes at Tel-el. Little damage was inflicted however.

IX

The following is a summary of British Military Intelligence Information to 7000 A.M., May 7:

Little activity in the vicinity around Tel-el with the exception of 1 small air assault by German planes.

[Signatures]

Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Chief Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, O-S

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Paraphrase of Code CabLegram
Received at the War Department
at 13:51, May 6, 1941

Bucharest, filed May 6, 1941.

I am unable to verify a report from an official source
which states that German troops will enter Turkey, with her consent,
on about May 10th. The troops will penetrate to the Iraq oil fields
and to points south and north of the Caspian Sea. As a result the
action between Russia and Germany should occur in June at the latest.

BATAK

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Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
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Received at the War Department at 11:50, May 6, 1943.

Berlin, 11:50 May 6, 1943.

Movement of German troops from Yugoslavia toward the north and northeast. Troops were embarked at Kungshams April 30, destination unknown. An unconfirmed report indicates a 7th Air Fleet composed of land and sea planes is being formed in the Baltic Sea district. There are in Finland 5 German divisions, East Prussia 20, Leningrad 12, South Poland 24, Slovakia, 10, Posen area 20, Holland 12 and increasing.

FENECH

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Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, 0-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence

Regraded Unclassified
Cairo, filed May 4, 1942.

1. In answer to your inquiry of April 29 in regard to airfields and British intentions, please be advised that I am sending the maps you requested.

2. The British do not intend to hold against major attack any positions west of Mersa Matruh.

3. I can make arrangements to forward secret communications by air mail by placing them in the hands of a ship captain bound for Singapore who will give them to Captain of the Pan-American Clipper at that point provided arrangements can be made at your end with Pan-Amercian. Please let me know if you desire this to be done.

4. In the following information concerning airfields, I can send by cable the coordinates of all sites if you wish.

5. Airfields between Mersa Matruh and Alexandria.

There exist at present 36 fields now ready for operation, the most important of which are at Qenada, Bawabagush, Fehe, and Fehe Smith. Centering on a point 30 miles south of Fehe there is a group of six fields. At El Fehe and in a circle within 20 miles of that point are five others. At El Rag al Assh and within 20 miles are 10 fields and seven are being made ready centering about a point 30 miles southeast.

6. Airfields between Alexandria and Sollum.

Seventy-eight airfields exist capable of being used by
Fighters (at least 1,000 by 1,000 yards, a portion having corner markings). Other fields are being made ready in the area around Sidi el Mekram. There is an excellent field at Sidi Mousaid with three auxiliary fields nearby. Other good fields are at Mous Mekra with three others 20 miles to the east and three at equal intervals between Mous Mekra and Sidi Mousaid.

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Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, C-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Air Corps
Assistant Chief of Staff, C-3
Cairo, filed May 7, 1941.

The following information gained from Teiler in regard to the naval situation in Eastern Mediterranean should be brought to the attention of our Navy.

1. Shipping between Italy and Tripoli is being attacked by air, sea and submarine in an attempt to embarrass supplies. Attacks on Tripoli have been only slightly successful in destroying port facilities.

2. In replacing naval losses, the British cruiser PHOENIX (5,450 tons) has joined the Fleet. The three destroyers which were sunk however have not been replaced.

3. The Fleet is now unbalanced by reason of the excess of heavy over light. This condition results in the light forces being overworked. The Fleet Air Arm is also below fighter strength on account of modifications to engines and the installation of arrester hooks for Brewster.

Yeffes

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Chief of Staff
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War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Assistant Chief of Staff, 6-3

SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL

Enclosure of Code Document
Received at the War Department
at \\
May 6, 1943

Subject, dated May 6, 1943.

It is learned from a source of Belgian origin that a large concentration of ships and personnel, stated to be about two divisions of German merchant ships, is along the north Spanish coast between El Ferrol and San Sebastian. These ships are believed to be equipped as submarine bases in Spanish ports of Pontevedra, Gijon, and San Sebastian. Small German submarines are being carried out to sea in Spanish ships.

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Paraphrase of Code Cablegram Received at the War Department at 20:46, May 6, 1941

Bern, filed May 8, 1941.

Swiss General Staff informs as follows: - Tests being made of use of 4-motored Junkers planes for carrying light tanks; in April, trials of new 4-motored transport airplane with twin fuselage (machine thought to be FOCKE-WULF) were completed at Schwerin; at Nauen and Brunswick, Germans have been testing 12-seater and 25-seater towed gliders.

JENGE

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Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Chief of Air Corps

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Bucharest, filed May 7, 1942.

It is my opinion that Hitler's statements as to the German forces engaged in the Balkan campaign, and the losses incurred by their troops are correct. However, I do not believe that Hitler included in his figures the four or five German divisions stationed in Bulgaria and which were earmarked for operations against Turkey, in case such action became necessary. Several days before Hitler's speech, unusually well-informed people in Bucharest learned that the German casualties in this campaign amounted to only about 1,300 killed. There was naturally much astonishment and discussion about this figure.

The low casualties appear almost unbelievable, but German officers at Bucharest point out that, with the air forces forming the rear guard, and with armored and specialist units constantly pushing forward, surprising the enemy now here, now there, the mass of the German infantry and artillery never caught up and was engaged solely in mopping up operations.

A very important part was played in the Balkan campaign by the "Specialist Troops", the 2. S. Regiment ADOLF HITLER. This unit is evidently the "one half division" mentioned in Hitler's speech. The men of this unit are especially picked party members, imbued with National Socialist, well trained, and fed and medically cared for in the same way as American football players. It is maintained in some circles here that this unit possesses many secret weapons. It is my belief that the drag

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FRENCH (213915-235167-542380) probably served in coffee,
accounts for the astonishing absence of these men. I have conclusively
that German or liners lose this drug, though in their case, in tablet form.

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Passage of Code Cables
Received at the War Department
at 11:07, May 5, 1943

Rome, filed 10:00, May 6, 1943.

This cable in answer to cable #14 this office which
requested opinion on Hitler's speech of May 4, an estimate of
German troops employed in Balkans and an estimate of German losses.
It is the opinion of our Attache, his colleagues and others that
speech was propaganda and that figures for campaign close to
accurate. Seven or eight German divisions were employed against
Greeks and British. One estimate of German killed and wounded
in 25,000 based on information considered reliable which was
obtained from colleagues, a number of doctors and a German General.

JANEH

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War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
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TO Secretary Morgenthau
FROM Mr. Kamarck
Subject: Summary of Military Reports

Greenland, Iceland, Spitzbergen

The Germans may be preparing an invasion of Greenland, Iceland or Spitzbergen. According to the Norwegian Minister in London, three German crack divisions are concentrated in the Kirkenes-Tromsoe area of north Norway and transports have been observed off the coast. (London, Military Attache, May 9)

England

The German attacks on the night of the 7th and 8th severely damaged two destroyers and slightly damaged two more.

359 bombers were sent out by the Royal Air Force on the night of the 8th and 9th. Of these, 316 bombed Hamburg. (This was the night that the British announced that their heaviest attack of the war was delivered on Hamburg.)

On the same night, the Germans had 230 bombers over England. (The highest number of German bombers which I have seen reported as being used against England is 440. In other words, England appears to be coming closer to equality with Germany.) (London, British Embassy, May 9)
German Air Force
Distribution on May 3, 1941

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Planes</th>
<th>Transports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holland, Belgium and France</td>
<td>2,193</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway and Denmark</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Western Front</strong></td>
<td>2,929</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balkans, Southeast Germany and Aegean</td>
<td>1,080</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa and Central Mediterranean</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Mediterranean Front</strong></td>
<td>1,491</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>4,420</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Unaccounted for - the planes in Poland)

(London, Military Attache, May 10, 1941)

Balkans

The Bulgarian railroads are being used to the utmost in the transportation of German material northward and in the direction of the Black Sea.

On May 3, the Germans had 7 or 8 divisions on the Turkish-Bulgarian frontier. The Bulgarians had 10 divisions here and 4 in Thrace and Macedonia. (Sofie, May 9)
CONFIDENTIAL

Regraded Unclassified

London, filed 22:30, May 9, 1941.

1. DATE 

2. British Air Activity over the Continent.


Seahorse traffic off the Norwegian coast was the target for British bombers. A hit on one ship was observed. Fighter squadrons performed defensive patrol missions in the Cherbourg-Grise Bay area.

b. Night, May 7-8.

Two German battleships in Breton harbor were again the target of attack by seven bombers. Hits with one 2,000-pound armor-piercing bomb and one 900-pound were observed on each. The shipping facilities at St. Nazaire were subject to attack by 15 bombers. Brest, Auray, and Fosset had attacks made on their shipping by a smaller number of bombers as was also the case off Brest.

3. German Air Activity over Great Britain.


German major bombing operations took place over East Anglia, the Harwich, Harwich-in-Flanders and over the whole of the Midlands. A smaller number of planes attacked London.

b. Daylight, May 9.

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

There were many offensive missions performed by German fighters over Kent and strong patrols operated over the Calais- Dover area.


Three hundred thirty-five planes took part in attacks on Britain.


2. British, Night, May 7-8.

Two British bombers were shot down over Germany.

2. German.


So far as has been reported to date, five German planes were shot down and one damaged by night fighters.


In German attacks on Kent eleven fighters were shot down with three probable and one damaged. In the Channel area one fighter was shot down with one more probable.


The latest report of German plane casualties over Britain indicates that 20 were shot down with four more probable and 15 damaged by night fighters while an additional three were taken out by anti-aircraft fire.

