

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON.

June 6th, 1940

~~Secret~~

file →

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of  
the two latest reports on the military  
situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*W. L. L. L.*

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London  
on the afternoon of June 5th.

Nothing added to evacuation figures given in my immediately preceding telegram but aircraft search last night and this morning resulted in two motor boats containing 36 French troops and rubber float with two Royal Air Force officers being found. Enemy entered Rosendael immediately east of Dunkirk early yesterday. Beaches were under fire at 10.30 hours and enemy now reported to have reached sea front in this area.

One British division and two French divisions attacked south of Abbeville yesterday reaching Mesnil Bois de Cahon. Enemy counter-attacked and retook Mesnil but failed at Bois de Cahon. Intense enemy road movement reported in area of Peronne - St. Quentin - St. Simon.

Last night Whitleys, Wellingtons and Hampdens attacked oil refineries and plants in the Ruhr district and northwest Germany with railway marshalling yards as alternative targets. No reports yet received. One aircraft missing. Royal Air Force fighters patrolled yesterday over British, French and Belgian coasts. A Blenheim shot down a Dornier 18 off Fair Isle. No other interceptions./



interceptions. All our fighters returned.

Considerable enemy air activity reported over English Channel and northern France particularly in Montreuil area.

British steamer sunk off Cape Finisterre on June 2nd. French steamer sunk by mine off Margate early yesterday.

Telegram despatched from London  
late on the evening of June 5th.

At 04.00 hours today violent artillery and air bombardment reported on French positions from Anizy to the east of Amiens, also on 10th Army front west of Amiens. Reports indicate that this attack has met with some success and enemy tanks reported at Milesout west of Picquigny and at Fransart (14 miles southwest of Peronne). It is thought that another attack may be launched further eastward with Rheims as first objective. Every indication that this attack will be supported by armoured fighting vehicles and infantry not hitherto employed are available for this offensive. Estimated that over 70 divisions including armoured formations can be made available for whole southward attack across the Somme and Aisne.

British fighters patrolled in Abbeville area today but details not available. Attacks on oil targets in Ruhr and Frankfurt districts last night were successful. Direct hits registered on refineries and plants at Frankfurt Mannheim Reisholz and Monheim and a number of fires started.

German air activity yesterday undiminished. Bombing attacks last night at Le Havre and south of Dieppe. Attacks also southwest and southeast of  
Paris/

Paris. Considerable transport activity continues to Guise, Brussels, St. Quentin and Amsterdam. Much transport activity also from Wiesbaden to Charleville and to Phillipeville in Southern Belgium, latter places probably supply depots.

Much training activity in eastern half of Germany during the past few days.

No naval information of importance to record.



PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret~~

June 7th, 1940

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy  
of the latest report on the military  
situation. This was sent off from  
London yesterday afternoon.

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 the afternoon of June 6th.

1. German attack appears to be general from Anizy to mouth of Somme with two main thrusts at Peronne and Amiens. Tanks penetrated between posts in places to a depth of ten or twelve miles but French strong points appear to be holding out. 300-400 tanks reached Fransart and at 12-30 hours yesterday were attempting to widen gap between Pertain and Harbonnières. At 14-15 hours armoured troops reached Essertaux and Grattepanche. At 11 hours an attack on left bank of Oise had reached Guny-Beame-Bretigny. In general enemy infantry appear to have penetrated two or three kilometres but French appear to be well organized in depth and their infantry are holding out. Double columns of tanks on road to Peronne-Roye (head at Roye) and Amiens-Montdidier (head at Montdidier) were later attacked by French aircraft. British division attacked by enemy, strongly supported by air bombardment and retired to line Hoquincourt-Limeux-Audin-Acheux-Hautebut on which line their front is intact.

2. Yesterday evening and last night Blenheims Whitleys etc. attacked targets Cambrai, Le Cateau, Peronne, Albert and Bapaume area. All aircraft have returned in spite of intense anti-aircraft fire during evening attack and attack by Messerschmitt 110s one of which was shot down at

Etaples/

Etaples. No reports yet available. Wellingtons and Hampdens also attacked last night railway targets in Rhine-Meuse area and oil refinery west of Hamburg. No information yet available. Two aircraft missing.

3. Considerable enemy air activity last night between Orkneys and Isle of Wight. Aerodromes at Driffield, Thornaby, Burcham Newton, Helmswell, North Coates and Grimsby attacked but only damage so far reported is at Thornaby where two Hudson aircraft destroyed and four personnel wounded. Incendiary bombs and flares also dropped at North Fleet (Gravesend) without imposing damage. Aircraft apparently attacked singly or in pairs. Fighters sent up but no interceptions made. Anti-aircraft guns in Humber area came into action.

4. Two small coasting-vessels were sunk by mines in home waters yesterday.



PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 7th, 1940.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of  
the latest reports on the military  
situation. These were sent off from  
London early this morning and late  
this afternoon.

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 7th.

Now thought probable that three German armies and at least one armoured division are taking part in German attack between Anizy and mouth of Somme. Four main thrusts came from Channy, Peronne, Amiens and St. Valery. Present situation far from clear but farthest points of penetration by armoured elements so far reported are Varesnes (southeast of Noyon), Roye, Montdidier and Ault (west of Abbeville). Earlier report that tanks have reached Montdidier has not however been confirmed. French report that although enemy have crossed Oise Canal plateau south of River Ailette is still held. Crozat Canal opposite River Somme to west of Hamm also held by French. Between Amiens and the sea German infantry have enlarged bridgehead at Amiens infiltrated between Ailly and Pont Remy and from Abbeville to sea advance of 3 to 5 miles south of river. British division holding 15 miles on west of this line is being continuously harassed by tanks and air bombing.

Blenheims escorted by fighters bombed enemy troops in Auxy Le Chateau area this morning. Direct hits scored on three enemy columns. Five Blenheims missing. Four Messerschmidts 109 shot down confirmed and two unconfirmed. Two Hurricanes missing./

missing. Further attack on enemy troops moving in Abbeville area this afternoon. No reports yet available. Fighters also shot down three enemy bombers confirmed and three unconfirmed, also one additional Messerschmidt 110 confirmed and one unconfirmed. One Hurricane pilot killed, four Hurricanes damaged. Ten direct hits scored in attacks last night on railway targets and Hamburg power station received five direct hits.

German air force operations yesterday continued on widespread scale. Le Havre, Rouen, communications in Paris area and three aerodromes 120 miles south of Paris were attacked. Pamphlets dropped in Marne, Moselle and Ardennes area and parachutists reported in Paris area and Normandy. Dive bombers active on Somme successfully. Considerable bomber reconnaissance activity over back areas of Somme front, Champagne, Lorraine, the Vosges and upper Alsace. Further reconnaissance this morning over southeastern France probably indicating further bomber attacks in Rhone Valley. Little information regarding German fighter aircraft but about 250 were operating from aerodromes in northeastern France. Transport activity continues between Wiesbaden area northeastern France southern Belgium. Renewal of transport activity in Baltic area. German air force are acquiring large scale maps of British coastal towns. Also reported that parachutes are already assembled in northern Germany for employment against United Kingdom.



Telegram despatched from London  
on the afternoon of June 7th.

Enemy pressure continues on line Laon-Soissons. At 1 p.m. yesterday French 10th army held from Vilers-Bretonneux round south of Amiens to Oisement, thence along railway to Gamaches. On left of above line British division supported by armoured division has now been fighting continuously for 3 days and suffered heavy casualties. This division was forced yesterday to withdraw to river Bresle on line Gamaches-Treport. Enemy reported to have infiltrated into woods south of Eu but later message reported British tanks counter-attack had improved situation in this area. At least 50 prisoners taken. Bridges on river Bresle are being blown up.

Wellingtons attacked enemy communications last night in Abbeville area. All aircraft returned. Whitleys attacked railway targets in western Rhineland last night. Preliminary reports record large explosion at Wedau (Ruhr). All aircraft returned. Hampdens bombed oil refineries and plants at Hamburg and Ostermoor (west of Bremen). All aircraft returned. But no reports yet available.

Last night large numbers of enemy aircraft crossed east and south coasts of England, air-raid warnings/

warnings being sounded at 26 places from Middlesborough to Portsmouth. Preliminary reports record bombs on two steel works in Lincolnshire and at Upwood aerodrome, south of Peterborough. No major damage however appears to have been caused. No interceptions by fighter aircraft.

One British ship mined yesterday and one British ship torpedoed today in home waters.



PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
June 8th, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. This was sent off from  
London late on the evening of June 7th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*W. L. ...*

**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 June 7th.

Germans attacked continuously today on whole front between River Aisne, south of Laon and the sea. Thirty German divisions identified, all either active divisions or trained Rhine divisions, formed on mobilisation. Pressure continued in Laon-Soissons area, but not much enemy progress made. Ground south of River Ailette remains mostly in French hands. Yesterday evening six armoured and two motorised divisions previously employed in Flanders attacked on either side of Amiens. Enemy tanks reported pressing French westwards from Poix towards Aumale. Presence of German active divisions north east of Rheims and other signs indicate further attack likely in that area.

2. Blenheims today attacked enemy concentrations in Abbeville-Amiens area. One Blenheim missing. One Messerschmidt 109 shot down. Wellingtons attacking enemy communications last night reported successful attacks on troops, as well as railway sidings. Number of fast small craft observed last night near Boulogne also many small lights between Le Treport and St. Valerie. Today Hurricanes operating in battle area shot down nine enemy aircraft confirmed and four unconfirmed. Two Hurricanes missing. During June 5th to 6th B.A.A.F. shot down eight aircraft confirmed and six unconfirmed. One of Hurricanes missing. Battles from this force also attacked enemy columns and batteries. All Battles returned.

3. German air force operations continued yesterday on widespread scale. Many bombing attacks carried/



-2-

carried out on troops and communications in rear of front on Aisne and Somme. Considerable bomber reconnaissance activity in northern and southeastern France, also mine-layings last night, aircraft continued operating between western Germany and southern Belgium, and to Cambrai and Rheims.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 10th, 1940.



~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies  
of the three latest reports on the  
military situation. The first was  
despatched from London on the evening  
of May 8th, the second late the same  
night, and the third late on June 9th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. B.", is written in the lower right quadrant of the page.

**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 June 8th.

Two German armoured divisions are making determined effort to reach Rouen through breakthrough between Poix and Liomer. Enemy tanks reported to have reached Formerie. Infiltration of tanks also reported between Roye and Nesle and in Noyon area towards Compiègne. As result of infiltration along River Ailette French withdrew in good order to line Aisne and in order to conform line now runs Compiègne-Noyon-Hargicourt-Ailly-Poix-Hornoy-Blangy-River Bresle. British front elements of enemy armoured divisions which broke through near Poix reached Forges and Neufchatel where portion of British reserve line was forced out. These reserve posts carried out demolition at both places before retirement. Other parts of same enemy attack did not proceed so well and as result French counter-attacked and number of enemy tanks surrounded at Formerie were being systematically destroyed.

2. Yesterday Blenheims attacked with success enemy tanks transports and communications in Abbeville area. All aircraft returned. Last night Wellingtons attacked enemy troops moving over Somme crossings, Whitleys attacked railhead at Hirson and other Wellingtons attacked to fire the woods north of Hirson. All the above aircraft returned. Hampdens attacked oil targets/

targets at Hanover and carried out mine-laying operations last night. Fighters operating over battle area yesterday shot down 18 aircraft confirmed and 5 unconfirmed. Twelve British fighters missing.

3. Last night considerable number of enemy raiders recorded from Flamborough Head to Thames estuary and inland over Lincolnshire and London. Minor activity from Beachy Head to Portland Bill. Bombs reported on Bury St. Edmunds, Peterborough, Boston, Market Deeping, King's Lynne, and near Spalding also near four aerodromes in eastern counties. No serious damage and no casualties reported up to present. Enemy aircraft carrying mines crashed in Suffolk. Fighter aircraft sent up during above raids but no interceptions made. June 7th signal station at Fair Island machine-gunned but no damage reported.

4. British armed merchant cruiser torpedoed on June 6th and subsequently sank. All crew except two officers and two ratings saved. Small steamer sunk by shell fire on June 5th. Trawler sunk by mine on June 6th. One small steamer sunk by mine on June 7th and one other steamer and one other torpedoed and subsequently beached. All the above in home waters.

Telegram despatched from London  
late on the evening of June 8th.

