

PSF
G.B. 3/13/40



BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret~~

May 31st, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I send you herewith copies
of the two most recent reports on the
military situation. They were both
despatched from London yesterday evening.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Starn

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable
Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States
of America,
Washington, D. C.


Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of May 30th

1. Between 20th-21st May and 2330 hours last night 77,000 troops from British Expeditionary Force were landed in England. Additional 4,000 were evacuated up to 0530 hours today. French troops also beginning to arrive for evacuation. Eastern beaches were not bombed yesterday, but yesterday afternoon and evening and early today Dunkirk area and ships off coast suffered severe bombing attacks. Following naval casualties in last 24 hours.

One destroyer and three minesweepers sunk by bombs.

One yacht and one drifter sunk in collision.

Five destroyers, three minesweepers and one escort vessel damaged by bombs.

2. Little definite information of progress of operations of British Expeditionary Force and French First Army, or of location of units. Personnel are being filtered back in small numbers. British rear guard believed to be about Poperinghe-Ypres-Bixschoote. British Regular divisions have taken over defence of German line from Bergues to Nieuport. French First Army reported early yesterday on River Lys near Armentieres. Later progress not known, but French troops may be in position from Gravelines for short distance southward, also from Nieuport to Dixmunde.

3. No change east of Peronne. Between Peronne and Amiens, French Seventh Army has re-captured Cerisy. Believed enemy have no bridge heads

east/

east of Amiens but still hold bridge heads at Amiens, Abbeville and St. Valery. French Tenth Army have captured Moyenville and considerably reduced bridge heads at Abbeville. British armoured division and British infantry division, which have been operating south of gap since break through took place, took part in these operations. In above operations many German prisoners and anti-tank guns captured.

4. Small detachments of Parachutists continue to be dropped in France particularly in area around Paris.

5. Maximum protection provided yesterday by Royal Air Force fighter patrols over area Dunkirk-Furnes-Poperinghe-Cassel. Total enemy aircraft casualties during May 29 are 52 confirmed and 17 unconfirmed, including 31 Messerschmidt 109's and 25 Junker 87's. Eleven of our fighters missing out of 207 Sorties. Forty enemy casualties inflicted during two patrols by one squadron of Defiants without loss to themselves. Coastal Command aircraft assisted in the above operations, shooting down two enemy aircraft and losing six of their own aircraft. Navy report that cooperation of Royal Air Force has been invaluable. On the whole, air protection has been successful and operation is continuing as well as can be expected in the circumstances.

6. Yesterday evening Blenheim aircraft attacked tanks motor transport on roads Thurout-Ostend with considerable success. Last night

Wellingtons/

Wellingtons attacked enemy concentrations in area Roulers-Thurout-Aire-St. Omer. Results not yet available. Four aircraft abandoned over England through bad weather but crews of at least three are safe; remaining aircraft returned safely. Enemy batteries southeast of Dunkirk attacked yesterday. No reports yet received. During the night of 27th-28th, Battles successfully attacked airdromes in Belgium occupied by the enemy and certain railway targets. They returned safely. On May 28th Battles attacked motorized columns on Ami-Doullens-Albert roads. One aircraft forced landed at Ecury. Remainder returned safely.

7. Enemy air activity yesterday chiefly concentrated in Dunkirk area where considerable bombing reported. Aircraft also reported along the southeast coast between the South Foreland and Shoreham and off the northeast coast of Scotland.

8. One French trawler and one British Merchant vessel not in convoy sunk by submarine on May 28th and May 29th respectively west and south Cape Finnisterre. Magnetic mines have been laid off the North Foreland and Ostend. Casualties during the capture of Narvik reported as 100 French and 40 British.

200 - 300 German prisoners taken.

Considerable number of inhabitants still in Narvik town. No apparent food shortage.



Telegram despatched from London
late on the evening of May 30th

At noon today estimated number British Expeditionary Force evacuated to United Kingdom or on passage was 101,000. Ships companies in destroyers involved becoming very exhausted, but subject to protection from bombing, it is hoped to take off substantial number of men tonight. Two French Divisions, with their transport, are causing certain congestion in the back area.

2. Little definite information about troop dispositions in Flanders but yesterday German forces believed to have reached general line of Lille-Armentieres-Bailleul-Hazebrouck-Cassel-Wormhout-Gravelines. Enemy appeared to be advancing towards Poperinghe on the East side of salient, German lines appear to be Lille-Ypres-Dixmunde-Nieuport. Air reports many anti-aircraft guns on the cliffs southwest of Calais.

3. British Expeditionary Force has had hard fighting and considerable casualties. One Brigade of anti-tank company destroyed forty-four enemy tanks and one officer knocked out German heavy tank by firing at track with an anti-tank rifle. French attack has driven the Germans out of Cerisy-Gailly (15 miles east of Amiens) and it is believed that no German troops are now South of the Somme East of Amiens.

4. Air operations in Flanders hampered this morning by bad weather but this afternoon

Blenheim/

Blenheim aircraft attacked the enemy troops on the roads East of Allied Salient. Results not yet known.