3. British Air Activity, Middle East Theater.


1. Egypt.

The harbor of Mersa and airfields at Rosco, Deira, and Zowo were bombed by British planes based in Egypt.

CONFIDENTIAL

Regraded Unclassified
There were many offensive missions performed by German fighters over Rant and strong planes operated over the Sainte-Sever area.


Three hundred thirty-five planes took part in attacks on Britain.


Two British bombers were shot down over Germany.

11. German.


So far as has been reported to date, five German planes were shot down and one damaged by night fighters.


In German attacks on Rant eleven fighters were shot down with three probable and one damaged. In the Cherbourg area one fighter was shot down with one more probable.


The latest report of German plane casualties over Britain indicates that 29 were shot down with four more probable and 13 damaged by night fighters while an additional three were taken out by antiaircraft fire.

4. British Air Activity, Middle East Theater.


1. Egypt.

The harbor of Benghazi and airfields at Suez, Demina, and Suez were bombed by British planes based in Egypt.

-2-

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

2. Aitape.

Many troop columns in the Lake Aitape area and at Aitape Airfield were attacked by British planes. Guadal was a target for bombing by the Free French forces.

3. Iraq.

Hashid Airfield was bombed by British planes and the magazine near Hashid was successfully bombed with resultant explosions. Operations against the Hashid Airfield resulted in the destruction of six Iraq planes and damage to 16.

4. German Air Activity, Middle East Theater.

5. Eight, May 7-8.

The Suez Canal was again attacked by mining planes of which six launched by paradropped expeditions between Fort Said and Mersine. Malta was attacked by ten bombers without damage.

II. The following information has been received from Ambassador Malle

in Norway:

1. There are some indications that German operations may be preparing for Greenland, Iceland or Spitsbergen.

2. On May 6 the Norwegian Minister said that he had recently received information from observers in North Norway that about three full German divisions, all young first-class combat personnel, were concentrated in the Kirkenes-Gruses area and that transports had been observed off that coast. These forces had arrived by sea transport from the southern districts of Norway. Several hundred pairs of skis had been procured by purchase for their use. Consult our previous cable on this subject.
CONFIDENTIAL

The following is a summary of British Military Intelligence information:

1. Libya.
   Apparently an attack is being prepared against the southwest perimeter of Tobruk.

2. Aegypt.
   The Island of Mawa, north of Sesto, has been occupied by the Italians.

3. Eiaq.
   Telegraph offices, commercial buildings and banks in Eiaq have been occupied by the British. The plateau south of Elbelemya Airfield has been cleared of Eiaqi troops and occupied by the British.

4. The Germans are improving and enlarging airfields in Eialam.

Distribution:

Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Vice Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, 6-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Air Corps
6-3

CONFIDENTIAL
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
May 11th, 1941.

Personal and Secret.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I enclose herein for your personal and secret information a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

The Honourable

Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,
United States Treasury,
Washington, D.C.
Telegram from London dated May 9th.

1. **Naval.** Night of the 7th/8th; two destroyers severely damaged at Liverpool and two destroyers slightly damaged at Hull.

2. On the 8th one armed drifter sunk by aircraft, one minesweeping trawler mined and sunk in Katyer.

3. Suez Canal closed near Kantara by mines.

4. At Tobruk the 8th, "Ladybird" shot down two enemy aircraft. We lost one minesweeper by bomb hit.

5. P.M. 8th; 600 miles northeast of the Seychelles His Majesty's Ship "Cormwall" sank armed merchant raider and sustained slight damage and two minor casualties from two hits. 53 Germans picked up. Out of 67 British and 166 Lancara only 11 British and 16 Lancara were saved.

6. **Military.** Habbaniya. During salvage operations our forces have brought in armoured cars, lorries and six serviceable 3.7 inch howitzers.

7. **Royal Air Force.** 8th. 6 medium bombers attacked 700 tons anti-aircraft ship off Stavanger, left down by the stern. One missing.

8. Night of the 8th/9th. 183 bombers sent to attack shipyards and industrial centre of Hamburg, 133 to shipyards, mostly smaller numbers to Berlin, Kiel and to attack shipping. Out of the 359 aircraft 10 did not return.

9. **German Air Force.** 8th. Strong patrols operated over Dover Straits, small formations over Kent. Fighters destroyed 2 enemy aircraft and probably five more; 3 hurricanes shot down, two pilots safe.


11. **Home Security.** Night of 8th/9th. Hull attack/
attack severe. docks and centre of the city again principal targets. many fires and widespread damage. nottingham industrial key point and public utilities not seriously affected.
CONFIDENTIAL

Paraphrase of Code Radiogram
Received at the War Department
at 16:29, May 9, 1941

Sofia, filed May 9, 1941.

According to reports, the Germans have seven or eight
divisions on Turkey's Thracean frontier. This information is as
of May 9, 1941. The Germans were then occupying a zone 40 kilo-
meters deep. There were four divisions of the Bulgarian Army in
Thrace and Macedonia, and 10 on Turkish frontier. In Eastern
Bulgaria no German divisions have been located. It is stated
that the Bulgarian railroads are being used to the utmost in
transportation of German material northward and in the direction
of the Black Sea.

JAWIN

Distribution:
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence (2)
Paraphrase of Code Cablagram
Received at the War Department
at 07:47, May 10, 1941

London, filed 12:00, May 10, 1941.

The table below gives the British estimate of the distribution of the German Air Force as of May 5, 1941. The breakout of the types of aircraft will be sent by courier unless this information is requested by cable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>No. of Planes</th>
<th>No. of Transports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway and Denmark</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland, Belgium, and France</td>
<td>2193</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa and Central Mediterranean</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balkans, Southeast Germany, and Aegean</td>
<td>1060</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>4430</strong></td>
<td><strong>1800</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(6-3 Note: The total of 4430 is the same as that given in an April breakdown of the German Air Force. No mention is made of planes in Poland.)

Distribution:
- Secretary of War
- State Department
- Secretary of Treasury
- Under Secretary of War
- Chief of Staff
- Assistant Chief of Staff, 6-3
- War Plans Division
- Office of Naval Intelligence (2)
- Air Corps
SUBJECT: Summary of Military Reports

Iraq

General Wavell and the Royal Air Force command in the Middle East are urging that negotiations be undertaken in Iraq to free the air force and troops for Egypt. The Ministry of Air in London, however, demands that the Iraq Government be overthrown. The Ministry believes that no German planes can arrive in Iraq this month.

General Wilson is forming units in Palestine for use in Iraq. (Cairo, Military Attache, May 11)

On May 6, a convoy with an infantry brigade from India arrived at Basra. (London, British Embassy, May 8)

England

The air raid of the night of May 6 damaged John Brown's shipyard on the Clyde-side. Production was cut by at least one-third. The ordnance factory at Ardeer which was hit will have to reduce production by at least 25 percent for some weeks. (London, British Embassy, May 8)

Eastern Mediterranean

The Germans are now estimated to have 328 planes in the Balkans and 450 planes in the Mediterranean area.

The German air force in Greece is being overhauled and repaired. There are parachute troops and air transports based on Athens.

The Germans are assembling a fleet of small vessels in Greece. (All this would indicate an attack on Crete or a descent upon Syria.) (Cairo, Military Attache, May 11)
In the region of the Hungarians, the Danube is now clear of obstructions except at one point where a ship canal is apparently available.

The Danube was blocked by the Yugoslavs near the Romanian frontier and is still blocked by a combination of barges sunk in the river with a bridge collapsed on the top of them. It is likely, however, that traffic will be resumed in a few days past this spot.

Damage occurred to the Yugoslav railroads at numerous places, it is reported. The civil traffic on the Hungarian railroads has been cut one-half because of the poor state of the railroads. Over one-half of the capacity of the Romanian railroads is being used for military purposes and commercial traffic is thereby hampered. There has been no significant sabotage of the railroads, as far as is known.

In Bulgaria and Romania, all the oil tanks and reservoirs are full. The German experts are trying to raise the Romanian production of aviation gasoline from 10,000 tons to 18,000 tons a month. (Budapest, Military Attaché, May 10; Bucharest, Military Attaché, May 9)
Enire, Allied Forces, May 21, 1943.

1. During the week beginning May 2 casualties in German planes totalled 21 in the Middle East theater.

2. A fleet of multi-vessels is being assembled by the Germans in Greece, and German shipping continues to make use of the Black Sea. From the areas controlled by Germany in Thrace and Crete, indications are that her air forces are prepared to move to any part of the area indicated in the military area from Greece to Hungary.

3. The presence of a number of planes flying south was discovered by radio direction finders at Hitho. In the week following May 2 Crete, Hitho, Corfu, Alexandria, and the Suez Canal were subjected to heavy air raids.

4. Eighty-four planes have left the Italian area supposedly returning to Germany for new equipment. The air forces in Greece is undergoing reconditioning and repair.

5. The estimate of German air strength in the Middle East theater as on May 18:

   Egyptian area: 400 planes
   Mediterranean area: 400 planes

There have been no changes observed in the number of transport planes during the week. The air elements based on Thrace are apparently prepared to operate either from Kipos or the Aegean Sea. Parachute troops (using German machine pistols) and air transports are based on Athens.
6. An additional squadron of Junkers 88's has been observed in Libya.

7. During May 23, Airplane reconnaissance over Tripoli revealed 35 freighters, none as large as 9000 tons, in the harbor.

8. The following identifications have been made about Tobacco reaching Suez west to east:
   - the 27th Infantry Division (Italian)
   - the 25th Tractor Motorized Division (Italian)
   - 5th Light Armored Division (German)
   - 25th Artillery Armored Division (Italian)

There has been a general transfer of tank units from the German 5th Light Armored Division and the 15th Armored Division in Greece and Rethia respectively.