German attack along whole front from Laon to the sea continues. Germans have secured bridgehead across the Aisne at Pommiers (west of Soissons) and reached the river in several places between Soissons and Boug et Comin. South and southwest of Amiens heavy attack with armoured units penetrated to Forges, Argeuil, and Neufchatel. Number of German tanks destroyed at Formorie. German armoured units made no further progress on Bresle front, where British division is still holding the line of the river. British reserve units were still holding the river Bethune this morning. Fighting was in progress at Formorie where German artillery and tanks were in action. Other reserve units holding from Serquex to but excluding Neufchatel. Armoured units holding road blocks from Vascoeuil (12 miles east of Rouen) to Serquex. British destroyers carried out indirect bombardment of road to Abbeville, Treport early today. Although the damage could not be observed, moral effect is thought to have been considerable. Although the present German thrust still appears to be directed south and southwest of Amiens, one of the objectives being Rouen, reports indicate that enemy may attempt to cross the Aisne between Soissons and Compiègne in the near future. Altogether six or seven armoured divisions believed to be operating in the above attacks but all reported very reduced in strength. Thirty-one divisions of all types now identified. Local German attack of June 6th penetrated to Puttelange (southeast of Luxemburg).

2. Blenheims/

2. Blenheims successfully attacked enemy concentrations in the Poix area this morning, obtaining direct hits on tanks, transport and troop columns. Two Blenheims missing. Further attacks by Blenheims in the same area and on petrol dumps in Abbeville area this afternoon but no reports yet available. Eighty-two fighters employed today in escorts and offensive patrols in Poix, Treport area. Preliminary reports give one enemy aircraft destroyed and one British fighter missing. Reports on yesterday's attacks not complete. Poor visibility made observation of results difficult but bombing on the Somme crossings and operation to fire woods at Hirson both apparently successful.

3. No relaxation in scale of German air operations of heavy long-range bomber Geschwader, except those undergoing re-equipment, believed to be operating in France. Bombing attacks made on railways in Paris region and on targets in Cherbourg, Orleans, Evreux and Lyons. Railways leading to battle area and between Paris, Chalons, Troyes, Soissons, and Rheims also bombed. Bomber reconnaissance aircraft particularly active over the area south and southwest of railways in east and in Troyes-Dijon area. Estimated there are about 350 German fighters on aerodromes in area of St. Omer, Namur, Mezieres, Laon and Abbeville. Transport activity normal.

4. Corrigendum. Last word of third paragraph of my last telegram but one should read Amiens and not Rheims.

Telegram despatched from London late on the evening of June 9th.

German communique claims that H.M.S. "Glorious", one destroyer and S. S. "Orama" sunk. No confirmation or otherwise of this claim received, as wireless silence is enforced during naval operations.

2. British division, with some French troops, were on line of River Bethune early today, but indications they are withdrawing westward. British armoured units and reserve units are reforming in area Louviers-Eibeuf. Elements of two German armoured divisions have entered Rouen and early today were reported at Duclair (west of Rouen) and further north, between Duclair and the sea. Enemy attacked across River Avre southwest of Montdidier. Enemy crossed over River Aisne at Sermoise and Pommiers reported last night to have advanced ten miles south of river.

3. Two main German thrusts are: (a) southward across Aisne between Bourg Comin and Vic-Sur-Aisne. Estimated strength 12 infantry divisions and one armoured division. (b) On axis Poix-Rouen direction southwest, two armoured divisions engaged while flank protection to the northwest believed given by one motorised infantry division. Number of infantry divisions engaged not definitely known.

4. Blenheims attacked this morning and this afternoon German tanks and columns northeast of River Bethune. Results not yet known. Three aircraft missing. Last night attacks by Wellingtons were successful. Among other targets on which direct hits were secured are bridges over Somme, oil tanks near Le Chateau, aerodrome and ammunition dump near/

near Abbeville.

5. Little information available regarding German air activities in France yesterday. Known that Germans are having some difficulty in supply and maintenance of their air units in Northern France. Priority given to fighters and dive bombers, and long-range bombers are having to return to bases in Germany. Transport aircraft continue operating between Western Germany and Brussels, and evacuation of wounded by air continues. Germans are reinforcing troops in Narvik area from Bodo.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 10th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I think you may be interested  
to see the enclosed copy of a telegram  
which our Ambassador in Rome sent to  
the Foreign Office on June 8th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. S. Brown*

DECLASSIFIED  
RECLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

Telegram despatched from London on  
afternoon of June 10th, 1940

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Informant who previously foretold main German offensive east of Amiens now gives further items of information with considerable assurance:

(a) when war comes Rome will be evacuated of troops and declared an open city. (There is confirmation from other sources).

(b) Germans will shortly send to Italy between 800 and 1000 aircraft which will probably be left to be flown by Italian airmen.

(c) Italian attack on Corsica and Malta in the event of war is a certainty.

(d) If French are defeated, Spain will enter the war against us. (I have information from a separate source that Germans are certain of being able to force Spain to do what they tell her to).

(e) In the present battle German main attack has not yet been developed and unless line had been pierced elsewhere and German reserves of tanks and troops transferred to widen that breach, it would probably be delivered in the neighbourhood of Rethel.

(f) Germans have oil and petrol for at least one more month of offensive war.

(g) Once France has been defeated and is out of the war Germany will attempt invasion of British Isles. For this purpose they hope to obtain the cooperation of Italian Fleet so as to obtain a

temporary/

temporary and local command of the sea. It is calculated that the Italian Fleet can get through the Straits of Gibraltar well ahead of any attempt by Anglo-French Fleet in Eastern Mediterranean to stop them.

(h) Only thing that may stop Mussolini from making war is that Allied lines in France should hold.

(i) Present orders of Italian Army are that everyone is to be at their war stations by June 15th.



PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret~~

11th June 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of  
the two latest reports on the military  
situation, the first sent off on the  
evening of June 9th and the second on  
the evening of June 10th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. S. L.*

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

*Impress of these was delayed in transmission*

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

Telegram despatched from London on the evening of  
June 9th, 1940.

British Expeditionary Force.

Armoured units have withdrawn from road points Vascoeuil Serquex to the South of River Seine.

The British Reserve unit on the River Bethune withdrawn and formed bridge-head at Pont de l'Arche (South of Rouen).

No information regarding 51st Division.

Enemy pressure yesterday on the French 10th Army front South and South East of Amiens in the direction of Flers Bonneuil and Merville au Bois on Compiègne Ailly front the enemy reported to have crossed the River Aure at Davenezcourt Pierre Pont de l'Arche Braches.

The depth of penetration not known.

Enemy also crossed the River Aisne during the night of June 7th - 8th at Sermoise and reached Courcelles at 1645 hours yesterday the enemy troops of all arms had reached Nampteuil Villemontoire and Missy and about 100 AFV's were in Cramaille area.

2. Last night Wellingtons attacked crossings over the River Somme between Picquigny and St. Valeri and enemy movements on the roads leading thereto from the North.

Hampdens attacked roads leading to Amiens on the north.

Whitleys attacked railway junctions in the rear of German attacking troops and also woods South of Abbeville.

/All

All aircraft returned but no reports yet available. Yesterday attack on enemy concentrations in Poix area and on petrol dump at Abbeville now reported successful. Petrol dump was left burning. Now reported enemy aircraft casualties from British fighters yesterday were 10 confirmed and 2 unconfirmed. Three British fighters missing. Last night Whitleys and Hampdens also bombed railway marshalling yards junctions in the Rhine-Meuse area. All aircraft returned but no reports yet available.

Mine laying operations also carried out last night.

3. Several German aircraft over England last night between Cromer and Poole, and mine laying suspected between Dungeness and Poole. Aircraft did not proceed far inland and no bombs reported dropped but searchlight post at Dover attacked by machine gun fire. British fighters sent up but no interceptions.

Anti-aircraft guns fired at Dover. In France enemy attacked Rouen, Cherbourg and Havre with approximately 34 aircraft last night.

4. One small steamer which had become separated from her convoy due to fog was mined and sunk in home waters yesterday. The crew were saved.

Telegram despatched from London on the evening of  
June 10th, 1940.

German communiqué also claims to have sunk S.S. "Oil Pioneer" and a submarine-chaser in addition to H.M.S. "Glorious", S.S. "Orama" and one destroyer, but there is still no confirmation of these claims. Early this morning British convoy attacked off the East Coast of England by enemy motor torpedo boats but believed the convoy still intact. One British and one Norwegian ship, neither in convoy sunk by mines in home waters. British ship subsequently beached. Shipping has been evacuated from Rouen and petrol tanks fired.

2. British Division with French troops holding line River Bethune last night are withdrawing southwestwards. All bridges over the Seine between Mantes and excluding Rouen destroyed but situation regarding Rouen uncertain. Enemy were crossing the Seine mid-day yesterday by pontoon bridges in Port de l'Arche area. Number and position of German troops south of the Seine uncertain but no doubt some A.F.V.s are across. British armoured units and reserve units now under command of General Laurencie, though some elements of reserve units probably still north of the Seine. Evreux heavily bombed yesterday afternoon and all British troops have been evacuated, on the front north of Oise strong enemy attack with tanks has reached St. Just and Crevecoeur. Troops in this area reported tired and considerably intermingled.

/Cn

On Aisne south of Soissons, Germans have reached line of Oulchy Le Chateau-Berneuil, but the French think that they have this attack under control. The enemy have also carried out intense artillery preparations on Aisne front between Vousiers north of Rheims area. Attacks in Rheims area have however been held, except for a small bridge-head at Rethel and Chateau Porcien.

3. Last night Whitleys attacked crossings over the Rivers Somme and Aisne, also northern entrances to Amiens. All aircraft returned but no reports available. Early to-day Blenheims attacked the enemy troop concentrations and armoured fighting vehicles east and northeast of Rouen but no reports yet received. Last night, Wellingtons again dropped bombs on woods between Hirson and River Meuse. Preliminary reports indicate number of large fires and several big explosions were caused. All aircraft returned safely. Marshalling yards in the Ruhr area also bombed last night by Hampdens. No reports yet received. One Hampden missing. Early yesterday Beauforts bombed oil targets at Ghent, causing large fires and numerous explosions. All aircraft returned safely. Mine-laying operations also carried out last night. 71 fighters carried out patrols connected with home defence and a further 191 operated over French and Belgian coasts. No combats reported, and all aircraft returned. Attack by Blenheims on the enemy transport and tanks northeast

/of

of River Bethune reported in my immediately preceding telegram was successfully carried out.

4. No enemy air activity over British Isles except for reports of aircraft over Kirkwall considerable German air activity over northwest France yesterday and last night, but no details yet available. Large fires seen in Rouen and Havre.



PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret~~

June 11th, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy  
of the latest report on the military  
situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*W. L. Lister*

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.



Telegram despatched from London late in evening of June 10th.

No further news of His Majesty's Ship "Glorious". the presence of strong German naval unit at Trondjhem is reported. It is also reported that Germans are buying up every available motor boat and that naval yards are working 24 hour shifts to turn out motor boats and shallow draft vessels.

British Division operating with the French troops and reported in my immediately preceding telegram as withdrawing southwestwards, today continued its withdrawl and was not hard pressed during the morning. Bridges at Rouen have been blown up. Strong enemy columns observed yesterday on the roads approaching Rouen from the northeast. This morning enemy tanks were reported in Yvetot. South of River Seine enemy tanks are reported to be advancing from Louviers to Neubourg. Some of the British reserve units under the command of General Laurencie reported to be considerably spread out still, and some troops appear to have been cut off on the north side of the River Seine.

This afternoon, Blenheims were sent to bomb the enemy motor transport on the river approaches between Rouen, Les Andelys. No reports received yet.

All/



All our aircraft returned safely. Whitleys which attacked crossings over the Rivers Somme and Aisne last night obtained hits on bridges over River Somme and on the road and railway communications in southern Belgium. Big explosions were also caused at Amiens and Picquigny. Blenheims which attacked troop concentrations northeast of Rouen this morning bombed enemy motor transport near Forges at Le Feville and at southern end of the Forest of Bray. Aircraft observed oil tanks at Rouen on fire and that there were large columns of German motor transport on the road to Buchy-Rouen, heading southwest. Wellingtons which bombed Hirson and River Meuse last night caused large fires in woods attacked and at least 12 explosions, one of which at Roerloi was particularly violent. Hampdens having already attacked marshalling yards last night in Ruhr area obtained direct hits on yards at Duren, Aachen, Julich and one or two others. A large fire was observed at Duren. Direct hits also obtained on aerodromes at Flushing.

It appears that German air-force operations on June 9th were on as high a scale as on any day since May 10th. Dive bombers and twin engined fighters were operating on an apparently increased scale, chiefly in northern France. Transport aircraft activity between western Germany, Brussels, Lille, and as far west as the coast continues, and evacuation of wounded by air also continues.



PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Personal and ~~Secret~~

June 11th, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
a telegram which has just been received  
from the Foreign Office forwarding a  
message from the Prime Minister.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

*L. Horan*

*may I offer you my own congratulations  
on your Charlottesville speech*

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

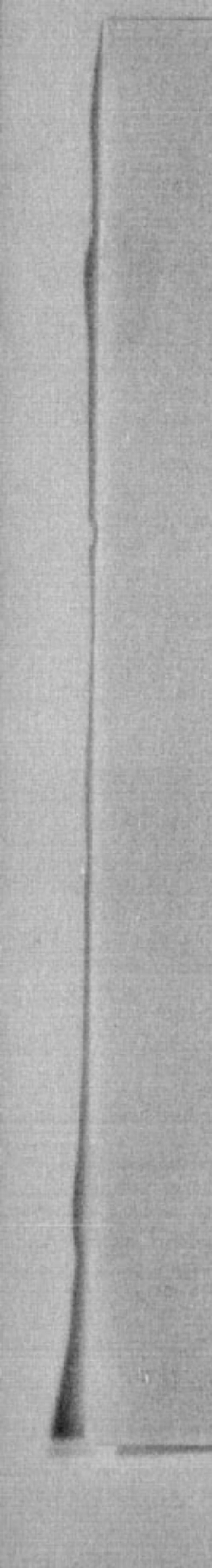
Washington, D.C.

Telegram despatched from London

on the afternoon of the 11th June, 1940.

Following from the Prime Minister for the President.

We all listened to you last night and were fortified by the grand scope of your declaration. Your statement that material aid of the United States will be given to the Allies in their struggle is a strong encouragement in a dark but not unhopeful hour. Everything must be done to keep France in the fight and to prevent any idea of the fall of Paris, should it occur, becoming the occasion of any kind of parley. The hope with which you inspired them may give them strength to persevere (? and to) continue to defend every yard of their soil and use full fighting force of their army. Hitler thus baffled of quick results will turn upon us and we are preparing ourselves to resist his fury and defend our Island. Having saved British Expeditionary Force we do not lack troops at home and as soon as Divisions can be equipped on much higher scale needed for Continental service they will be despatched to France. Our intention is to have a strong army fighting in France for campaign of 1941. I have already cabled you about aeroplanes including flying boats which are so needful to us in the impending struggle for the life of Great Britain. But even more pressing is the need for Destroyers. Italian outrage makes it necessary for us to cope with much larger number of submarines which may come out into the Atlantic and perhaps be based on Spanish ports/



To this the only counter is Destroyers. Nothing is so important as for us to have thirty or forty old Destroyers you have already had reconditioned. We can fit them very rapidly with our Asdics and they will bridge over the gap of six months before our war-time new construction comes into play. We will return them or their equivalents to you without fail at six months notice if at any time you need them. The next six months are vital. If while we have to guard the East Coast against invasion new heavy German and Italian submarine attack is launched against our commerce the strain may be beyond our resources; and ocean traffic by which we live may be strangled. Not a day should be lost. I send you my heartfelt thanks and those of my colleagues for all you are doing and seeking to do for what we may now indeed call a common cause.

*For the President*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  

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THE SECRETARY

Copies of the two latest reports on the military situation which have been received by the British Embassy from London.

*file  
personal*

*PSF  
G.B.*

Telegram despatched from London  
on the afternoon of June 11th.

Formal declaration that Italy would consider herself at war with United Kingdom and France from 01.00 hours on June 11th was made by Italian Foreign Minister to British and French Ambassadors at 16.45 hours on June 10th. Thirteen Italian merchant vessels and an Italian patrol trawler have been seized in home waters and Italian s.s. "Umbria" has scuttled in Port Sudan.

2. No further news of enemy naval units reported at Trondheim in my immediately preceding telegram. As no information can be obtain regarding H.M.S. "Glorious" and His Majesty's Destroyers "Acasta" and "Ardent" it is presumed that they have been lost, together with transport "Crama" and tanker oil "Pioneer".

3. Owing to movement of French G.Q.G. little information received on June 10th regarding position on Western Front but general lines of operation appear to be Montmedy-Rethel, thence along River Aisne north of Rheims, thence along River Ourc through Oulchy. West of this position not clear, but line thought to be along River Oise from Compiègne to Pontoise thence along River Seine to Rouen. It is however known that enemy have crossed River Seine southeast of Pont de l'Arche at Venables, Hendebouville and St. Pierre du Vauvray. British reserve units reported yesterday in contact with enemy at above places and also holding ridge at Pont de l'Arche. British division which has been operating in coastal sector reported cooperating with local Havre defences. Troops reported very exhausted. German air raids on Havre reported increasing in intensity and swing/

swing bridges onto quays have been damaged.

4. Last night Wellington aircraft attacked targets in Soissons area, Whitleys attacked road and rail-crossings east and northeast of Rouen and over River Somme, and Hampdens attacked crossings over River Meuse and railway junctions at Liart (west of Mezieres) and two other railway junctions northeast of Sedan. Hampdens also attacked oil targets at Dusseldorf and Aachen. All above aircraft returned (except one Wellington) but no reports yet available. Attack by Blenheims on river approaches between Rouen and Les Andelys yesterday was successfully carried out direct hits being claimed on tank and transport columns roads and a railway siding. Large fighter patrols operated over northern France yesterday but visibility was bad and no combats reported. All our aircraft returned.

5. No air attacks on this country in the last 24 hours. Single aircraft reported yesterday over South Coast, Seapa and Wick. Le Havre was heavily bombed.

Telegram despatched from London  
on the evening of June 11th.

1. Malta was bombed at 0515 hours today and one enemy aircraft shot down by anti-aircraft. No further details received. No movements of enemy surface craft reported since outbreak of war. One enemy submarine reported off Algiers but general enemy submarine activity immediately prior to and since outbreak of war appears to be less than expected.

2. Enemy attacks with infantry and tanks continued yesterday along general front Stenay (west of Montmedy) - Compiegne. Some progress believed to have been made between Stenay and Neufchatel-sur-Aisne. Reports of enemy progress in area south of Soissons conflicting but understood that Germans had reached outskirts of Chateau Thierry and Villers Cotterets yesterday evening. Main enemy attack on lower Somme is between Vernon and Rouen. Enemy reported to have established bridgehead east of Louviers and at Vernon. Latter unconfirmed. Estimate enemy infantry which have crossed river Seine east of Louviers consists of four battalions. Report of enemy armoured fighting vehicles south of river Seine not confirmed.

3. British division together with certain French troops now located in St. Valery area. Communications with Fecamp reported cut by isolated enemy armoured fighting vehicles. Fecamp reported in German hands. Two battalions of this division and two French battalions have crossed Seine at Quellebeuf. Two brigades belonging or attached to this division are at Havre. Line being held outside Havre reported as Montvilliers-Fontaine-Le Mallet. Advance portion of armoured division is

is in Bernay area, one armoured brigade is in Ajou area with patrols southeast of Louviers. Remainder of division is north of Le Mans.

4. Dieppe has been successfully blocked and demolitions carried out.

5. Blenheims attacked enemy concentrations east of Louviers. Two aircraft failed to return one known to have crashed in France. Fighters operated over area Fecamp - St. Valery - Dieppe. Two HE 126's shot down confirmed and one ME 109 unconfirmed. One Hurricane missing. British air attacks on enemy communications in France and Belgium last night were successfully carried out and bombing was effective. Attack on oil targets in Germany had to be abandoned owing to bad visibility.

6. Main German air attacks today were in support of army and on area north of Paris. Havre was also bombed. Attacks were carried out against shipping and mine laying continued.

7. Conflicting reports are being received regarding German troop concentrations in Norway but it is known that about 30 merchant vessels are dispersed in fjords between Christiansand and Aalesund and that German naval units are at Trondhjem. Germany could spare at least one or two divisions from existing forces in Norway for overseas operations without counting further reinforcements which could be sent to Norway. Considered possible that threat from Norway might be directed against some northern objective such as Shetlands, Faroes, or Iceland.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON.



~~SECRET~~

June 13th, 1940

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. This was sent off in the  
evening of June 12th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*W. A. R.*

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

Telegram despatched from London on  
evening of June 12th, 1940

1. Nothing to report from Montmedy to East. To the West, French line runs Le Chesne-Vouziers-Brienne-Fismes-Chateau Thierry-La Ferte-Mareuil-Crepy-Verberie, thence along Oise to Mourecourt, thence along Seine to the sea. Germans hold small bridge-head across Marne at Chateau Thierry, and west of Paris they hold bridge-heads over the Seine at Vernon, Les Andely and Elbeuf. Between Vernon and Les Andely, the enemy are across the river in some force, and hold a line Vernon-Pacy-Sur-Eure-Louviers. Remnants of the 2nd Armoured Brigade are in contact with the enemy along this line. Le Havre was attacked heavily from the air yesterday, and four transports sunk. Also bombed twice last night, but evacuation of British troops continued according to plan and 5,000 were embarked. About 6,000 remain. Situation of British and French troops in St. Valery reported critical at 0100 hours today, beaches being under heavy fire. Every possible effort being made to evacuate this force and maximum air support is being given. 52nd British Division now at Le Mans.
2. German pressure along the whole front between Vouziers-Mareuil remains heavy. West of Paris, main German thrust at present is between Vernon and Rouen. Every indication that heavy German attack impends east of Rheims, is now directed on the River Marne.
3. Blenheims attacked enemy columns and tanks north of Le Havre yesterday evening. All aircraft returned. Last night Wellingtons set fire to woods on Franco-Belgian frontier north west of Sedan,

Whitleys/

Whitleys attacked road and railway crossings at Fleury, Abbeville and Amiens and Hampdens attacked communications in the area of Laon-Sedan-Givet and marshalling yards at Hamm and Cologne. Two of our bombers missing. Fighter aircraft operating from England yesterday shot down eight enemy aircraft confirmed and four unconfirmed. One Hurricane missing. In addition one Heinkel 111 reported over South London this morning was shot down near North Foreland.

4. Yesterday afternoon Hudsons attacked enemy force in Trondheim Harbour comprising one battle cruiser squadron 2 cruisers 3 destroyers and 2 supply ships. Direct hits with 250 lb. bombs from 15,000 feet on 2 cruisers. One large transport also hit and appeared to be on fire. One Hudson lost by anti-aircraft fire and another by enemy fighters. Utsire wireless station (near Stavanger) also successfully attacked by Hudson aircraft.

5. Three air raids on Malta yesterday two on military objectives and one on civilian areas. Casualties slight four enemy planes shot down confirmed and one unconfirmed.

6. Yesterday, Blenheims made two attacks on large concentration of aircraft at El Adem (East Libya) causing much damage to enemy aircraft hangers and petrol stores. One British aircraft crashed and two are missing. Two aerodromes at Asmara (Eritrea) also attacked by Wellesleys who report attack appeared to be complete surprise and considerable damage done to hangers and aircraft. One Wellesley missing. Aerodrome at Massawa later attacked but no report yet received.

7. Whitley aircraft despatched to attack targets in Turin and Genoa yesterday. Reports not yet received.
8. Since the beginning of hostilities nine Italian merchant vessels have been captured, 7 scuttled and 2 beached.
9. All quiet in Gibraltar up to 21 hours last night.
10. Corrigendum. Paragraph one of last telegram but one. 0100 hours should read 0000 hours.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 13th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

*file*  
Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. This was sent off late  
last night.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*W. L. Clayton*

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram despatched from London  
late on the evening of June 12th

Some officers and men were evacuated from Veules this morning but subsequently enemy field guns are reported to have made this beach untenable. At 15 hours today the position on the River Seine-River Oise-River Marne to Reuil-sur-Marne was that enemy were still pressing. An attempt with air cooperation was being made to reduce enemy bridgeheads at Elbeuf, Louviers and at Vernon. Enemy armoured fighting vehicles are reported to be attacking Rheims, north and west and also to have crossed the River Marne at Jaulonne. The road bridges over the river in Rouen have been destroyed. Germans are in occupation of the right bank of the river with armoured fighting vehicles. No definite information regarding French forces and 51st British Division which were in Saint Valery this morning. The 6th French army has been withdrawn to the River Marne between Reuil and La Ferte.