5. German air operations showed slight increase yesterday. Three Geschwader escorted by fighters concentrated on embarkations in Dunkirk area, and today on ships and harbours in the same area. Attacks also made south of Amiens-Abbeville line. Considerable activity of transport aircraft Brandenburg area Dusseldorf-Brussels, and from central Germany to East Prussia. Transport aircraft again evacuating wounded from the Northeast of France. Several meteorological flights over Southern North Sea and English Channel yesterday. This morning two aircraft carried out reconnaissance over the East Coast circling over Yarmouth and Hull.

6. Scandinavia. Germans have evacuated Ankenes peninsula.

PSF
G.B.



BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret.~~

June 2nd, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of
the two latest reports on the military
situation. These were sent off from
London on the morning and afternoon of
June 1st.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Moran

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable
Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States of America,
Washington, D.C.

Telegram despatched from London
on morning of June 1st 1940.

This morning, evacuation from Dunkirk only possible inside pier owing to off shore wind. Total evacuation including Boulogne and Cherbourg up to noon today is 164,453.

This includes 5000 from Cherbourg which it now appears were included in previous totals, 14800 Allied troops and 9400 casualties. Total British Expeditionary Force evacuated from Dunkirk including casualties 144,653. Intermittent bombing on Dunkirk this afternoon but no reports of damage received. Approaches of the Mole at Dunkirk under heavy and continued shell fire yesterday evening.

No air raids at Cherbourg where facilities are intact. Mine sweeping proceeding at Havre. Attack from enemy motor torpedo boats against warships reported last night.

Coast of Texel Island has camouflaged gun position and wired defences.

B.E.F. forced to give ground in Furnes section. Elements of French 1st Army now behind perimeter and right flank of perimeter from Bergues to the sea is held by the French.

Germans still south of lower Somme in places between Amiens and the sea, and hold their bridghead at Peronne. Relief of several armoured divisions/

divisions which have been operating in Flanders by motorized and Infantry Divisions appears to be in progress.

This afternoon, Blenheims attacked enemy columns and communications east and west of Allied Salient. Numerous hits on enemy columns reported. Allied aircraft have returned. Up to 1300 hours today our fighters shot down two enemy aircraft over Dunkirk and one unconfirmed. No fighters lost by us.

German airforce operations yesterday decreased, probably due to deterioration in weather conditions. German Long Range Bombers now operating increasingly from the Rhineland, Holland and Southern Belgium in place of Central and South Germany. Fighters and Dive Bombers also operating from Belgium and North East France to an increasing extent.



Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of June 1st, 1940.

1. Evacuation continued throughout yesterday and last night. It was retarded yesterday by surf which caused many pulling boats to become water-logged. Continuous, but up to the present inaccurate, artillery fire on Mole area. Harbour and ships approaching have been also under shell fire from shore batteries. Numbers evacuated up to midnight last night are British, fit, 160,963, wounded, 10,620, Allies 22,658, total 194,241. Above figures include men evacuated from Cherbourg referred to in my immediately preceding telegram. Estimate at 0600 hours today that 10,000 British and French remain to be evacuated. This is very approximate figure. At 1800 hours yesterday, first corps took over command of remaining troops in Dunkirk bridgehead. Lord Gort reached Dover at 0600 hours today. Enemy began shelling Bray and La Panne soon after midnight and bombing commenced at 0350 hours today. British fighters were in contact. Certain destroyers have been damaged but only slightly. Fleet air arm aircraft sunk enemy motor torpedo boat last night with the aid of parachute flares.

2. No great change from Montmedy to sea. Germans still hold bridgeheads at Peronne, Amiens and St. Valerie. Also thought that Germans still hold bridgehead at Abbeville, though situation here not clear. Last night Blenheim aircraft attacked canal bridges in Nieuport area, scoring direct hits

on/

on two bridges. All aircraft returned. Wellingtons successfully bombed troop concentrations at Nieuport and Soex. Two aircraft missing. Yesterday, fleet air arm also bombed road junctions and enemy troops in Nieuport area. Yesterday, our fighter patrols shot down 42 enemy aircraft in evacuation area with further 14 unconfirmed. Aircraft shot down included 25 fighters, one of which was new HE 113. We lost 20 aircraft.

3. Considerable enemy air activity yesterday and early this morning in Dunkirk area and ships lying off the Port. Enemy aircraft also in vicinity of Wick yesterday and along the coast from Shoreham to Southwold and extending to French coast in Dunkirk-Calais area last night. Latter believed mine laying.

4. Progress made yesterday along railway eastward from Narvik and Stronnes was reached. Estimated no appreciable quantity of iron ore can be exported from Narvik for 12 months owing to far-reaching destruction of all port facilities.

5. Yesterday, British ship sunk southeast of Start Point and on May 29th French steamer sunk northwest of Finesterre. Canadian destroyers attacked submarine in vicinity of Ushant yesterday afternoon. Result not known. Portsmouth and Newhaven still closed and Harwich closed last night.