9. One squadron of Tanks has arrived in Alexandria May 24 for defense against daylight raids. It is estimated that such defense will be required by May 27.

10. In light of the aircraft and troop requirements for the defense of Egypt, air force authorities in the Middle East and General Mudall, united to urge that negotiations be undertaken at Jidid. The Ministry of Air in London however demands the overhaul of the present Iraq government. The Ministry is of the opinion that no German planes will be able to arrive in Iraq this month.

11. General Mudall is at present with General Wilson in Palestine. The latter is in the presence of formation of units for employment in Iraq.
22. British units are being organized for the defense of Cyprus and those in Crete are being reinforced.

23. Iraq. It is estimated that the Iraqi air forces consist of 65 first-line aircraft, 40 of which are serviceable and 25 training planes.
May 10th, 1941

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I enclose herein for your personal and secret information a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

The Honourable

Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,
United States Treasury,
Washington, D. C.
Telegram from London dated May 6th, 1941.

NAVAL.

1. A.F. trawler and one yacht bombed sunk home waters.
2. Hospital ship "Karapara" has arrived at Alexandria.
3. British tanker 3600 tons at 02.55/7 reported shelled by raider 340 miles East southeast Cape Guardafui.
5. Military. Iraq. Habbaniya. Night of May 6th/7th. Quiet. Our patrols remained on the high ground captured which was occupied in the morning. Bridge between Ramadi and Habbaniya was blown up by enemy during the night.
6. Convoys containing one Infantry Brigade from India arrived at Basra afternoon of May 6th.
7. Ethiopia. One Italian General and 170 Europeans have been captured at Almata. The enemy have evacuated Debarech (40 miles Northeast of Gonder).
8. Royal Air Force. Night of May 7th/8th. 87 bombers sent to attack battle cruisers at Brest, 15 St. Nazaire docks, others to Bremen docks and to attack shipping. Hits with one 2000 lb. armour piercing bomb and one 500 lb. bomb on each ship are claimed. Two bombers missing.
9. Mediterranean. On May 7th five Blenheimies attacked convoy of 8 merchant ships and two escort vessels south southwest of Pantellaria. Two ships of 3000 and 1500 tons were hit.

10./
10. **German Air Force.** May 7th; activity off the southeast coast. Our fighters destroyed 8 enemy aircraft. We lost two Spitfires.

11. **Night of May 7th/8th.** About 200 aircraft operating, mainly against Manchester, Merseyside, Hull and Bristol; 23 were destroyed, 4 probable, 13 damaged.

12. **Iraq.** May 6th. Three of our aircraft destroyed on the ground during air attacks in Habbaniya area.

13. **Home Security.** Two-thirds of the workmen have resumed at John Brown’s after raid the night of May 6th/7th; two other shipyards at Greenwich damaged the same night. Ardeer production on military side likely to be reduced by about 25% for some weeks.

14. **The night of May 7th/8th.** Extensive fires at Bootle, Hull and Bristol.
CONFIDENTIAL

Paraphrase of Code Cabledgram
Received at the War Department
at 16:23, May 10, 1941.

Budapest, filed May 10, 1941.

1. Information available in Budapest indicates that the
Danube river is now clear of obstructions except at Sombos just
below the junction of the Prave and the Danube. At this point
the river has a draught of only two meters. The normal depth
will be attained in about a fortnight. The use of the ship canal
at this point is unnecessary except for the largest ships, and then
only at low water. The Save pontoon bridge at Belgrade is open
for two periods of two hours each daily.

2. The following destructions to railroad lines are known
to have occurred.

a. Railroad detour of one mile around Nish.
b. Railroad line at Keplye.
c. Bridge at Zemun.
d. Long trestle at Laibach.
e. Bridge at Hungarian–Yugoslav border on Budapest–
Zagreb railroad line.

3. There are reports here to the effect that Serbian bands
are still fighting in the mountains of Montenegro.

4. The Hungarian Slovakian frontier will be closed up until
May 12th. German troops are moving eastward through Slovakia.

5. The civil traffic on the Hungarian railroads has been
cut by about one half. The poor state of the railroads will forbid them

CONFIDENTIAL

Regraded Unclassified
to carry a much greater load.

MILITARY ATTACHE

Distribution
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
CONFIDENTIAL

Paraphrase of Code Endogram
Received at the War Department
at 18:53, May 9, 1941

Bucharest, filled 11:55, May 9, 1941.

1. In Bulgaria and Romania all tanks and reservoirs are
filled and all tank cars on hand are used for transporting oil to
Germany. German field troops get gasoline in small containers filled
at the refineries. German experts are negotiating for an increase
of monthly output of aviation gasoline from 10,000 tons to 15,000.
This would be 162,000 barrels at 42 gallons each. Therefore,
72 octane to be loaded to 95 would have to be accepted. Shipment
of synthetic gasoline for planes is to be avoided if possible.
This large amount of aviation gasoline would be necessary for
further action. The totalitarian leaders are pressing the
oil producers to step up output. The Germans are paying the total
cost of bomb protection for oil tanks.

2. I can report accurately on railroads only in Romania.
The German run service is much better than that of the Romanians.
Over half of the rail movement concerns the armed forces.
Commercial travel has naturally been hampered despite the fact that rail
traffic is greater than before. There are no strict railroad regulations
in force now. Rail line sabotage was never of prime importance
at any time. I have a report that the railroads at Belgrade,
Pancevo and Novi Sad were torn up by the Yugoslavs. I do not know
about other points and am unable to say how long the dislocation
of rail traffic will continue.

3. The canal was not bombed and German fire at three in the

CONFIDENTIAL

Regraded Unclassified
morning of April 6th in the Kasań destroyed the cement loaded Yugooslav barges which were to block it. The crew and Yugooslav soldiers on guard at the canal were wiped out. I have no information on the bombing of Dobrudja and Galubas. Transportation on the Danube is possible below Novisad. Their barges filled with rocks were sunk under bridges which were then destroyed by the Yugooslavs. This obstacle in all probability will be cleared within a few days because oil companies have been ordered by the Germans to load sixty barges, 600 to 700 tons each, which are now above Novisad.

RATAY

Distribution
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, O-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Expert Control

CONFIDENTIAL
TO Secretary Morgenthau
FROM Mr. Kamarock
Subject: Weekly Military Report: The Size of the German Air Force

1. The total strength that the German air force could put into combat at any one time is probably not more than 11,000 airplanes. The most likely figure is 9,000 to 10,000.

This figure is based on a number of independent estimates. According to an officer of the French General Staff, the Germans had in action about 5,000 planes on the Western Front last May. It took the Germans five years of all-out effort to attain this strength. It is possible that they could more than double this in one year, but not probable.

Our Military Attache in Berlin reports that the Germans are supposed to be forming a Seventh Air Fleet. There are 1,600 planes in an air fleet, thus, according to this report, the Germans would have a total of 11,200 combat planes.

Last December, I believe, the British were of the opinion that a first-line strength of 7,000 airplanes in 1941 would achieve parity with the Germans.

Our London Military Attache reported recently that the Germans had a combat strength of 4,400 airplanes outside of Poland. It is possible that the Germans would have more than half of their air force in Poland but I doubt it. As a maximum, then, based on our London Attache's figures, the German combat strength did not total more than 8,800 airplanes. The April, 1941 issue of the British Military magazine, Fighting Forces, estimated that the German first-line strength totalled approximately 8,500 airplanes.
2. The total number of airplanes of all types at the disposal of the Germans is probably not more than 35,000. The most likely figure is about 30,000.

According to Royal Air Force experience, the peacetime allowance of a 50 percent reserve of planes in the operating squadron is not sufficient. To be able to maintain a strength of 12 planes ready to take the air it is necessary to have 20 - 22 planes in the squadron. Since, in addition, some airplanes have to be kept in reserve in higher echelons, it is probably safe to estimate that a 100 percent reserve of the first line strength is required. To maintain a first line combat strength of 9,000 to 10,000 planes it would probably, therefore, be necessary to have a total of 18,000 to 20,000 combat planes.

In addition to combat planes, an air force has training, observation, reconnaissance, army intercommunication, transport and other utility airplanes. Probably about a third, and perhaps more, of the total German air force would consist of such planes.

With a first line combat strength of 9,000 to 10,000 airplanes, the Germans would probably have, therefore, a total of 27,000 to 30,000 airplanes of all types. This figure is still a high estimate. The April, 1941 Fighting Forces estimates the total number of German airplanes of all types at 20,000.
TO Secretary Morgenthau
FROM Mr. Kamarck
Subject: Summary of Military Reports

Hess

British Military Intelligence believes that the cause of Hess' flight was a factional fight in the Nazi Party in which Goering was getting the better. Since Hess was the leader of a strong faction, there should be a great and widespread reaction in the Nazi Party. (London, Military Attache, May 13)

England

In the German raid of May 10-11 on London, the damage to war industry is thought not serious. The damage to docks is "less heavy than expected". Transportation was curtailed through the blocking of a number of main thoroughfares and some suspension of railway and underground service.

Egypt

The Suez Canal has been closed now since about May 9 by mines. The Germans are using a new type of mine which can be dropped from 2,000 feet without a parachute. (London, Military Attache, May 13)

(The closing of the Suez cutting the main route of supply of the army in Egypt and the Western Desert is, of course, a serious blow to the British.)

Iraq

There are indications of the flight of a few axis planes across Syria toward Iraq. (M.I.D. Situation Report, May 14)
CONFIDENTIAL

Paraphrase of Code Cablegram
Received at the War Department
at 0802, May 13, 1942.