2. Today Blenheims have attacked enemy targets at La Mare, Paluel, and Les Andelys, three of our aircraft missing. Hampdens which attacked enemy communications in area of Laon-Sedan last night obtained direct hits as follows:- Ehremfeld Gas Works, Hirson Railway Junction, and marshalling yards at La Ferte, convoy and buildings Charlevisee station/

station Libramont Petrol and Ammunition Dumps. Hits also registered on aerodromes at Flushing, Hamstede and Metelem. Whitleys despatched yesterday to Turin bombed Fiat works and marshalling yards, considerable damage believed to have been caused. Whitleys also bombed Ansaldo works and docks at Genoa and caused explosion at the former, reports not yet received from some aircraft and a number were unable to complete the task. One aircraft missing.

3. Italian and German air operations yesterday appear to have been similar to that of the previous day. Considerable transport activity between western Germany, Belgium and northeast France.

4. Understood yesterday Sicily Air Command was increased by 180 bombers and 72 fighters.

5. No reports yet of any movements of major units of Italian fleet.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
June 14th 1940.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. (This was sent off yesterday  
evening and was delayed in transmission).

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. S. L.*

**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 June 13th, 1940.

French line now runs Montmedy-Vouziers-Somme-Epernay, thence along Marne through Chateau Thierry (where Germans have small bridgehead) Ferte-Sous-Jouarre-Trilport-Rouvres-Senlis, thence along Oise to Pontoise, thence along lower Seine. No change east of Vouziers, but big attack impending in Montmedy area. Between Vouziers and Chateau Thierry, continuous enemy pressure yesterday forced French from Aisne Valley back to present line South of Rheims. German armoured forces reported to have penetrated this line to Chalons-sur-Marne. German thrust in this area now appears directed westward, probably to encircle French defences further west. Several infantry and armoured divisions taking part.

2. Between Mareuil-sur-Ourcq and Chantilly German pressure on June 11th forced French back to line Oise to present positions. No change in French positions between Chantilly and the sea since yesterday.

3. German bridgehead between Vernon and Louviers may now extend to Evreux. Two German infantry divisions in bridgehead and two armoured and one motorized division immediately north of River. Possibly Germans may intend to sweep south of Paris from this area. Gap to sixteen miles in French line in front of this bridgehead reported at midnight last night. Leading troops of 52nd division have now arrived in this area. 52nd division now near completion, but artillery units lacking. Division is being put into line piecemeal. Beauman division (reserve units) hold reserve position along River Risle east of Bernay. British armoured brigade

/also

also in this area.

4. Embarkation at St. Valery had to be abandoned at 18.15 hours yesterday and ships ordered to withdraw. Troops remaining include two brigade groups of 51st division and possibly 6,000 French. Early yesterday, French advance posts at Havre reported being attacked by enemy forces, including AFV.s. Oil tanks and centre of town reported burning. No further news. There were still some 6,000 troops at Havre to be embarked. Approximately 5,300 troops of North Sea division and attached units have reached Cherbourg, presumably from Havre.

5. Last night, Witleys and Hampdens attacked enemy communications in rear of battle line. No reports yet available. Yesterday attacks by Blenheims are reported as successful, and direct hits were registered on objectives at La Mare St. Valery. Results of bombing woods at Andelys not observed owing to cloud. Twelve Hurricanes of B.A.A.F. attacked six enemy aircraft near Havre and destroyed two Heinkels III and severely damaged a third. One Dornier 17 also shot down. Many fighter patrols operated from United Kingdom across Channel yesterday; but no combats reported other than one Heinkel III destroyed off North Foreland already recorded. Absence of combats probably due to lack of visibility. Fleet air arm bombed enemy M.T.B.s at Boulogne yesterday. One M.T.B. destroyed and two damaged. Buildings and jetties at Boulogne also bombed.

6. German aircraft active from north of Wash to Isle of Wight last night, but do not appear to have

/crossed

crossed coast.

7. Libya.

Italian 20th corps reported on shore road Tripoli-Zuara, whilst 10th corps appears to be moving from Tripoli area towards Nalut. 23rd corps in Tripoli area. Blenheims bombarded harbour and aerodrome at Tobruk yesterday. One large ship not identified, but may be Italian cruiser "San Giorgio", set on fire and beached. Naval pier and another ship alongside seemed to be burning.

8. All reported quiet at Gibraltar.

Egypt.

Minor encounter at Sidi Oniar and two Italian officers captured. Mines located yesterday off Alexandria.

Somaliland.

Air reconnaissance has not observed movement in frontier districts.

Blenheims yesterday attacked aerodromes at Aswub and Diredawa. Hits registered on aerodromes, power house, petrol and ammunition dumps and barracks. All aircraft believed returned.

No reports of any movements of major units of Italian fleet. No air attacks on Malta yesterday up to midnight. One Italian reconnaissance aircraft reported, believed brought down by gunfire. Admiralty destroyers have made two attacks on submarines in western Mediterranean, one of which is considered to have been successful.

Two British ships (total 4,000 tonnage) sunk in home waters by mine on June 11th. British trawler and two small Belgian steamers sunk in home waters yesterday.

Bulk of British force evacuated from Narvik has now arrived in United Kingdom.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 14th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. This was sent off early  
this morning.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. Attain*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

Telegram despatched from London  
on the morning of June 14th, 1940

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

1. Yesterday attack in Chateau Thierry area reported in my immediately preceding telegram resulted in tanks reaching Barleduc in addition to Chalons but as far as is known none crossed River Marne in this area. The enemy units however believed to have crossed the Marne west of Epernay and at Jaulgonne. Infantry advancing southwest from Chateau Thierry reached Nogentlartaud. Further west the enemy troops appear to be directed westward towards Meaux. On the lower Seine the enemy infantry are holding the River Eure. This may be defensive flank to cover the advance southeast towards the south of Paris.
2. Evacuation of Havre completed last night. Eleven thousand troops were taken off and transports proceeded to Cherbourg. Rearguard and beach parties taken off by motor launches and sent to Portsmouth.
3. Armed merchant cruiser "Scotstoun" torpedoed and sunk in home waters. Some of the crew were saved. The cruiser "Calypso" sunk in eastern Mediterranean by torpedo.
4. Three raids carried out today by Blenheims on roads and rivers in the rear of the battle front on the lower Seine. One aircraft missing. Despite unfavourable weather conditions the majority of the aircraft engaged on raids on night of the 12th-13th

June/

June carried out successful attacks. Direct hits observed on railway targets at Laon, Charleville, Soissons and Faissault. Hurricane patrol from B.A.A.F. shot down whole enemy formation of 5 aircraft.

5. German long-range bomber operations continued yesterday on the same scale as before. Bomber reconnaissance again very active and today two flights across southern England, one as far as Cardiff. Slight increase in transport activity between Cologne, and Belgium and northern France. This mainly concerned with transport supplies westward and of wounded back to Germany. Slight increase in number of transport flights to Oslo. It is thought possible that Italian aircraft may be operating on the western front.

6. Last night the Fleet Air Arm attacked the enemy warships in Trondjhem. One hit with 500 pound bomb on enemy battle cruiser was observed. Eight aircraft missing, some believed to have been lost in the fog which has prevented further action in this area. Beaufort aircraft cooperated in the above operation by successful attacks on aerodromes at Trondjhem. One Beaufort crashed on landing owing to damage caused by gun-fire. Hudsons attacked shipping at Bergen and returned safely.

PSF  
G.B.



REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

Telegram despatched from London  
on afternoon of June 14th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

French line now believed to run approximately Montmedy-just west of Verdun-Vitry Le Francois-just south of Chalons-Epernay-Montmirail-La Ferte Gaucher-La Ferte Sous Riarre-Rouvres-Senlis, thence along Oise to Pontoise, thence along the Seine to south east of Vernon, thence Dreux-Dampierre Sur Avre-Verneuil-Elbeuf-River Seine to the sea. Heavy enemy pressure in last thirty-six hours caused French to withdraw some 25 miles south east between Montmedy and Chalons. Germans have four armoured and one motorized division in this area and will probably now attack south east towards Verdun and rear of Maginot Line. Between Epernay and La Senlis Sous Riarre, French have been forced back from Marne some fifteen miles to Montmirail, and enemy attack expected to be directed south west towards Paris. No change in area between La Ferte and Montes. Situation of German bridge-head between Vernon Elbeuf is very obscure, though bridge-head appears to have been considerably enlarged. There are indications of further German attack across upper Rhein.

2. One brigade of British 52nd Division is in Evreux area and one brigade at Le Mans.

Beauman/

Beauman division still holding reduced line on River Rille east of Bernay, with three armoured brigades in reserve.

3. Last night Wellingtons, Hampdens and Whitleys attacked river crossings and general lines of communication in rear of the Front. One aircraft missing. Blenheims took off to attack enemy in Vernon-Elbeuf bridge-head early today. Woods south of Chateau Thierry successfully attacked and set on fire by Blenheims yesterday evening. Four Blenheims missing. No reports received of combat by our fighters over northern France yesterday.

4. German aircraft identified yesterday over Shetlands and Scapa and last night over the Channel between Start Point and Lizard Bay.

5. 37 survivors from H.M.S. "Glorious" and H.M. Destroyer "Acasta" landed from merchant vessel. Norwegian tanker torpedoed in Eastern Mediterranean on June 12th and British tanker mined and subsequently beached in home waters yesterday. Two attacks by aircraft on enemy submarines in home waters yesterday. One thought to be successful.

6. Yesterday Blenheims attacked Assab aerodrome with success. Italian aircraft made four attacks on Aden without causing serious damage. Gladiators shot down one and severely damaged another. One Gladiator missing. Kassala bombed on June 12th: caused nine civilian casualties. Suakin bombed on June 13th, but only slight damage caused.

7. Three enemy raids over Malta yesterday caused little damage. Military casualties 2 killed, 2 wounded, 2 civilians wounded.

8. On June 12th Italian aircraft twice bombed British Moyale on northern frontier of Kenya. No casualties or damage caused. On June 13th Wajir aerodrome attacked. Sixteen military casualties caused and aviation petrol stores destroyed.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

June 16th, 1940

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. This was sent off late in  
the evening of June 14th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. Horan*

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

Telegram despatched from London  
in the evening of June 14th, 1940

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Germans claim to have entered Paris today.

2. Germans have bridge-head at Chalons Sur Marne but do not seem to have crossed Marne between Epernay and Vernon, German progress was slowed though they advanced maximum distance of five miles beyond Marne by late evening. Position in German bridge-head on Vernon-Elbeuf is confused but enemy appear to be pressing southward. Indications that next attack across Seine may come in Mantes-Vernon sector or direction south-eastwards towards Chartres. Believed that up to the end of May enemy casualties were between 400,000 and 503,000 and that further 200,000 may have occurred since then approximately.

3. Blenheims attacked enemy columns and aerodromes in rear of battle-line today, reports not yet received. Attacks by our heavy bombers on enemy communications last night reported generally successful and most of aircraft reached and effectively bombed their objectives. Attacks by Blenheims early today hampered by clouds and smoke.

4. In addition to German air operations in support of land forces attacks were made on shipping and other objectives as far west as

Havre/

Havre. Mine-laying units also operating in Channel. Reported that some German long range bombers are carrying on practices in Baltic in conjunction with MTBs. Enemy bomber reconnaissance aircraft very active principally over Northern France. In addition to usual daily meteorological flight up to Shetlands similar flight was carried out on June 15th [sic] as far west as Lands End. Estimated between 800 and 900 enemy fighters have been operating in occupied areas of Northern France and Southern Belgium. No decrease in transport activity between Western Germany and occupied areas.

5. Up to eleven hours on June 13th no units of Italian main naval forces encountered in Mediterranean. On June 12th "Gloucester" and "Liverpool" encountered enemy small craft probably mine-sweepers off Tobruk. These were engaged and thought to have been hit. Shore batteries opened fire but our ships were not hit. Both our ships cut mines with paravanes. Air Force cooperated with bombing attacks. South African aircraft have bombed Italian Moyale on northern frontier of Kenya Colony and scored hits on enemy transports, no aircraft missing.

6. Enemy submarine sunk by naval action in Western approaches today.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 17th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of  
the latest reports on the military  
situation. The first two were sent  
off on the evening of June 15th and  
the last two on the evening of June 16th.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. Stovall*

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London  
on the evening of June 15th.

Following is latest information regarding French lines, but it is thought probable there are gaps in it. Longuon-Verdun-Vitry le Francois-Chalons-Epernay-Montmirail. Situation in Paris area not yet known. West of Paris line runs approximately Mantes-Dreux-Couches, thence along River Rille to the sea. Position obscure in Verdun-Chalons area, where yesterday reports indicated French preparing position facing west and east of Chaumont-sur-Aire and Void (west of Toul). Germans appear to have made considerable progress east and southwest of St. Dizier and towards Troyes. Beauman Division and brigade of British 52nd Division are in the line on River Rille. Armoured brigade is in reserve in rear. Group of four reconstituted French Divisions reported in line on River Dives from Argentan to the sea.

Number of troops evacuated from St. Valery now reported to be 2280.

Following details of loss of "Glorious", "Acasta" and "Ardent" now available. On June 8th, two enemy ships, thought to be one 8 in. and one 6 in. cruisers, were sighted about 200 miles west of Vest Fjord. At 16.00 hours, the enemy opened fire at 20,000 yards and hit "Glorious" with third salvo, thereby preventing aircraft being flown off.

"Glorious"/

"Glorious" was out-ranged and sank at 17.30 hours. "Ardent" was sunk while attacking enemy. "Acasta" laid smoke screen and attacked enemy with torpedoes after "Glorious" had been sunk. One torpedo believed to have hit. During this attack "Acasta" was sunk.

Mine sweeping trawler "Myrtle" mined and sunk in home waters on June 14th. It is feared there are no survivors. On June 14th, one ship of about 6000 tons, which was straggler from convoy was torpedoed 70 miles south south-west of Cape Clear, Ireland. One small Dutch ship of 300 tons was mined and sunk off Poole on June 13th. Two Norwegian ships sunk by German aircraft while on passage from Norway to Faroe Islands, with large number of passengers on board. No further details available.

Last night Whitleys attacked enemy communication centres and river crossings at Soissons-Pont de L'Arche-Les Andelys-Vernon-Laon-Chateau Thierry. Whitleys and Hampdens also attacked marshalling yards or railway centres at Essen, Cologne, Duren with very satisfactory results. Similar attacks also carried out with success in Hirson area. Wellingtons and Whitleys also attacked military objectives in Black Forest and on Rhine. Reports not yet received. One Whitley and one Wellington missing. Enemy columns were successfully attacked yesterday afternoon by Blenheims in Evreux-Louviers area, although observation was hampered by cloud./

cloud. Two aircraft missing. Blenheims which recently attacked Merville aerodrome observed approximately 50 twin-engined aircraft and some Messerschmitt 109s. These targets were attacked and bombs were seen to explode amongst enemy aircraft. Seventy-five enemy aircraft of similar types were observed at Aire and 13 at St. Omer. One of our aircraft missing. Yesterday 240 fighter sorties were flown overseas and on home defence. No enemy aircraft shot down. One of our fighters missing.

Little enemy air activity over British Isles during last 24 hours but during yesterday flights were recorded off Sumburgh Head and Scapa Flow and after dark off Orkneys, Aberdeen and Harwich.

Malta was raided again yesterday morning resulting in some damage to civilian property but no casualties.

Yesterday Italian aircraft raided Berbera (British Somaliland) but contrary to press reports no damage was done and there were no casualties.

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

Telegram despatched from London  
on the morning of June 16th, 1940

Force consisting of Beauman force of 157th infantry brigade and one composite armoured regiment is being placed under command of General Marshall-Cornwall who will establish his headquarters with General Altmeyer commanding French X Army. Situation in area of St. Mihiel-Joinville-Bar sur Seine-Sens-Montmirail-Chalons sur Marne is not clear but estimated that there may be at least four armoured, two motorized and eight infantry divisions which are making considerable progress exploring east, south and south-west. Advance elements of forces from Epernay and Montmirail have reached Seine at Romilly and believed that A.F.Vs. are pushing up River towards Troyes. In lower Seine area Germans have advanced to line Evreux and Elbeuf.

3. This evening Blenheims were despatched to attack enemy concentrations in area of lower Seine, no reports yet received. Only two of Whitleys which attacked military objectives on Rhine last night were able to locate targets. Success of Wellingtons' attacks on objectives in Black Forest reduced by heavy rain.

4. Number of German aircraft carrying out operations yesterday appears to have been small.

Several/



Several Geschwader are probably refitting. Large number of transport aircraft possibly 100 made flights to Brussels on June 14th.

5. Yesterday combined British military and air operations took place on Libyan border resulting in capture of Fort Capazzo (west of Solum). Four officers and one other ranks captured. Fort Maddalena (50 miles south south west of Solum) also captured but no details available.

6. Yesterday Italian aircraft bombed Solum also frontier posts of Shegga and Dobhka causing three Egyptian casualties.

7. It is believed that seven enemy aircraft were destroyed on ground during air raid on Assab June 14th.

8. An Italian raid on Franco-Italian frontier south west of Aosta was repulsed with losses.

9. Fleet air arm which attacked docks at Bergen believed to have obtained six hits and to have destroyed ammunition dump and several warehouses.

Telegram despatched from London on  
the evening of June 16th.

1. Situation east of Paris obscure, and nothing to add to information contained in my immediately preceding telegram. Little enemy pressure reported on allied forces west of Paris. Germans have advanced west of Seine to line Dreux-Elbeuf, and there are indications of likelihood of further advance towards the coast of Brittany.

2. No bombing operations carried out in France during period under review. Attack by Blenheims reported in my immediately preceding telegram abandoned owing to lack of cloud cover, and adverse weather. Conditions prevented bombing operations last night. Fighter patrols operated in northern France yesterday, but no combats reported.

3. Enemy aircraft reported yesterday afternoon and last night on both sides of the English Channel as far west as Cherbourg and Weymouth, but no enemy aircraft sighted by our fighter patrols sent to investigate.

4. Norway. Air reconnaissance over Trondjheim yesterday afternoon reported one cruiser beached and Scharnhorst, three destroyers and two merchant vessels in the harbour.

5. Two Italian aircraft bombed Malta on  
June/

June 14th and made two further attacks on June 15th. Few casualties and negligible material damage caused, in the last attack Italian bombers intercepted by Gladiators and after dropping bombs in the sea turned back before reaching Malta. Very few Italian aircraft reported over Mediterranean.

6. Egypt. Italian Aircraft attack already reported on Sollum damaged a barracks and stores of Egyptian Frontier Force and caused casualties consisting of two officers and 20 other ranks. Prisoners taken in Fort Capuzza now total 8 officers and 200 other ranks.

7. Two aircraft bombed buildings and hangars of Aden Aerodrome yesterday. Blenheims bombed Diredawa aerodrome causing number of fires.

8. Successful attack made by South African air force on Bardera (Juba River) yesterday. Two aircraft missing.

9. Australian destroyer sank Italian submarine in Eastern Mediterranean on June 13th. On June 14th Australian destroyer, in company with other destroyers, made further attack in same area and thought to have damaged second enemy submarine. Enemy submarine sunk by Royal Air Force in home waters on June 15th.

10. Two British steamers and one Norwegian steamer torpedoed in home waters. British armed merchant cruiser torpedoed in northern waters last night.

Telegram despatched from London on the evening of June 16th, 1940.

Germans claim yesterday capture of Verdun and piercing of Maginot line South of Saarbrucken. These reports unconfirmed, but German thrust on axis Chalons-sur-Marne to Chatillon-sur-Seine constitutes threat to French frontier defences in Rhine-Vosges-Sarre sector. German armoured and motorized formations appear to be fanning out from area Bar-le-Duc-Saint Dizier-Vitry le François towards Vesoul, Laugres and Avalon. South of Paris the enemy infantry appear to be on the line Nangis-Chevreuse. South of lower Seine enemy have reached Conches. Little pressure in this area, but indications of South-Westerly thrust towards Montagne in near future.

2. No reports of Royal Air Force activities received.

3. German air operations yesterday chiefly in support of ground forces and to deny crossings on Loire to French forces. Aircraft also active against harbours and shipping and carrying out operational training in Baltic. Mine-laying, probably in Channel also took place. Definite information that Germans have withdrawn number JU.52 type aircraft from advanced training schools for employment in transport work to and

/from

from occupied areas, and it is noted that training has decreased during past week. Employment of these advanced school aircraft in this work may, however, be adopted by Germans as form of general training.

4. Australian troop convoy arrived safely in United Kingdom to-day.

FROM BRITISH EMBASSY

PSF  
G.B.

Telegram despatched from London  
in the evening of June 17th, 1940

French Army has been ordered to cease fighting. Before this order French 10th Army was reported in full retreat south west towards Laval and Rennes. Army of Paris was withdrawing on axis of Paris, Dexis.

B.E.F. is moving to coast and evacuation is proceeding from Cherbourg, Brest and Loire in the face of enemy air attack. As a result of bombing S.S. "Lancastria" (16,243 tons) with 3,000 troops on board has been sunk and S.S. "Oronsay" (20,043 tons) has been damaged. No further details yet available.

3. No major operations by R.A.F. reported during period under review. Wellington aircraft sent to France returned today to United Kingdom.

4. On June 16th long range bomber force employed mainly against ground forces along the River Loire and to the south of it. No information regarding activities of dive bombers or fighters but there are indications that both light and heavy fighters are now based on aerodromes to the south of Paris. Transport aircraft mainly engaged in taking supplies to advance positions.

5. Sporadic air raids continued at Malta but apparently caused little damage and few casualties.



~~Secret.~~

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
June 18th, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military situation.  
This was sent off from London yesterday  
evening.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

**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 June 17th.

Situation East and South of Paris

obscure, but reported that German forces may have crossed Loire near Orleans. West of Paris, line held by French 10th Army yesterday morning was Northeast edge of Forest de Longni (East of Montagne) - St. Evroult - Morteagen - River Dives to the sea. Between Forest de Longni and Tours, appeared to be only isolated detachments of French troops. General Marshall Cornwall's force (now Norman force) is continuing to fight under the command of French 10th Army, and comprises Beauman force, one infantry brigade 52nd division, one armoured brigade and one field artillery regiment. Exact section in general line given above held by this force is not known.

2. Owing to the unfavourable weather, no bombing operations carried out yesterday by Royal Air Force though certain mine laying operations were performed. Fighter patrols reconnoitered near Cherbourg and aerodromes in northern France, but encountered no enemy aircraft. Six squadrons of Battles arrived back in United Kingdom yesterday from France.

3. German aircraft bombed shipping in the Mouth of Loire for the first time yesterday, and laid magnetic mines. No damage caused to shipping.

4. Three German aircraft reported over England yesterday, and considerable activity, probably mine laying, from Downs to Start Point last night. Fighters failed to make contact owing to bad weather.

5. Malta raided twice by aircraft yesterday; five of these aircraft appeared to be German. Slight damage and no casualties. Italian bombers were for first time escorted by fighters. Royal Air Force from Malta bombed Tobruch (Libya) and aerodromes in the vicinity causing explosions and some damage to aircraft on the ground.

6. Enemy aircraft yesterday bombed Sollum, Sidi, Barrani, and Matruh, causing very slight Egyptian casualties and some damage to barracks and stores at Sollum. Three enemy aircraft shot down.

7. On June 14th and 15th Italian aircraft bombed two posts in Sudan southwest of Suakin and railway station south of Kassala. Very slight damage caused.

8. Wajir and Moyale in northern frontier district of Kenya Colony bombed by Italian aircraft on June 15th. South African aircraft bombed enemy troops at Mega (northwest Moyale). Direct hits

obtained/

obtained on wireless station and barracks. Aerodromes in Southern Abyssinia at Neghelli and Yavelmas also successfully bombed, and Southern Rhodesian aircraft successfully bombed Italian troops and armoured cars north of Moyale. Military patrols from Moyale successfully raided six Italian frontier posts last night.

9. Nothing to report from Gibraltar, Palestine or British Somaliland.

10. One British ship not in convoy sunk in home waters yesterday. One Greek ship not in convoy sunk in home waters on June 14th. Norwegian tanker sunk off Aden yesterday.

11. Canadian troops have arrived at Reykjavik, Iceland.

12. Corrigendum. Australian troop convoy referred to in my immediately preceding telegram should read Australian and New Zealand troop convoy.

From British Embassy

PSF  
G.B.

Telegram despatched from London  
on the evening of June 18th.

Owing to withdrawal of British mission reliable information regarding situation of French troops very scarce. According to numerous reports however French resistance has not ceased. General limit of German advance seems to be line of Besancon-Dijon-Arnay-le Duc-Nevers thence along Loire to Orleans thence Bonneval-Chartres-Laigles. Five armoured and three motorised divisions identified advancing to south from Dijon and also completing encirclement of Maginot Line. One armoured and one motor and six infantry divisions seem to be advancing due south from Sens. One mountain and seven infantry divisions reported advancing southwest in area between Chartres and the sea.