London, filed May 13, 1942.

1. Daily Cable.
   a. British Air Activity over the Continent.
   b. Daylight May 12. Sea borne traffic in the vicinity of the
      Shagwark was attacked by a small force of British bombers. Some hits
      were claimed.
   c. Night of May 11-12. The Coastal Command bombed the merchant
      fleet based at Ijmidah and the seaplane base at De Haak in Holland. Three
      bombers performed missions against shipping, one against the airfield at
      Merignac and 10 against Dieppe and Rotterdam. Major attacks however were
      on the scales of 92 planes over Hamburg and 81 over Bremen.
   d. Night of May 10-11. British bombing sunk a German destroyer
      and 2 freighters while 3 other Axis convoys were attacked without results
      having been reported through failure of observation.

2. German Air Activity over Britain.
   a. Night of May 11-12. German air operations over Britain were
      on a minor scale and chiefly were single planes over Reading, Debden and
      Birmingham and their vicinities with a small number attacking coast targets
      between Flamborough and the Estuary with a few over the Bristol Channel.
      There was no activity reported from other theaters.
   b. Daylight May 12. German air operations were reduced to a
      minimum with a few scattered planes observed over land but no raids were
      reported.

3. Air Forces British Theater.

CONFIDENTIAL
2. British.

(1) Night of May 11-12. In operations against the Continent four British planes failed to return.

b. German.

(1) Night of May 12-13. One bomber was shot down by night fighters.

(2) Night of May 11-12. Nine planes were shot down with two probable and four damaged in attacks on British airfields.

3. Night of May 11-12. The latest reports show that 310 planes were employed in attacks on Britain with the principal concentrations against airfields. Some damage was reported to buildings and facilities but there were no serious plane casualties.

4. British Air Activity Middle East Theater.

a. Daylight May 12.

(1) Libya. The airfields at Gasala, Derna, and Demna were attacked by planes based on Egypt which also bombed shipping in the harbor at Benghazi.

(2) Italian East Africa. British planes heavily bombed and machine gunned Asba Alagi.

(3) Iraq. All occupied positions were bombed by British planes.

b. Daylight May 10. A raid by British aircraft on Sicily severely damaged an airport and destroyed at least 5 planes on the ground.

5. German Air Losses Middle East Theater.

a. Daylight May 12. Five German planes were shot down in the course of British attacks on Libya.

CONFIDENTIAL
II. The following is a summary of military intelligence information to
date of May 13:

1. London, Night of May 10-11. Casualties in the course of
German air raids are reported as 646 killed and 1400 seriously injured.

2. British Military Intelligence expects great and widespread
reaction in the Nazi party as a result of the defection of Herr Hess. He
was a leader of a strong faction in this party and it is believed the cause
of his flight was that he had found himself getting the worst of it in a
bitter struggle which has existed between him and Goering. It is yet too
early to fully estimate the results of his flight to England but it is
hoped that he will talk freely. He is now hospitalized.

3. The Suez Canal continues to be closed to traffic by mines in
the vicinity of Kantara and others unexploded near Station No. 13. A new
type of mine which can be dropped from 2,000 feet without a parachute is
now being utilized by the Germans.

4. There is no change in the situation in the vicinity of
Tohrak and Sellum.

5. More German agitators are reported arriving in Syria by air.

6. The situation in Iraq is more normal.

Distribution:
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
Chief of Staff
Under Secretary of War
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
G-3
Air Corps

CONFIDENTIAL
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 14th, 1941.

Personal and Secret.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I enclose herein for your personal and secret information a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

The Honourable

Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,
United States Treasury,
Washington, D. C.
Telegram from London dated May 12th.

1. **Naval.** Owing to raid night of 9th/10th, Suez Canal now closed between Port Said and Lake Timsah and Lake Timsah and Deversoir. Between Suez and Deversoir and in Lake Timsah traffic can move.

2. **Night of May 10th/11th.** Royal Air Force claim sinking by two direct hits destroyer approximately 2,000 tons.

3. Two 500 ton vessels were hit and probably destroyed. Unobserved attacks also made on three convoys off Frisian Islands.

4. Attacks by enemy aircraft on two East Coast convoys night of 11th/12th were unsuccessful.

5. **Iraq.** Rutba Fort was captured by the Royal Air Force armoured cars early May 11th. This area including aerodrome is now in our hands.


   **Hamburg.** About 107 tons of H.E. and 10,000 incendiaries dropped under good visibility; in particular Blohm and Voss shipyards, electric power station, main railway station and marshalling yards repeatedly hit. 13 tons of H.E. dropped on Berlin.

7. **Night of 11th/12th.** 187 bombers sent to Hamburg (92) Bremen (61) 3 German occupied ports (10) 1 stirling to Marignac aerodrome and three aircraft to attack shipping. Weather good over Northwest Germany and 80% of attack on primary targets. Four aircraft missing.

8. **During the daylight 10th,** two aerodromes in Sicily were attacked by 9 Beaufighters which have destroyed at least five aircraft and inflicted heavy damage.

9. **Iraq.** Four Dornier which attacked Rutba on May 9th were damaged and 1 destroyed by anti-aircraft fire on May 10th.

10. **German Air Force. May 11th, daylight.** Activity slight.
Fighters bombed and machine gunned South End Aerodrome, damaging two aircraft. Our fighters destroyed four without loss, ground defences a fifth.

11. Night of 11th/12th. 260 aircraft operating overland, 15 more minelaying. Bombing widely distributed. Royal Air Force stations attacked; some damage to hangars and buildings, casualties few. No serious loss of aircraft. 7 enemy aircraft destroyed, four by night fighters.


Factories. Damage to war industry thought not serious.

Dock. Damage less heavy than expected.

City. Many main thoroughfares blocked but those from north to south now mainly cleared.

Railways. Considerable suspension of traffic principle Termini but largely precautionary during survey of the permanent way. Several sections of the underground temporarily closed.

Electricity. Some temporary dislocation of supply.

Gas. Damage to gas works not serious but fracture of mains has cut off supply in some S.E. districts.

Telephones. Little dislocation. Publ.

Public Buildings. Houses of Parliament. Chamber of House of Commons severely damaged by H.E. and fire. Extensive damage to corridors, ceiling, etc. in House of Lords.

Westminster Abbey. Lantern Tower over Transept collapsed into the Abbey. Damage repairable.

Westminster Hall. Serious damage to roof.

Lambeth Palace. Serious damage to chapel and part of the Palace.

City Guilds. Five Halls destroyed.

Queens Hall. Extensive damage by fire.

British Museum. Most treasures had been removed. Damage comparatively slight.
SITUATION REPORT

I. Western Theater of War.

Air: Limited operations by both sides due, apparently, to bad weather.

II. Mediterranean and African Theaters of War.

Ground: North Africa. Deep German reconnaissances to the East and Southeast of Sollum resulted in sharp clashes.

Near Tobruk a British attack on an Italian position was repulsed with considerable losses according to the Italian High Command.

Air: Minor raids on Malta and Alexandria by Axis planes and on Benghazi by the British.

III. Balkan Theater of War.

Italian troops have occupied Pec, Prizren, Tetovo, Gostivar and Kishovo in conquered Yugoslavia, and in Greece they have completed occupation of Epirus and Acarnania and Aetolia, reaching Missolonghi and Lepanto on the Gulf of Patras.

IV. Iraq.

No change in the general situation.

Indications of flight of a few Axis planes across Syria toward Iraq.
TO Secretary Morgenthau
FROM Mr. Kamarok

Subject: British Forces in the Campaign for Egypt
(With accompanying map)

British Strategy

The present British strategy in the campaign in the Western Desert of Egypt is defensive. The British hope to hold Egypt over the summer by relying on the hot weather, the sand storms and the difficulties the axis experience in supplying their troops and by fighting successive delaying actions.

Tobruk

The mission of the force at Tobruk is to deny the use of the harbor as an axis means of supply and to interfere with the use of the coastal highway. When the British are able to take the offensive again, Tobruk will be valuable as a British base for an advance.

There are 25,000 men now at Tobruk, including one Australian division. (This is double the original number.) The garrison probably has less than 30 tanks. No air support is available. There are, however, over 100 anti-aircraft, anti-tank guns.

Zone I - Patrol Action

In the area from the Libyan frontier east to Mersa Matruh, the mission of the British force covering this sector is to act as a delaying force to hold up any axis advance. This force may take the tactical offensive from time to time, such as its attack on Sollum, to keep the axis forces worried but it cannot undertake any major engagement.
The British troops in this patrol number about 5,000. They consist of, so far as our information goes, 15 light tanks, 50 armored cars, 40 field guns and partially motorized infantry.

Zone II - Successive Delaying Positions

In Zone II from Mersa Matruh to the main line of resistance (M.L.R.) (from El Maghra to the sea) there are two major delaying positions. The mission of the troops in this area is to delay the advance of the axis forces and then fall back under major pressure. In Zone II, the British have two divisions (one Indian, one British) or around 35,000 to 40,000 men. The two divisions are being supported by 34 light tanks and 36 armored cars.

Main Line of Resistance

The main line of resistance which the British plan to hold at all costs runs from El Maghra to the sea. There is no information on the British forces available to hold this line. The troops now in front of it, outside of Tobruk, are expected to fall back on this position. This would give a total of about 40,000 men.