2. Evacuation of British Expeditionary Forces taking place from Cherbourg, St. Malo, Brest, Saint Nazaire. Numbers evacuated up to midnight last night from all above ports is as follows:-

Fit 41,770,  
Wounded 732,  
Guns 71,  
Vehicles 595.

Evacuation not so far seriously interfered with  
except/



except at Saint Nazaire which was continuously bombed yesterday. As recorded in my immediately preceding telegram transport "Lancastrie" was sunk, casualties not known. Survivors were transferred to "Oronsay" which was also hit by mine but able to proceed. Industrial personnel have been cleared from Brest. Considerable amounts of stores are there which it is hoped to save. So far as is known up to the present, Germans have not followed up withdrawal of British Expeditionary Forces in great strength. 180 of Embassy staff left last night for England.

3. Whitleys, Hampdens and Wellington aircraft attacked oil targets and marshalling yards at 12 towns in Ruhr and Rhine area last night, certain mine laying operations were carried out. Reports not yet received but two Whitleys out of 135 at present missing. Our fighter patrols operating off Boulogne and Dunkirk shot down one Messerschmidt 115 and one Junker 88 confirmed and 2 of latter unconfirmed.

4. Sixty-four enemy aircraft reported along Channel and Normandy coast yesterday and 84 reported between Ostend and Brest last night. Fighters were unable to intercept.

5. Royal Air Force attacked 6 enemy destroyers in North Sea last night and claimed hit on one. One Hipper class cruiser and four destroyers sighted yesterday evening off Narvik.

6. Marked recrudescence of German submarine activity. Submarines yesterday sighted off Iceland, Finisterre/

Finisterre, Ushant and Malta. Hunts and attacks carried out in all of these areas. Royal Air Force thought to have sunk submarine off Finisterre and another off Ushant.

7. Malta raided four times yesterday, no casualties and slight damage. On night of 16th/17th June, Naval oil tanks at Tobruk were bombed by Royal Air Force.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 20th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. This was sent off late  
last night.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*W. L. ...*

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

Telegram despatched from London  
in the evening of June 19th, 1940

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

1. No official information regarding position of the French army but from other accounts resistance is continuing. Proportion of German formations previously reported on line Vesoul-Dijon have now swung eastward towards Belfort which they have occupied. Southerly advance by other armoured motorized divisions east of Loire has now reached that river and established bridge-heads as far south as Nevers. German forces from Paris and the lower Seine have reached Loire near Beaugency. Heads of infantry units were at mid-day June 17th from the line Orleans-Chartres-Mortagne. A.F.V.'s motorized unit operating further west reliably reported yesterday evening approaching Cherbourg and Saumur and in possession of St. Imeu and Rouen. At mid-day yesterday they were 30 miles north of Nantes. German forces reported nearer Brest at 2100 hours yesterday.

2. All ships of the French fleet which could steam have evacuated French north-western ports. All French aircraft at Brest which were fly-able took off yesterday for aerodromes in south of France. French store ships en route to Brest have been diverted to

British/

British port.

3. British Expeditionary Force. All personnel evacuated from Cherbourg, St. Malo and Brest. Demolitions carried out at Cherbourg and St. Malo. French have agreed to carry out demolitions at Brest. Considerable equipment, tanks and transport also evacuated. Ports of St. Nazaire and Nantes have been evacuated. Totals landed in United Kingdom up to midnight last night are: personnel, fit 80,452, casualties, 1,562; guns, 176; vehicles, 960; ammunition, 150 tons. Above figures do not represent final total. At least one thousand two hundred are reported to have been saved from S.S. "Lancastria".

4. Approximately one hundred enemy aircraft active over eastern counties of England last night between Middlesborough and Bradford in north to Thames Estuary. High explosive and incendiary bombs dropped at over thirty places mostly in East Anglia but preliminary reports suggest few casualties and little damage except in Cambridge where eight houses were demolished and several people killed. Oil storage plant hit in Thames Estuary. From seven to twelve enemy aircraft reported shot down. Figure being number estimated by fighter command as destroyed by R.A.F. Two British fighters destroyed and one missing. In France main effort of German bomber force has been against shipping off Brest and mouth of the Loire/

Loire. Inland bombing appears to have been directed mainly against communications special reconnaissances carried out over ports in north-west France, shipping in the Channel and northern part of Bay of Biscay.

5. Blenheims with fighter aircraft yesterday attacked enemy tank columns converging on Cherbourg. 7.5 fighter aircraft were over northern France yesterday but did not encounter any enemy aircraft. All returned safely. Aircraft operating from France successfully attacked Italian aircraft factories at Milan and Genoa on night of June 16th-17th.

Reliable information received that air raids in North eastern and central Italy have made deep impression on population whose morale is likely to be shaken if they continue. Last night 69 heavy bombers attacked oil and railway targets at Hanover and Bremen and in Ruhr and Rhine valleys. Four aircraft failed to return. Fleet air arm bombed Nordeney aerodrome and encountered severe anti-aircraft fire. All aircraft returned.

6. Reports of considerable Italian troop movements in Libya towards Tunisian frontier continue to be received. Reports unconfirmed that five Italian divisions normally stationed in western Cirenaica have moved towards Egyptian frontier in coast area. As result of operations here on June 17th twelve tanks, six guns and seven lorries captured from Italians. Reports unconfirmed that six hundred prisoners also taken. Hostile aircraft visited Malta yesterday, but no bombs dropped. Patrols of Sudan

Defense Force carried out successful raids in Kassala area on June 17th. One patrol routed complete native battalion.

7. On June 17th bombers of South African Air Force successfully attacked Bardera (Italian Somaliland). Enemy aircraft at Neghelli in southern Abyssinia also bombed and aerodrome at Massawa attacked and fuel dumps set on fire.

8. British submarine sunk enemy transport off southern coast of Norway on June 16th. New Zealand steamer sunk off North Island of New Zealand by explosion.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret~~

June 21st, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. This was sent off from  
London yesterday evening.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. L. L.*

**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 June 20th.

United Kingdom. About 150 enemy aircraft raided aerodromes and industrial centres last night. Results reported as follows: Considerable damage to chemical plant at Billingham. Gas and water mains damaged at West Hartlepool. Four bombs in Cardiff dock area, one merchant vessel sinking. Damage to steel works at Stockton-on-Tees. Armament depot damaged at Southampton. Bombs on dock at East Hull, but no serious damage. Dorman Long's works at Middlesborough damaged. Enemy casualties three confirmed and two unconfirmed. No casualties reported to our fighters. Further details regarding German attacks on United Kingdom night of June 18th-19th as follows: Enemy losses five Heinkels 111's and one Junker 88 confirmed and three Heinkel 111's unconfirmed. Our losses four Blenheims and one Spitfire. Civilian casualties 10 dead, 26 injured. One military casualty.

2. British Expeditionary Force.

Totals landed in United Kingdom up to midnight June 19th-20th are: personnel, fit 109,569 personnel, wounded 1,909. Guns, 310. Vehicles, 2,278 (include 22 tanks). Ammunition (tons) 150. Stores (tons) 193 (including R.A.F. equipment)/

equipment). Allied armies, 787. Above are not final figures. Every effort is being made to evacuate Polish and Belgian troops, who are reported to be fighting their way to coast.

3. French warships which have now evacuated French northwestern bases are utilising British ports as their operational bases. All ships have left Brest, except two submarines which were scuttled. French demolitions at Brest were largely effectual.

4. No official news of position of French armies, but spasmodic resistance is undoubtedly still being offered by portions of these armies. East advance of Germans left wing continues. Epinal has been captured. Capture of Colmar in Alsace also claimed. Further west Germans advancing down Valley of the Saone towards Lyons, and are reported at Louhans. In upper Loire Valley they have passed Digoin southwest of Orleans. They were reported yesterday at Tours. Normandy and Brittany are being overrun. Column has entered Cherbourg though section of resistance had not been overcome yesterday morning. Brest reported still in French hands at 23.30 hours yesterday.

5. 160 bombers attacked aluminium works, canal locks, railway and oil targets in western Germany last night. No reports yet received. One Wellington missing. Reports so far received of similar attacks on night of June 18th-19th show that these were generally successful. Extensive  
fires/

fires and explosions resulted. Blenheims attacked enemy aerodromes near Amiens and at Rouen yesterday obtaining direct hits on parked aircraft and ground installations. 52 fighter aircraft operated over northern France yesterday. Two Heinkel 111's shot down (unconfirmed). No British fighters missing. Fleet Air Arm successfully attacked German seaplane base at Denhelder yesterday.

6. German long-range bomber aircraft yesterday principally directed against shipping off Brest and west and northwest coast of France, and against French troops and their ground communications. German transport aircraft continued very active. There are indications of further decrease in advance training.

Italy.

No further information of military activity on mainland, but there are reports regarding contemplated movement of German formations through Italy to Africa. Further details of operations on eastern Libyan frontier on June 17th show that Italian mechanical transport column and 300 infantry with 4 guns and 12 tanks were engaged. Tank crews became demoralized and left their vehicles. One tank and 2 guns captured and remainder destroyed. Italian casualties/

casualties 20 - 30 killed and similar number wounded. Remainder taken prisoner. British casualties nil. All reported quiet in Sudan. Indication that adjoining Italian garrisons are in bad state of nerves. Royal Air Force have carried out successful attacks on camps and aerodromes in Northern Abyssinia at El Adem (Libya). On June 17th, enemy aircraft bombed Sidi Barrani and Djibouti. Bombs also dropped on Zailah, Berbera and Tugargon in British Somaliland.

9. Two British ships sunk by torpedoes off Cape Finisterre on June 18th. Reference report of sinking of steamer off North Island. A mine has been swept up in this vicinity and a dangerous area declared. Enemy submarine thought to have been sunk by aircraft in Aden.

10. Scandinavia.

German forces reported to have occupied Kirkenes on June 15th.

11. Nothing reported from Gibraltar or Malta. Tangier zone reported completely under Spanish control including Gestapo police methods.



PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
June 23rd, 1940.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I enclose herein copies of two  
of the latest reports on the military  
situation. The first was despatched from  
London on the evening of June 22nd and the  
second later the same evening.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. Huran*

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

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

Telegram despatched from London  
early on the evening of June 22nd.

Approximately 100 enemy aircraft crossed east and south coasts of England last night. Recurring warnings were given at 17 places in eastern and southern England. Preliminary reports state that H.E. bombs have dropped at Wickhambrook (about 9 miles south of Newmarket) Sudbury and Bury St. Edmonds without causing major damage and incendiary bombs started fires in fields near Guisborough (York.). Several aerodrome gun posts and searchlights in east Anglia also attacked but without result. Our fighter patrols made only one interception and this was inconclusive.

2. Evacuation of Belgian, Czech, French and Polish troops continued from Bordeaux yesterday. Total evacuation figures up to midday yesterday were as follows: personnel, fit - 124,841, casualties 2,193, allied troops 4,410. Polish Government in France arrived in England yesterday.

3. Fighting continues in Alsace Lorraine round Belfort and elsewhere. In Burgundy armoured and motorised forces which occupied Lyons are pressing down Rhone Valley probably to open Savoy and Dauphine to Italians. German forces are consolidating along river Cher but

further/



further west southward advance down the coast proceeds about lower Loire. Further reports received that number of parachute troops in Germany is being considerably increased.

4. Fleet air arm yesterday attacked with 500 lb. bombs battle cruiser "Scharnhorst" in Norwegian waters. Three hits obtained on ship and one near miss along side. Two aircraft missing one M.E. 109 shot down. Mine laying operations also carried out last night by fleet air arm. All aircraft returned.

5. Blenheims attacked oil targets in north-western Germany yesterday. Oil plants, marshalling yards and aircraft factories were also attacked by 105 Wellingtons, Hampdens and Whitleys in same area last night. Two of our aircraft missing. Reports of attacks carried out by heavy bombers on night of June 20th-21st include mention of explosions caused at chemical works at Ludwigshaven, fires at marshalling yards at Osterfeld and at Gottingen aerodrome. Bombs also fell on factory buildings at Hitzacker.

6. Decrease reported in scale of German air operations in France but attacks continue on shipping off Brest and estuary of Loire. Mine-laying in Channel also continues. Bomber reconnaissance aircraft mainly active from Lyons to Bordeaux over estuaries of Gironde and Loire. Reports received that dive-bomber and fighter units in Dunkirk-Boulogne area may be soon increased. No change in activity of German

transport/

transport aircraft. Night flying navigational training renewed in Eastern Germany on small scale but normal advanced training which showed marked decrease a week ago continues at the same low level.

Italy.

7. Reports of Italian aircraft, probably bombers and fighters, being transferred to bases in Germany. These are probably being sent in exchange for German reinforcements in Sicily. On June 20th British bombers from Egypt attacked two Italian aerodromes in East Libya. Six enemy aircraft destroyed by fire and others damaged. As result of Royal Air Force and South African Air Force action, it is considered that major air operations by Italian Air Force in Italian East Africa are unlikely at present. Enemy aircraft attacked convoy in home waters last night but no damage reported. One Swedish vessel and one Yugoslav vessel sunk by torpedoes in western approaches on June 20th. Two British vessels and one Belgian vessel sunk off western coast of Europe on June 21st.

8. Three attacks were made on enemy submarines in these waters on June 20th and 21st. One of these attacks thought to have been successful.

10. Later news. Five enemy air raids on Malta yesterday. Many bombs fell in the sea. No military damage or casualties but floating dock has sunk. Successful attacks by Blenheims from Aden on Macaaca aerodrome. All aircraft returned. British Somaliland reports enemy patrol activity and air reconnaissance on June 20th.

Telegram despatched from London on  
the evening of June 22nd.

United Kingdom.

Small numbers of enemy aircraft approached the east coast of England and Scotland yesterday but fighters were unable to obtain interceptions. No attacks on the United Kingdom took place in the last twenty-four hours. Aircraft which attacked the United Kingdom the night of June 19th-20th were operating from aerodromes in Lille and Dijon areas.

2. British Expeditionary Force. Following personnel and stores disembarked in the United Kingdom up to midnight last night: personnel, fit - 122,006; personnel, wounded - 2,174; allied troops, - 2,486.

No change in figures for guns, vehicles, ammunition and stores.

All British and Polish troops have been evacuated from La Pallice where French demolitions are proceeding. Efforts are being made to carry out the evacuation of further bodies of Polish troops now in the vicinity of other ports.

3. No official news of the situation of French troops but reports received yesterday that resistance continues in Alsace and about Saumur. In Alsace Lorraine several German armoured divisions continue to operate and claim the capture of

Nancy/

Nancy, Luneville, Toul and Strasbourg. There appears to have been considerable resistance round Epinal before it fell. German forces advancing down the Saone Valley towards Lyon reported to have been reinforced. Lille (sic) fell yesterday. Possible that aim of these forces is to join up with the Italian forces on the Franco-Italian frontier. To the west the Germans have reached the western edge of the Auvergne plateau at Vichy and further west still they have reached the river Cher and River Loire from Bourges through Tours and Angers to Nantes. Heavy gun emplacement reported under construction near Cap Blanc - Nez. Signs that another similar emplacement is being started in the vicinity. Report has been received that 20 German divisions in the rear.....being reserve to the western front have been shipped to the Russian frontier and that troops and tanks from Norway and Denmark are being landed at east Prussian ports. Above movements appear possible since troops could now be spared and would be counter to the recent Russian moves into the Baltic States. It appears that the French armistice delegation reached German occupied territory about Tours early this morning.

4. Last night 56 Whitleys and Hampdens attacked.....works, air-park, aqueduct and railway targets in Western Germany. One Whitley and one Hampden missing. Preliminary reports indicate that attacks on suitable targets on the  
night/

night of June 19th-20th were successful. Blenheims attacked Rouen early yesterday obtaining hits on hangars and aircraft. All Blenheims returned safely. Fleet Air Arm successfully attacked docks at IJmuiden, Holland, on the night of June 19th-20th. Yesterday Blenheims attacked Amsterdam aerodrome. Attack hampered by weather conditions but all aircraft returned safely. 36 fighter aircraft operated over enemy occupied aerodromes in northern France yesterday. 40 Junker 52's attacked on the ground at Rouen. 16 thought to have been damaged and 4 set on fire. All our aircraft returned.

5. Enemy bomber reconnaissance aircraft very active yesterday over France particularly in the neighbourhood of Marseilles and Toulon. Aerodromes for nearly all these aircraft operating in the vicinity of the United Kingdom appear to be near Brussels. Dive bomber units yesterday operated in Epinal and Cherbourg areas. German fighters being moved to forward areas in western France. Large amount of air transport activity yesterday centered round Brussels.

Italy.

6. No reports of military activity on June 19th. Libyan garrison reinforced recently and white troops there now approaching 250,000. Reports received that black-shirt corps in Cirenaica is being reinforced by Italian white division. In joint attack on Pisida (due west of Tripoli) this Italian post

completely/

completely destroyed. Morale of the Italian Libian troops appears doubtful and units are being exchanged between Tripolitania and Cirenaica. Supply problem in Libya is becoming extremely difficult for the Italians and cases have been reported of troops failing to receive rations for 2 or 3 days and being short of water. Reference reports in my immediately preceding telegram regarding contemplated movement of German troops through Italy to Africa. There are no indications that such movements immediately impending and no identifications of German troops in Italy have been received. Employment of large German forces in North Africa would be restricted by shortage of water supply. There are however indications of further German bomber reinforcements in Sicily. Italian command in East Africa reported concerned over their losses in aircraft and fuel. Movement of bombers in Italian East Africa indicates threat to Djibouti. Malta raided by aircraft early today. Floating dock badly damaged. Italians raided Mersa Matruh yesterday. One other tank killed. Two Italian aircraft brought down. Three enemy fighters shot down and two badly damaged in this area on June 19th. One British fighter missing. Blenheims operating from Aden successfully attacked aerodrome and railway station at Diredawa yesterday. Italian column located north of Moyale (northern frontier of Kenya) were bombed and machine gunned by British aircraft yesterday. Italian aerodrome at Yavello bombed on June 19th. Three enemy aircraft destroyed/

destroyed and one Hurricane lost. Italian air losses to date are confirmed 29, unconfirmed 9, and damaged 9. In our attack on El Wak (Italian Somaliland) on June 18th Italian barracks and ammunition destroyed. Our infantry repulsed Italian counter-attack and withdrew successfully. Four British wounded.

7. Canadian troop convoy has arrived in England. British submarine reports having torpedoed enemy battle cruiser yesterday outside Trondheim. British submarine sank Italian submarine northwest of Tobruk yesterday. Enemy submarine sank by aircraft in home waters yesterday. Italian submarine attacked by aircraft in eastern Mediterranean yesterday. Result not known. Considerable enemy submarine and air activity off western coast of France and England on June 19th and June 20th. Five British and one Belgian vessels attacked by submarine of which two British vessels were sunk and several damaged by torpedoes. One British vessel attacked by motor torpedo boats and subsequently beached. Four British and one French vessel attacked by aircraft but no information as to whether any of these were sunk. One Dutch ship sunk by mine.



*File*

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 24th, 1940.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military situation.  
This was sent off from London yesterday  
evening.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*W. A. R. Curran*

**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 June 23rd.

1. Enemy bomber reconnaissance aircraft very active yesterday over coast of northwest France and south coast of England as far west as Portland. Their air activity ceased at 21.00 hours, probably due to weather conditions. During air attacks on England on night of June 21st-22nd, casualties were three killed and three injured. No key point hit. Private houses were damaged in Newcastle region. H.E.'s dropped in Leeds region, but no damage so far reported. Slight damage by bombs in Nottingham region. Number of bombs were dropped in the eastern part of Cambridge region, many of which failed to explode. Little damage caused except in Ipswich where homes were damaged and three people killed. Salvo of bombs fell in Harwich harbour, but did not explode. Considerable number of incendiary bombs dropped in Tunbridge Wells region but little damage done. There are indications of increased air preparations in Calais area and of concentration of barges between rivers. Scheldt and Maas.

2. Total personnel, stores and equipment landed in United Kingdom from France up to 12.00 hours on June 22nd were: fit, 134,061; casualties, 2,488/



-2-

2,488; guns, 310; vehicles, 2,292; ammunition and stores, 1800 tons; 300 are said to be French personnel; 1,612 Poles, 203 Czechs were landed in England yesterday morning. Total allied personnel landed up to midday yesterday is 12,716. These are not the final figures.

3. Fighting still continues in Alsace Lorraine. No further information regarding German force movements down Rhone Valley. German advance southwards continues west of Bourges.

4. One gunboat and two old Dutch cruisers sunk in harbour at Texel by Fleet air arm on June 21st. Fleet air arm obtained four direct hits on new shore battery near Calais on the same day. One British aircraft missing. Guns of this battery estimated to be 4.7. Fleet air arm sunk German merchant vessel off Haugesund yesterday. Five submarines also attacked off Terschelling, but no hits observed. One Dornier aircraft destroyed (unconfirmed). Fleet air arm attacked Willemsoord harbour on June 21st, sinking a gunnery training ship and a coast defence ship and severely damaging a gunboat. Warehouses and oil tanks also set on fire. Aerodrome and offices at Oost-Villeand also successfully attacked. Two British aircraft missing, and one Messerschmidt 109 probably shot down. Eighteen Blenheims escorted by fighters successfully attacked Merville aerodrome yesterday, all our aircraft returned. Nine Hurricanes operating over northern France shot down one Messerschmidt 110 confirmed/

confirmed, one Junker 52, two Messerschmidt 110's and three Heinkel 111's unconfirmed. One Hurricane missing. Owing to bad weather projected air operations by Royal Air Force were cancelled last night. Attacks on targets in western Germany on night of June 21st were very successful and many direct hits obtained. A few aircraft unable to locate original targets, but successfully bombed alternatives.

5. German aircraft still active against shipping off west coast of France and against unknown targets in Central France. Marseilles and Toulon were heavily bombed on the night of June 22nd-23rd, but work of these ports not seriously interrupted. Activity of German transport aircraft continues.

Italy.

6. In northern frontier district of Kenya, enemy columns were bombed near Wajir and Moyale. Light enemy air raids on Marsabit and Garissa. One French battleship, three cruisers and destroyer bombarded military objectives at Bardia (Gulf of Sollum) on June 21st with good results.

On June 21st Blenheims bombed warships at Tobruk in cooperation with naval bombardment. One large ship and two enemy aircraft badly damaged. All our aircraft returned. On night of June 20th-21st, Mersa Matruh heavily bombed but damage slight and no casualties. Italians carried out intermittent air-raids on Alexandria

on night of June 21st-22nd, causing 25 civilian casualties. Egyptian A.A. guns were in action. Parachute training reported near Syracuse and elsewhere.

7. Three ships were attacked by submarines in western approaches on June 21st.



*File*

*PSF  
G.B.*

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON.

June 24th, 1940

Secret

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. This was sent off on the  
evening of June 24th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. Huran*

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

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

  
Telegram despatched from London  
on evening of June 24th, 1940.

Several enemy aircraft reported yesterday in Straits of Dover area. One enemy aircraft passed over Dover. Our fighters claim one Heinkel 113 at present unconfirmed. No enemy aircraft over this country last night.

British Ambassador in France with Canadian and South African Ministers have left for England in a warship.

24 Blenheims attacked railway targets in Ruhr and aerodromes in Low Countries yesterday. 3 Aircraft missing. 26 Whitleys and 44 Hampdens attacked Aluminium Works, aircraft works and railway targets in Western Germany last night. Reports not yet received. All aircraft returned. Air photographs obtained yesterday of one battle cruiser one "Hipper" class cruiser and three destroyers in Trondhejm harbour.

German bomber reconnaissance aircraft mainly employed in searching for shipping off West Coast of France and in English Channel yesterday. Aircraft from Norway reconnoitred North-east coast of Scotland and Orkneys. Meteorological flights in Northern North Sea and over Orkneys and Shetlands have increased.

Aircraft report one British destroyer  
lying/

6

lying on her side in Perim harbour probably as result of air attack. Casualties reported slight. One British steamer sunk by torpedo in home waters last night. Enemy submarine in Western approaches attacked last night by destroyer. Result not known.

#### Italy

Bombing of Milan and Turin reported to have caused considerable demoralisation. Serious disturbances necessitating fixing by police took place in each town on June 8th and June 9th. On June 21st large enemy encampment near Egyptian frontier successfully attacked by British aircraft. Dire-dawa (Abyssinia) bombed on June 22nd and two enemy aircraft destroyed. Macaaca aerodrome (Eritrea) also bombed. 15 enemy bombers escorted by fighters attacked Malta yesterday. One Macchi 200 shot down by Gladiator. 5 Civilians slightly injured and little material damage caused. One enemy aircraft shot down on June 22nd. Enemy also raided Djibuti. Ten people killed, seven injured, and slight material damage. Two Italian aircraft captured in British Somaliland. Italian submarine reported sunk by destroyer South-west of Perim on June 23rd. Another sunk Italian submarine observed near Port Sudan.