The Second Armored Division is out of action, one brigade having been lost in Libya and the other in Greece. The Seventh Armored Division was awaiting new vehicles which have presumably arrived on the recent convoy from England. It should, therefore, be available for action within a few weeks.
to Secretary Morgenthau

FROM Mr. Kamarok

Subject: Summary of Military Reports on Current Subjects

Libya—Egypt

According to Rome sources, the German offensive in North Africa has been temporarily postponed due to damage to the Libyan ports, considerable losses in personnel and supplies en route to Africa and the difficulty of the supply problem. According to a Turk in Rome, the Germans now have 1,200 tanks in Libya but lost 700 more en route through sinkings. (Rome, Military Attache, May 15)

(This is probably a more accurate report than the earlier estimate by our military attache that the Germans have five panzer divisions in Africa, i.e. about 2,000 tanks.)

A British convoy of six ships passed through the Mediterranean to Egypt. Despite heavy air attacks, no losses from bombs were suffered. One ship was lost through striking a mine. (Cairo, Military Attache, May 13)

The British now believe that the Italians have seven divisions in Libya, one motorized and one armored. (This agrees fairly well with the Berlin and Vichy estimates of eight Italian divisions, but is one-half of our Rome attache's estimate of fifteen Italian divisions. (London, British Embassy telegram, May 13)

Crete

A fairly reliable source in Berlin reports without confirmation that the German army is going to attack Crete supported by parachute troops. (Berlin, Military Attache, May 15)
Iraq-Turkey

The Germans have sent a shipment of ammunition to Iraq by rail through Turkey. The Turks say that under the rules of neutrality they cannot stop this traffic. (London, Military Attache, May 15)

Switzerland-France

There is an Italian concentration of troops south of the Matterhorn. This may be to put pressure on Switzerland or France or may represent simply a withdrawal of troops from Albania. (London, British Embassy telegram, May 13)

Russia

According to a Turkish source in Rome, Russia has agreed to all German demands and, therefore, there will be no German attack on the Ukraine. A German source in Rome is reported to have stated that Germany will send agricultural and transport experts to Russia to take charge of grain and livestock shipments from the Ukraine. (Rome, Military Attache, May 15)

Germany

There has been no deterioration in the quality of German pilots used over England. They are in first-rate physical condition and their morale, even when captured, is swaggering and defiant. (London, Military Attache, May 15)
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Paraphrase of Code Telegram
Received at the War Department
at 16:58, May 15, 1941.

Rome, filed May 15, 1941.

As the result of damage to Libyan ports, considerable losses in personnel and supplies on route to Africa and the great difficulty of the supply problem, the German offensive on Egypt has been temporarily postponed according to well informed opinion in Italy in spite of press reports to the contrary. There are in Libya 1200 German tanks although 700 have been lost due to transport sinkings according to a reliable Turkish source. It is thought that General Remmel is over extended and that reinforcements from Greece are being sent him by air. It is stated by the same informant as a fact that two German bombers have arrived at Baghdad and German troops are expected in Iraq by plane. It is considered probable by him that France has agreed for Germany to use Syria to include possibly transports there and material. He further states that as Russia has agreed to all German demands there will be no attack on the Ukraine. According to another contact it is reported by a German source that as the result of a secret agreement Germany will send agricultural and transportation engineers to Russia, who will be in charge of grain and live stock shipments from the Ukraine.

FISKE

Distribution:
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence

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Regraded Unclassified
Paraphrase of Code Cablegram
Received at the War Department
at 21:20, May 14, 1941

Cairo, filed May 13, 1941.

1. Five ships of 3,000 ton burden were observed in
   the harbor of Benghazi.

2. German aircraft are known to be in Iraq and Syria.

3. A British convoy of 6 ships passed through the
   narrows south of Sicily. Despite heavy air bombardment there
   were no losses. However one ship struck a mine and sank.

    FELLERS

Distribution:

Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Air Corps
G-3
May 15th, 1941.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I enclose herein for your personal and secret information a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

The Honourable

Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,

United States Treasury,

Washington, D.C.
TELEGRAM FROM LONDON MAY 18th, 1941.

Naval.
Night of 10th/11th. 5 British destroyers fired 866 rounds at shipping and military objectives at Benghazi. One merchant vessel was engaged from the harbour entrance and hit. Our ships were attacked by dive-bombers and shore batteries but no damage was sustained. British gun boat also bombarded landing ground at Gazala and caused fires.

Ethiopia. Our troops advancing from south have reached 12 miles south of Amba Alagi. In Southern Abyssinia we have occupied the last enemy position at Wadara.

3. Libya. Believed Italian divisions now in Libya including one armoured, one motorised.

4. Italy.
Italian concentration south of the Matterhorn group. Size not yet known. Possibly consists of troops from Albania but may be first movement to induce closer collaboration with Switzerland and Unoccupied France with the Axis.

5. Royal Air Force.
Night of 12th/13th. 100 bombers sent to attack industrial centre of Mannheim, 13 shipping off French Coast, 1 aircraft missing.

6. Libya.
Night of 11th/12th. 9 heavy bombers attacked Benghazi harbour and 8 enemy aerodromes in Cyrenacia. Large fires started at Benghazi and on aerodromes; 4 aircraft set on fire and others damaged.

7. German Air Force.
Day of 15th; enemy activity slight. Night of 12th/13th, only 60 aircraft came over land; further 90 were minelaying. 1 enemy bomber destroyed by night fighters.
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Paraphrase of Code Cablesgram
Received at the War Department
at 15:50, May 15, 1941.

Berlin, filed 15:10, May 15, 1941.

A source of fair reliability reports that the Germans
are to attack Crete supported by parachute troops. I am unable
to obtain further confirmation.

PRETCH

Distribution:
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
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Paraphrase of Cote Cablegram
Received at the War Department
at 0610, May 15, 1941

London, filed 1140, May 15, 1941.

1. **British Air Activity over the Continent.**
   a. **Daylight, May 14.** There were no bombing raids by British planes. Fighter squadrons, however, performed missions over German airfields in Occupied France.
   b. **Night, May 13-14.** On account of adverse weather conditions all bombers were grounded. However, damage resulted to an airfield at Ostend from an attack by fighter planes.

2. **German Air Activity over Britain.**
   a. **Night, May 14-15.** German air operations were limited to sea patrols along the English coast by a small number of planes.
   b. **Daylight, May 14.** Air activity was limited to small number of reconnaissance patrols over East Anglia.

3. **German Air Losses, British Theater.**
   a. **Night, May 14-15.** One plane was destroyed by naval anti-aircraft fire.
   b. **Daylight, May 14.** Four German planes were damaged in reconnaissance patrols over East Anglia.

4. **British Air Activity, Middle East Theater.**
   a. **Daylight, May 14.**
      1. **Egypt.** British planes based on Egypt subjected the airfield at Catania (Sicily) and the Isle of Rhodes to severe bombing. Ships in the harbor at Benghazi were also attacked.
      2. **Ethiopia.** Axis columns near Aski Alagi were attacked.

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by low-flying bombers.

3. Iraq. British planes bombed and machine gunned an Iraq arsenal and supply dump as well as motor convoys on roads.

5. A French transport with 400 troops was captured by the British 100 miles southwest of Dakkar bound for Madagascar.

6. A small British naval vessel was abandoned 620 miles southwest of Iceland on the morning of May 13, after it had been torpedoes.

7. In the German raids on Malta on the night of May 11-12 damage was limited to one hangar and one Maryland destroyed by fire with two additional planes damaged.

8. It is recommended that the State Department dispatch of May 12, forwarded by airmail, subject "French Military and Political Situation in Morocco and Dakkar," be consulted.

9. Reports have been current that raw, young pilots and men recently returned from hospital have been sent by the Germans in bombing raids over England. The inference of these reports is that a strong reserve of experienced veterans is being built up in anticipation of a maximum effort. These reports have been subject to investigation and have been revealed to be without foundation. The percentage of old and young pilots has not been altered. Medical authorities state that German pilots are in first rate physical condition. Their morale, even when captured, is staggering and defiant.

Distribution:
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, O-3

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LONDON, May 15, 1941.

The following is a summary of British Military Intelligence information on the situation in Iraq to date of May 15:

1. Mr. Murphy, our representative in Tangier, is reported to have told the British representative there, that he considered that British opinion and reports concerning Marshal Pétain and General Weygand, and the course of action which they will probably pursue, were too severe. The unofficial opinion held by British Intelligence officers here is that the Government of unoccupied France has been completely controlled by the Germans for months.

2. It is reported from Syria that a number of German planes have landed there coming from Rhodes, and that additional numbers of German "tourists" are arriving in Syria.

3. The French High Commissioner of Syria has announced that he will not attempt to counter any German operations unless he receives specific instructions to do so from the Vichy Government.

4. A shipment of ammunition has been forwarded by the Germans to North Iraq by rail through Turkey. The Turkish authorities say that under the rules of neutrality they cannot put a stop to this traffic.

5. The remnants of the Iraq Army which retreated from Basra are reported to be reorganizing in the vicinity of Qurna (?) and Hamadiyeh, south of Baghdad on the Baghdad Railway. Its numbers
are reported to be about 1000.

6. Several small units of German fighters have been reported, the largest being of 6 planes. At least one bomber has been observed.

Distribution:
Secretary of War
State Department
Secretary of Treasury
Under Secretary of War
Chief of Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, O-2
War Plans Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Air Corps
Subject: The British Story of the Balkan Campaign  
(According to General Wilson, Commander of the British Forces in Greece)

Summary

According to the comments of General Wilson, to some degree, the campaign in Greece might be summed up in "Too little and too late". The situation was made worse by Greek and Yugoslav mistakes.

The British tanks proved to have serious defects. The R.A.F. system of army support proved wrong.

The Empire infantry and field artillery apparently gave a good account of themselves. Cooperation with the Navy was good.

The Germans relied too much on air attacks to prevent evacuation and were unsuccessful in preventing the escape of most of the British force.

1. The Germans fostered the Yugoslav coup d'etat of March 27, in order to have a pretext to occupy the country. The agreement with the preceding government had merely given the Germans the right to use the railways. (General Wilson, in my opinion, is mistaken in this view:

(a) The Germans do not need a real incident for a pretext, they manufacture one very easily.

(b) If the coup d'etat was foreseen by the Germans they would have been ready to march in the next day, whereas they had to take ten days to rearrange their troops before they could attack.

(c) The Germans would have preferred to occupy Yugoslavia without war.)
2. The Germans struck at Yugoslavia before the Yugoslavs were ready. The British, too, had not been able to complete their concentration of troops on the planned line of defense before the Germans had crossed the border.

3. The Italo-Greek war had been a one-man show run by Metaxas. After Metaxas' death, the King, while courageous, could not exercise effective political leadership. When the situation became desperate, Metaxas' successor as Premier committed suicide from despair.

4. The forces assigned to the job were inadequate. The Middle East High Command had promised General Wilson seven divisions and twenty-three squadrons of planes. He actually received two divisions and ten squadrons totalling 226 airplanes. (According to earlier information, the British never had more than 100 airplanes in use at any one time.)

The Greeks were supposed to reinforce the central front with 100,000 men to be withdrawn from Albania. But the Greeks were obsessed with the idea of a victory over the Italians and did not withdraw any troops from Albania. (The Yugoslavs made the same mistake. Instead of concentrating their forces to defend the vital Vardar valley opposite Bulgaria, the only Yugoslav army that was completely mobilized when the Germans attacked was the army on the northern Albanian frontier.)

There were also four Greek divisions in Thrace which were to be transferred to other fronts in accordance with the plan to leave Thrace undefended. However, these divisions were composed of Thracians who refused to abandon their homes without resistance to the invaders. As a result, four divisions (80,000 men) were lost in Thrace.

The Yugoslavs had also promised to provide support for the Anglo-Greek front. This assistance never materialized.

5. The British tanks had serious mechanical defects. A sharp turn was likely to throw off the tracks and immobilize the vehicle. All the tanks brought into Greece were lost. The British radios in the communications network functioned badly, perhaps due to the magnetic deposits in the mountains.
6. Lieutenant-General Blamey, the Australian now Deputy Commander-in-Chief in the Middle East, is of the opinion that the British system of Royal Air Force control over army planes proved to be wrong. The campaign showed that the commander in the field needs immediate air support and should be able to give direct orders to the squadrons in his support.

7. The British artillery showed up well. The two-pounder anti-tank gun (about the size of our 37 mm. gun) and the 25-pounder gun (larger than our 75's) were particularly effective against the German armored troops.

The British defense against tanks proved to be good as the German tanks never gained the ascendancy over the British foot soldiers in defense.

The successive retirements were made at night and were well carried out since the Germans were not able to overrun the retreating British. The demolitions made during the retreat at night delayed the Germans during the following day.

8. The elastic system of widely-dispersed evacuation from the beaches proved successful. Cooperation with the Navy was well carried out. The Germans relied too much on air action to prevent the evacuation which was carried out successfully at night.

9. According to Lieutenant-General Blamey, the German bombing of motor truck convoys was remarkably ineffective. Machine-gun fire from the attacking planes was effective, however. Neither was as effective as field artillery fire in the last war.

The German tanks were often badly handled. However, they proved to be able to travel over almost any terrain and could go anywhere a horse-drawn vehicle could go.

10. General Wilson expressed the general British opinion that the Germans lack aggressiveness compared to 1914. He felt the Germans were soft once they were out of their armored shell. (Our Cairo military attache comments that this is a mistaken judgment. The present German military doctrine of infiltration teaches that strong points and centers of resistance are not to be attacked head-on.
but to be by-passed. A line is thus felt out for soft spots which are often created by tank and air action. Then the Germans infiltrate through these soft places and flow through the sector leaving the strong points to be washed away from the rear and flanks.)

11. General Wilson came out with the lesson that concealment from the air was more important than the natural defensive attributes of a position. (This lesson might be modified if it had been General Wilson who had superiority in the air rather than his enemy.)
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The following is a summary of the information gained in a personal conference with General Wilson:

1. In the course of the British operations in Greece, General Wilson stated that the chief lesson he had learned were the following:

2. That in a choice between positions and entrenchments, entrenchment is better and that the matter of cover is vitally essential. Troops occupying a position under good cover were ignored by German planes.

3. Neither German infantry made nor field troops present the attack. When seeing under defensive fire the German never displayed more in men or vehicles.

4. While awaiting air support, tanks were kept to the rear, foot elements lay in, and 5.0 howitzers were immediately brought well forward.

5. It is the General's opinion that the German field soldier of 1941 does not compare in aggressiveness to the infantryman of 1939. He does not run such close combat. Once removed from his accurate shell, he is soft.

6. General Wilson's observations on the quality of the modern German soldier is an opinion that prevails among British officers. In their estimates, the British neglect consideration of the German doctrine of the offensive by infiltration of small groups around enemy strongpoints. In the direct attack of a position, the infantry does not move in full strength until the enemy has been softened by bombing from the air and by

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the attack of armored vehicles. It is my own opinion that the German
infantryman is not as soft as the British think, but rather that he is
employing sound doctrines when he presents no easy target to the enemy
until after the way has been prepared by planes and tanks.

4. The 3-pounder antitank gun and the British 53-pounder were
particularly effective against German armored forces. In combat, German
tanks were frequently badly maneuvered and they never succeeded in gaining
the ascendancy over the British foot soldiers in defense. However, terrain
which the British considered impossible for tanks on account of rough
or slope was easily traversed. The German tank has solved terrain difficulties
and can go anywhere that a horse drawn vehicle can go. British tanks had
serious mechanical defects. In combat a quick turn threw off the tracks.
All the British tanks taken into service were lost. British radio functioned
very badly. Perhaps the reason for this was magnetic mineral deposits in
the mountains, but in any event the best equipment completely failed to
operate, and all communication by wireless was erratic. The British
attempted to fill the gap by use of liaison officers but utilizing this
means of communication was seriously restricted and there were heavy casualties
among the officers employed.

5. In the withdrawal from positions in the north, evacuation
in daylight and by dark was possible north of Thermopylae. South of
that point, however, withdrawal had to be effected in the hours of darkness
only and then with the widest possible dispersion along the coast. The
plan of evacuation made use of utmost flexibility in regard to the points
from which troops were taken. General Wilson had on his staff an Admiral

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who was in direct communication with the flagship from which the opera-
tion was controlled. The Germans placed too much reliance on air operations 
against an submarine dispersed over large areas.

6. In the withdrawal by night from successive positions, the 
retirement was covered by a fire from alternate positions and movement by 
day was denied by the German air force. However, concentrations made during 
the night prevented the Germans from following up the retirement on the 
next day. (O-S note; two sentences garbled in original). The Germans had 
made their plans to pursue a withdrawal on foot, but the British had more 
motor vehicles than had been expected. The strain on the drivers of 
motor vehicles was excessive; they operated day and night without sleep 
and were pursued by unending air attacks. The Greek Aviation hastened 
the withdrawal. The motor transport of the Greek army was in poor condition 
and jammed roads which gave the German dive bombers an opportunity for 
effective attack and made the need for British fighters a matter of urgency.

7. The Greeks were obsessed with their ambition to close the 
war with Italy victoriously and instead of releasing 100,000 men from 
Albania for use in the center of the British-Greek line as they had promised, 
they continued their operations on the Albanian Front. Similarly the pro-
posal to transport four Greek divisions operating in Thrace to reinforce 
the center line remained ineffective because the troops had been raised 
in Thrace and refused to leave their villages unprotected. As a result 
of these two failures to reinforce the British, their line was necessarily 
over-extended to avoid being cut-flanked.

8. The high command in the Middle East had promised General 
Wilkow seven divisions from Egypt and Libya and 85 squadrons of planes.
9. General Wilson also had been promised Yugoslav support which failed to materialize.

10. After the agreement between Germany and Yugoslavia had been completed by which the German were to have the use of railroads but were not to occupy the country, it came to light that Yugoslavia had made no military commitments to Britain. Germany then forestalled the coup d'etat in order to have a pretext for invasion.

11. The change of government was so sudden that the Yugoslav army never got started in their opposition to the German invasion which went through the country at terrific war speed. As a result the concentration of the British army had not been completed when the Germans reached the Greek border.

12. The Italian-Greek war was a one-sided show led personally by Mussolini. With his death, leadership came to an end. The king is courageous but has no control of the political situation. The disastrous turn of events impelled the Prime Minister to commit suicide.

13. Lieutenant General Blamey under whose command the Australians fought in Greece and who is now Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Middle East made the following statement to me: "The ineffectiveness of German bombing of convoys on the road revealed a remarkable ineffectiveness. Machine gun fire from fighter planes against motor convoys was effective, but neither bombing nor machine gunning convoys in effect to the artillery concentrations of 1918. Immediate air support is a matter of absolute

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necessary to a surrender in the field. The German air system is right and the British independent air force is weak. I will not go into contact again unless I am able to give direct support to the munitions situation to my support."

Transmission

[Signatures]

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE May 22, 1941

TO Secretary Morgenthau
FROM Mr. Kamarok

Subject: Summary of Military Reports

Crete

The British on May 19 (the day before the invasion) felt that the plans for the defense of Crete had been worked out in satisfactory detail.

For an advance from Syria on Suez, British Military Intelligence thinks that the Germans will need to seize Crete and Cyprus and neutralize the British Fleet in the Mediterranean. (This may overlook the fact that if Crete and Cyprus fall, Turkey may allow German use of her territory making possible a serious threat to Suez even without neutralization of the British Fleet.) (London, Military Attache, May 19)

Iraq-Syria

Under British pressure, Turkey has promised, as a gesture, to move a division to the Iraq border and one to the Syrian border around June 1.

Turkey refused to stop the use of Turkish railroads for carrying German equipment into Iraq. German artillery has been landed at Trebizond (Turkish Black Sea port) and transported to Iraq by truck. (London, Military Attache, May 19; Ankara, Embassy telegram, May 18)

German planes are based on Syrian airports (Aleppo, Beirut, Damascus, Palmyra) in operations over Iraq. Further reinforcements of planes and crews are arriving with the full cooperation of the French. There are at least 35 Heinkels (bombers) and Messerchmids in Syria. (London, Military Attache, May 19; Ankara, Military Attache, May 19)

The French have five groups of airplanes in Syria (maximum 100-150 planes), consisting of Moranes, Martin, Potez 65's and other miscellaneous planes. (Ankara, Military Attache, May 19)
Russia

According to the Yugoslav military attache in Moscow, the Chief of the Red Army stated that Russia will fight Germany later and is waiting for the United States to enter the war. The Soviet Government still distrusts England and suspects the Hess flight was an effort to turn the war against the Soviet Union.

The Japanese military attache states that only 180 Soviet divisions have been actually identified with less than 100 fully equipped.

Germany turned over to Russia ten Junkers-52 (air transports) without motors. (Moscow, Military Attache, May 20)

The London War Office is increasingly inclining to the view that Russia has secretly agreed not to oppose any German operations in the Middle East. (London, Military Attache, May 19)

Africa

The Suez Canal is still closed. (It has been closed now since May 9. The cutting of this line of communications is most serious.) (London, Military Attache, May 20)

Military authorities in London feel that even with the complete conquest of Italian East Africa, it will not be possible to remove substantial British forces from this area "since it will be necessary to prevent a reoccupation by axis troops". (This reasoning is more than a little absurd since the only way axis troops could land in Ethiopia is from the air from bases hundreds of miles distant. The Ethiopians could easily handle any such air-borne invasion). London, Military Attache, May 19)

Far East

According to the British War Office, the Japanese have demanded all the rubber production in Thailand in exchange for oil. "It would be interesting to determine the expected source of the oil" (Thailand is a fairly important rubber source, producing about 40,000 tons a year.) (London, Military Attache, May 20)
Paraphrase of Code Cabledgram
Received at the War Department at 06:52, May 20, 1941

SECRET

By authority A. C. of S. G 2
Date 21 May 1941

London, filed 11:37, May 19, 1941.

1. Iraq. The British forces in Habbaniya have been reinforced from the south. The Baara-Asihar district remains quiet.

2. After repeated British representations, Turkey has promised to move troops in the amount of approximately one division to the Iraq border and one to the Syrian border as a gesture only. The government maintains that they will not be able to place them in position until the first of June. Turkey refuses to take any action with a view to preventing the use of railroads for forwarding German equipment into Iraq.

3. Syria. German planes based on Syria are continuing active operations over Iraq. Planes and gun crews are still arriving at airports and the French military authorities are granting them full cooperation.

4. Crete. British authorities here announce that plans for the defense of the island are in satisfactory detail and British Military Intelligence estimates that in order for any major land forces to operate on the line Syria-Suez it will be necessary for the Axis to seize both Crete and Cyprus and to neutralize the British Fleet in the Mediterranean.

5. Ethiopia. The surrender of the Italian troops at Asba Alagi leaves only three comparatively small concentrations of troops still to be eliminated. Some British forces can now be relieved for

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duty in Egypt. But military authorities do not expect that any
substantial forces will be removed since it will be necessary to
prevent a reoccupation by Axis troops.

6. The War Office increasingly feels that a secret agreement
has already been consummated between Russia and Germany by which
the former will not oppose any German operations in the Mid East.
This is not yet accepted officially.

7. Libya. May 15. In the retaking of Capussalo the Germans
employed more than 40 medium and a number of larger tanks. Some of
these were destroyed or damaged and 500 prisoners were taken by
the British who, however, suffered the loss of 10 of their own
infantry tanks.

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The fact that there are movements of German troops from Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Greece to the north and northeast is now established. I am told by the general staff of the Turkish Army that Axis troop concentrations and their batteries threaten Turkish territory in Thrace. With regard to a cabledgram from the Embassy numbered 155 and dated May 18: About ten pieces of artillery (light) and some tanks, the exact number unknown, were also sent. The storage depots near Ipiêk supplied the munitions. Traveling by air, about 35 Heinkels and Messerschmitts reached Syria. Aleppo, Beirut, Damascus, and Ipiêk are the airfields now in the hands of the Germans. Also the landing fields at Ipiêk. Troops are expected to arrive by air transport.

Among the other landing fields in Syria are Hatay-Der-El, Hama, Ipiêk, Tripoli. There is also a small field near Antakia, Turkey. For a considerable area, the terrain is of a nature that facilitates easy landings.

The following French planes are in Syria: One group each of Savoia and Maribor; one miscellaneous; two groups of Fokos 82. The British say that the oil refinery at Tripoli was in part smashed together with 570 tons of gasoline. They also say that the Germans have increased their artillery in mechanized divisions. The increase is from 20 to 36 pieces, 145 mm. howitzers. Attention is directed to cabledgrams 131 and 153 from the Embassy, dated May 15 and 16 respectively.
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(2-2 Note: Navvy application No. 259 reports the landing of German artillery at Vanduell and the transport overland by truck to Iraq. Nos. 251 and 259 will be reported later.)

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and Derna, Libya. Also attacked was Salato, Isle of Rhodes. Fighters machine-gunned an enemy transport with considerable effect near Beda.

b. **Iraqi Theater.** R.A.F. planes in Iraq supported ground operations against Fallujah, which has been taken. Planes based in Palestine bombed a gasoline dump at Bayuk airfield in Syria.

c. **Axis Air Activity, Other Theaters.**
   a. **Sudan Theater.** Twenty-seven Axis planes dive-bombed Suda Bay.
   b. **Iraqi Theater.** German planes attacked combined British-Arab troops in Iraq, but there were no casualties.

d. **Aircraft Losses, Other Theaters.**
   a. No British losses were reported.
   b. During the bombardment of Suda Bay two German planes were destroyed.

e. **There is a reliable War Office report that the Japanese have demanded all rubber production in Thailand in exchange for oil. It would be interesting to determine the expected source of the oil.**

f. A submarine has torpedoed and sunk a British ship 900 miles west of Freetown.

g. The British have picked up a French ship with 1700 Indo-Chinese troops on board 500 miles south of Freetown, Sierra Leone.

h. The Suez Canal is only open at the south end now.
London, filed 16137, May 29, 1941.

1. British Air Activity over the Continent.

2. Day of May 19. Activity on this day consisted of attacks on enemy shipping by planes of the Coastal Command.

3. Night of May 19-20. Seventy heavy bombers of the R.A.F. attacked the naval yards at Kiel, seven bombers attacked Hamburg, Bremen, Hanse, and four unraised aircrews on north Germany. The docks at Goteborg were attacked by planes of the Coastal Command.

4. German Air Activity over Britain.

5. Night of May 19-20. Activity on this night was slight and dispersed. Several planes were over East Anglia, Cormally, Dover, Ypres Bay, Crystal Channel and the Thames Estuary.


7. Aircraft Lessee, British Theater.

8. During the British operations over the Continent, night of May 19-19, there were no losses.

9. During the German operations on the day of May 19, British fighters destroyed five planes.

10. British Air Activity. Other Theaters.

Moscow, June 20, 1941.

Yugoslavia Military Attaché stated that Chief of the
Red Army said to him the Soviets will fight Germany later and are
waiting for the United States to enter war, and that the Soviet
Government distrusts England and suspects Hess flight as effort to
turn war against U.S.S.R. German Air Attaché stated that Germany
turned over to the U.S.S.R. ten Junkers-52, without motors.
Japanese Military Attaché states that only 100 Soviet divisions
actually identified with less than 100 fully equipped.

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TO        Secretary Morgenthau
FROM        Mr. Kamarok

Judging from the record of the past nine months, it is possible to reach some tentative conclusions on the accuracy of the estimates of the situation made by British military leaders.

On the whole, the British military leaders have shown themselves to be fairly accurate prophets in their forecasts of what the axis was going to do. They have been over-optimistic in their judgments of what they themselves and their allies could do. There is only one British estimate of what Russia was going to do and that proved completely inaccurate.

The following lists the forecasts of the British military as they were reported to us.

The Invasion of England

September 5, 1940       The British have not discovered any indication of impending invasion.

September 13          German plans for invasion are now complete. Next week will be the critical period. It is probable that the German invasion will be along the axis Calais-Dover-London.

September 23          There is no evidence of an immediate invasion.

October 28           There is no indication of impending attack.

December 4           After Christmas, the danger of invasion will practically vanish because of rough water in the Channel.
January 19, 1941
All reports indicate that the Germans will attempt the invasion sometime in the spring. February is the earliest date referred to.

March 16
There are no indications that an invasion attempt will be made in the near future.

April 17
There is evidence that the German staff is again planning invasion of Great Britain which British Military Intelligence estimates will be about the first of May.

War in the Balkans

October 28, 1940
Germany will not go to war in the Balkans but will use the coming winter to bore from within.

February 23, 1941
German troops will probably arrive in Sofia, Bulgaria, on or about the first of March. (They arrived about March 5)

March 14
Germany is holding back in order to see if the Italian army in Albania can take care of the Greeks there. If the Greeks continue to be successful, it is thought the Germans will move through Yugoslavia with the intention of hitting at Salonika and at the same time cutting off the Greeks in Albania. (This is just about what the Germans did do.)

Road conditions and the terrain in the Balkans theater give an advantage to the British and Greek defenders since the operation of mechanized forces in this area would be greatly hampered.

March 16
Germany plans to bring an end to the fighting in the Balkans by April 1, either by military operations or through negotiations. (This could be correct since the Yugoslav coup d'état upset German plans.)

March 21
Negotiations between Yugoslavia and Germany will reach a crisis on March 23 or 24. (The axis pact was signed March 25)

March 21
Turkey will be willing to consider an attack on Greece by Germany as a cause for war provided Yugoslavia is willing to do the same.
April 3, 1941
On April 5, Yugoslavia and Greece will be subjected to simultaneous attack. (The attack started April 6)

April 15
General Kennedy, Director of Operations, War Office, expressed little hope of any immediate success in the Balkans, especially in regard to the Yugoslavian Army. Nevertheless, he hoped that it would be possible for them to continue their defense for a minimum of thirty days. (The Yugoslav campaign was practically over as General Kennedy spoke.)

Middle East
April 10, 1941
There is evidence that the German advance on Egypt is losing force and that the German situation in regard to supplies is serious. (The advance stopped a few days later.)

May 1
The next German move will be an attempt to seize Crete and occupy Spain and Portugal. (Crete was attacked on May 20)

May 11
The British Air Ministry believes no German planes can arrive in Iraq this month. (Nazi planes were in Iraq on May 14.)

Far East
September 24, 1940
It is believed that Japan and Germany have come to an agreement in the Far East regarding loot and common policy and this may be announced shortly. (Tri-partite pact was announced September 27.)

Russia
January 15, 1941
The indications are that Russia will occupy Eastern Moldavia in Romania in accordance with a prearranged agreement with the Germans.
To Secretary Morgenthau

From Mr. Kamarck

Subject: Summary of Military Reports

Crete

(The situation in Crete has reached the critical stage. British prospects in Crete at the present time look very dark. With the German undisputed command of the air over the island and the German capture of several airports, it is doubtful whether the British will now be able to hold the island.)

In the bombing attack on May 19, preliminary to the invasion, the bombing was so heavy that all personnel had to take cover in slit trenches for the day. The Air Force headquarters began burning its papers on May 20, the day the invasion began. (Cairo, Military Attache, May 20)

The British garrison in Crete consists of the greater part of the New Zealand division which was in Greece and 4,000 marines. (This would give a total of about 15,000 soldiers, probably lacking heavy equipment and without air support. In addition, there may be as many as 20,000 Greek soldiers.) (M.I.D. Situation Report, May 22)

Spain

German troops began to return to France about May 10 with the concentration of troops on the Spanish frontier continuing. The reserve troops in this area are being relieved by shock troops. There are now 6 German divisions in this sector (3 infantry, 2 motorized, 1 armored). (Vichy, American Ambassador, May 20)

The Spanish grain harvest has begun. This suggests June 20 as the earliest convenient date for the passage of German troops through Spain. (M.I.D. Situation Report, May 21)
Cairo, filed 20:30, May 20, 1941.

1. The following is a summary of the situation in Crete.

2. In the attack of May 19, bombing was so heavy that all personnel was forced to retire to slit trenches for the whole day. At British headquarters, the Air Force is now burning documents.

3. The attack by parachute troops and gliders began at 06:00, May 20, and was supported by uninterrupted bombing and machine-gunning of ground troops. It commenced at Suda Bay, Maleo and Heraklion, but spread out later in the day as gliders towed by planes landed at Rizo.

4. Authorities have report that a Junkers 52 can carry 15 infantrymen, or can tow several small gliders carrying 10 to 12 each, or one big glider with 24.

5. The attack of May 20 was preceded on the previous day by uninterrupted bombing and strafing of air and ground troops in the area surrounding Crete.

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Paraphrase of Code Telegram
Received at the War Department
at 9:07, May 21, 1941.

Vicky, filed May 20, 1941.

German troops began to return to France about May 10
and movement now shows a little increase. In southeast portion
of occupied territory, reserve divisions have been relieved by
shock troops and concentration continues. Estimated that 3
Infantry, 2 motorized and 1 armored divisions are now in that
area.

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Regraded Unclassified
I. Western Theater.

Air: German. Minor offensive activity and no night raids.

British. Day attacks on Helgoland and northern France which were severely mauled by fighters. Apparently no activity last night.

II. Greek Theater.

The German attack on Crete continues. The Malemi airfield, to the west of Canea, is in German hands. Other German air landings have occurred near Rethymo and Herakleion (Cordia). The latter town is in German hands.

The British garrison on Crete consists of the greater part of the New Zealand Division, which was engaged in Greece, and 4,000 Marines.

German air superiority over Crete is self-evident. The British are bombing German take-off airdromes in Greece.

III. Mediterranean and African Theaters.

Ground: North Africa. No change.

East Africa. The British have occupied Tohen, in the northeast corner of Italian Somaliland.

Air: Axis attacks renewed on Tobruk. Malta was raided.

IV. Middle Eastern Theater.

Ground: No change in the situation. British motor-borne reinforcements are reaching Habbaniyah from Palestine.

Air: German air strength is gradually building up.
TO
Secretary Morgenthau

FROM
Mr. Kamarck

Subject: Summary of Military Reports for the Week Ended May 31

British Navy

British naval authorities state that the risk of passage of convoys through the Straits of Sicily is too high in proportion to the advantages. This is in spite of the fact that the last convoy brought tanks and planes which were desperately needed in Egypt. (Cairo, Military Attache, May 23)

In view of its losses around Crete (up to now three cruisers, four destroyers) the British Navy asserts that it is folly to pursue its operations in Cretan waters. (Cairo, Military Attache, May 23)

(The foregoing two reports are important in their implication that the activities of the British fleet in the Mediterranean are going to be greatly limited in the future. With the growth in strength of German air power in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean, the British fleet will probably not be able to make more than raiding sallies into the Central Mediterranean except at the risk of great losses.)

Hess

(Hess landed in England three weeks ago. The British have not yet made available to our military representatives any information on the purpose of his arrival. Under these circumstances, the suspicion grows stronger that the Deputy Fuehrer traveled to England to contact a British appeasement element.)

Syria

The British, according to our Cairo military attache, do not look with favor upon a Free French Syria. This is supposed to be because the Vichy French are being concentrated in southern Syria rather than moving into Lebanon. (Cairo, Military Attache, May 23)
(Concentration in Lebanon along the coast would mean a threat to Palestine. Concentration in southern Syria presumably menaces only the desert of Trans-Jordan.)

Turkey

Romanian officials believe, and this belief is accepted by our Romanian attache, that a secret agreement already exists between Germany and Turkey. (Bucharest, Military Attache, May 22)

Egypt

The R.A.F. in Egypt has been reinforced by two Beaufighters and forty-three Hurricanes which flew from England by way of Malta. (Cairo, Military Attache, May 23)

Russia

The German preparations against Russia appear to have eased off. The bulk of German troops on the Romanian-Russian frontier are now reported to be moving north out of Moldavia into Bukovina. (Bucharest, Military Attache, May 22)

Romania

The Germans are not making any attempt to train or organize the Romanian army. In case of a war against Russia, the Romanians would merely act as scavengers of the battlefield. (Bucharest, May 22, 1941)

Spain

According to Rome sources, the size of the wheat crop in Spain largely will determine whether the Spaniards will allow any passage of German troops. For if Spain permits such a movement the British will cut off the movement of wheat supplies to Spain. A bumper wheat crop is not expected. (The Spanish wheat harvest is supposed to be over by about June 20) (Rome, Military Attache, May 23)
Nicosia, filed May 23, 1941.

1. Having lost five destroyers and one cruiser, British Navy asserts that it is fully to pursue its operations in Grecian waters.

2. The destroyer on which the King of Greece was crossing from Crete to Egypt is overdue.

3. Two armed divisions were assembled at Greek ports for unknown disembarkation points some time before May 19.

4. May 22: One destroyer and two large freighters with a great many Greek fishing boats amounting in all to possibly one half of a convoy were sunk in action with British naval units. (G-2 Note: This is evidently the convoy reported in cable of May 22 as having 30 ships.)

5. May 22: Over a hundred large air transports landed at the Salonika airfield at the rate of one every five minutes. The same rate and number were observed throughout May 23. It is the opinion of British Military Intelligence that one air-borne division was engaged in the operations at Salonika.


7. The British do not look with favor upon a Free French Syria as they are of the opinion that the Vichy French are not moving into Lebanon but are being concentrated in southern Syria.

8. Seven motor vessels were observed heading in a northerly direction off Tunis.

9. British naval authorities commenting upon the recent successful passage of the convoy through the Straits of Sicily state that the risk is
out of all proportion to any possible advantages, notwithstanding the fact that this convoy was loaded with tanks and planes which the success operating in Egypt mixed desperately.

10. May 31: Five out of seven Blenheimers were shot down making a daylight level bombing attack at an altitude of 3,000 feet without fighter escort. In the recent attempt to make Sousse the British accidentally killed their own troops.

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