24

BSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 26th, 1940.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. This was sent off from  
London yesterday afternoon.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*Sturton*

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

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



Telegram despatched from London on  
the afternoon of June 25th.

Large part of England up to line of the River Humber - Manchester and including central London received recurring air raid warnings last night. Preliminary reports indicate that number of enemy aircraft employed probably less than on previous nights. Bombing was sporadic, many bombs falling on country districts without causing damage. Bombs also dropped in centre of Bristol causing a fire, but no major damage reported. No reports of interceptions by fighters received.

2. Warship conveying British Ambassador and Canadian and South African Ministers from France arrived safely in England yesterday afternoon. Evacuation of Poles continues but no further figures are available.

3. Yesterday Blenheims attacked oil targets in western Germany. Weather conditions hampered attack on main objectives but number of aerodromes in Holland were attacked. Coastal Command aircraft also carried out successful attack on De Kooy aerodrome (Den Helder), many buildings being demolished and fires started. Last night 107 heavy bombers attacked aircraft frame factories, synthetic oil plants, a chemical factory

and/

and railway targets in western Germany. All aircraft returned except four Whitleys which have not yet landed. No report of operations yet available. As a result of attacks on western Germany on June 23rd-24th, 22 direct hits observed on aluminium works at Cologne and whole target later seen to be in flames. Number of hits also made with heavy bombs at Lunen and Gravenboich. Explosions and fires also observed at air works at Bremen and Wenzendorf. Mine laying in certain estuaries in western Germany also continued last night. All aircraft returned. Anson aircraft on .....patrol off Dover encountered 4 Messerschmidt 109's yesterday. In ensuing action one enemy fighter shot down.

4. French battleship "Jean Bart" has arrived at Casa Blanca and British liaison officers previously serving on board French warships based on Toulon have left for Gibraltar. Salvage of British destroyer recorded in my immediately preceding telegram as lying on her side in Perim harbour now reported impossible. Damage to ship was caused by bursting of air vessel of one of the torpedoes. One rating killed and three seriously injured. Corvette of Royal Indian Navy seriously damaged by explosion off Bombay June 23rd and subsequently sank. Five killed and 22 wounded. Investigations proceeding.

Italy.

5. Further confirmation received of widespread effect of air raids on northern Italy. Many families have left for the south. Large

anti/

anti-Fascist element in industrial centres reported temporarily demoralised by German success but it is considered that these elements may come.....later. In Italian East Africa aircraft maintenance difficulties and effect of attacks of Royal Air Force and South African and Rhodesian Air Forces have necessitated curtailment of Italian air activity. Confirmation received of Italian submarine reported sunk near Perim in my immediately preceding telegram. Sixty prisoners taken. Report that a sunk Italian submarine was observed near Port Sudan recorded in my immediately preceding telegram is confirmed but crew have not been captured. Of total force of eight Italian submarines based on Massawa three and possibly four have now been destroyed or captured.

6. - One British ship torpedoed off west coast of France yesterday. No further details known.

PSF  
G.B.



BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 27th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. This was sent off late  
last night.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. Moran", is written in the lower right portion of the letter.

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatch from London  
in the evening of June 26th, 1940

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143 raiders reported over England last night, areas chiefly affected were Forth, Humber, Midlands, East Anglia, and South England. Bombs dropped over wide area but from preliminary reports no serious damage resulted. Numerous fighters despatched and five enemy aircraft believed shot down. Two of our bombers were damaged on their aerodrome. Now estimated between 60 and 70 German aircraft took part in the raids over England on the night of June 24th/25th. Bombs dropped in Nottingham, Cambridge, Bristol, Birmingham regions. Sixteen casualties caused. No serious damage to military installations or factories.

2. Evacuation of Allied forces from Southern French ports completed. His Majesty's Canadian destroyer "Fraser" has been in collision with another British warship whilst engaged on operational duties off the Western Coast of France and has sunk. The Captain, 1st Lieutenant, 11 other officers and 116 ratings saved.

3. Lack of cloud cover prevented intended operation by Blenheim aircraft against oil targets in Western Germany yesterday afternoon. Aerodrome and iron foundry were however attacked. All

aircraft/

aircraft returned. 9 Spitfires shot down 3 Messerschmidt 109's (confirmed) and 3 (unconfirmed) over France yesterday. All the Spitfires returned. 58 heavy bombers attacked Essen and oil refineries, marshalling yards, air frame factory and trains of barges in Western Germany last night, all aircraft returned, but reports not yet available. Coastal command aircraft attacked oil tanks and tanker in Bergen area, communications between the Rivers Maas and Scheldt, and carried out mine-laying operations yesterday. 2 aircraft missing. Attacks by heavy bombers operating over Western Germany on the night of June 24th/25th were generally successful. 4 Whitleys reported not yet landed in my immediately preceding telegram have now returned.

4. German aircraft were active yesterday over English and French coasts. No interceptions were made. Transport aircraft activity maintained.

5. Three British ships torpedoed in Western approaches yesterday. One British ship sunk in home waters on June 24th. One Norwegian ship sunk in home waters on June 23rd.

6. Middle East.

Our aircraft have successfully bombed various enemy aerodromes. Enemy attacked certain of our aerodromes causing little damage. Italian aircraft casualties through our air action up to June 21st are 43 confirmed, and 14 unconfirmed. Raids carried out by our troops in Kassala area between June 19th and June 23rd caused Italian forces severe casualties. It is reported that

energy/

energy shown by our forces whenever in contact with the enemy has had considerable effect on Italian morale in Libya and Italian East Africa. Although Italians have not yet carried out any major offensive action, the majority of their troops engaged in any African theatre have, up to the present, been native. Reported that Italians contemplate further reinforcement of Libya.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 28th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

*file* →

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. This was sent off on  
the evening of June 27th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*W. L. Harrison*

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

Telegram despatched from London in  
the evening of June 27th, 1940

Enemy aircraft estimated at 50-70 dropped high explosive and incendiary bombs over the North East of England, Midlands, East Anglia, South and South West of England, and South Wales last night. Reports so far received indicate that casualty list was small and damage slight. Information received up to the present is that two enemy aircraft were shot down by our fighters. Further reports of air attacks on England night of June 25-26th are that five people were killed and nine injured. Petrol depot in Wales was damaged but main storage there unaffected. In Stoke-on-Trent area, a railway station was damaged and houses demolished. In Scottish area damage was very slight.

2. Thirteen officers and about 100 ratings, survivors from H.M.S. "Fraser" have been landed in England.

Further thirty survivors are on board British war ships.

3. Evacuation from St. Jean de Luz area completed.

French troops, air force personnel and technicians were not allowed to leave France. Evacuation from Cette and Port Vendres now completed. Six hundred modern French aircraft and 1650 personnel have been evacuated from France to Algeria.

4. Air operations over Germany yesterday hampered by weather conditions but synthetic oil plant at Gelsinkirchen - Schipol and marshalling yard at Soest were bombed. Ninety-five heavy bombers despatched last

night/

night to attack aluminium works, aerodromes and railway targets in Western Germany. Results not yet known.

Three aircraft missing; now reported most targets were located and bombed in attacks carried out on night of June 25th-26th.

5. German bomber reconnaissance aircraft still active over North West and South West coasts of France on the look out for shipping.

6. Two British ships attacked by submarine yesterday in Western Mediterranean. Swedish ship was sunk by air bombing in this area on June 22nd. One Norwegian ship, one Estonian ship, one Greek ship, and one Finnish ship sunk off West Coast of Europe during period June 21st-25th. Attack thought to have been successful has been made by British warship against the enemy submarine in the Red Sea. Enemy convoy attacked off Norwegian coast by submarine on June 25th and one ship believed to have been sunk.

7. Malta was raided by aircraft five times yesterday. Preliminary reports indicate that only slight damage was done.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 29th, 1940.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. This was sent off from  
London on the evening of June 28th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. Norton*

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

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



Telegram from London despatched  
on evening of June 28th, 1940.

Raids were carried out by 80 to 100 enemy aircraft over England and Southern half of Scotland last night. Weather conditions were in enemy's favour and no interceptions reported by our fighters. Bombs dropped over a large area without causing extensive damage. Only key point hit was a steel works where output has been reduced but not stopped. Two high explosive and 137 incendiary bombs were dropped on military camp in Yorkshire but only a few casualties resulted. Further reports on air attacks on United Kingdom night of June 26th to 27th are that damage was caused to one key factory which will result in at least 24 hours stoppage of work. No other other serious damage caused to factories engaged on war effort. Seventeen casualties reported.

Blenheims made two identification attacks on oil targets in North Western Germany yesterday. One aircraft missing. Two photographic reconnaissances carried out over Calais/Boulogne area. One aircraft missing. Ninety heavy bombers attacked railway targets, aerodromes, air frame factories and oil tanks

in/



in North West Germany last night. One aircraft missing. Further mine laying operations by aircraft of coastal command also successfully carried out. Weather conditions made location of targets and observation of bursts difficult during attacks night of June 26th / 27th, but bursts seen in target area on aluminium works at Koln and Ludwigshaven and on four railway marshalling yards. Good results also obtained on five aerodromes and wharves at Rotterdam.

No change to report in activities of German bomber reconnaissance and transport aircraft.

Little damage and no casualties caused by air raids on Malta reported in my immediately preceeding telegram. Enemy at 16,000 feet.

Sudan. Mechanised patrols had further encounters with enemy near Kassala on June 25th and 26th. Numerous enemy casualties inflicted with no losses to us. On June 27th 1,200 enemy cavalry were routed by two machine gun cars. Enemy left 50 casualties.

Italian East Africa. Our attacks on bomb and petrol stores are reported to have caused Italians considerable anxiety.

Successful attack carried out by Wellaslays against aerodrome in Northern Eritrea/

Eritrea on June 26th. One enemy fighter shot down. All British aircraft returned. Italian air losses on all fronts up to June 25th are 57 confirmed, 12 unconfirmed, 12 damaged.

One British submarine reported lost in the Mediterranean, and one other submarine has failed to reply to wireless signals. One Dutch ship sunk in Western approaches on June 27th. One Dutch and one Estonian ship missing and presumed sunk in home waters.



BSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 30th, 1940.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. This was sent off on the  
evening of June 29th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. Huron*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram despatched from London  
on evening of June 29th.

Yesterday evening enemy aircraft operated over Cornwall, South Wales, and South Ireland and over Channel Islands where indiscriminate bombarding and machine gunning in Jersey and Guernsey resulted in 26 killed and many wounded. At Guernsey bombed ..... on fire and destroyed. Last night enemy aircraft crossed south and east coasts of England, others remaining off shore, probably mine laying. Bombs reported dropped in Lincolnshire, Essex, and South Wales. Damage reported to be negligible. Further reports on attacks on night of June 27th to 28th confirm that remarkably little damage was done and there were only 3 casualties. The one key factory damaged has now recommenced work.

Blenheims escorted by fighters reconnoitred Calais-Boulogne area yesterday afternoon, Nothing of importance seen on roads or rail. All aircraft returned. Reconnaissance over Guernsey late yesterday evening reported no ships in harbour and no signs of enemy activity but number of houses had been destroyed. Last night 94 heavy bombers attacked marshalling yards, chemical  
factories/



factories and enemy aircraft on ground in north-western Germany. All aircraft returned. Mine-laying also continued. During attacks on night of June 27th to 28th bad visibility prevented accurate observations but successful attacks were made on 3 marshalling yards, docks and steel works, oil tanks, aerodromes and canal lock and lock-gates.

German Air Force continuing routine weather flights in North Sea. Transport still very active. Little other operational activity is reported and it is thought remainder of German Air Force is resting and re-equipping.

German troops in Norway appear to be being reinforced and include considerable numbers of parachute troops. There are sufficient aerodromes in existence or under construction to provide for assembly of air-borne expedition. Sufficient shipping probably also available in this area to transport two divisions. Shipping thought to be plentiful in Baltic and there is evidence of concentration of small craft in Holland and Belgium.

One Italian destroyer sunk by British warship in eastern Mediterranean yesterday. One German submarine thought to have been sunk in home waters yesterday, three British ships and one Norwegian ship torpedoed and sunk in western approaches.

Two British fighters engaged six enemy aircraft over Malta yesterday, one enemy aircraft believed/

believed shot down. Sidi Barrani and Mersa Matruh in Egypt heavily bombed, and aerodrome at latter place rendered unserviceable. British aircraft from Aden successfully bombed aerodrome and dumps in Macaaca. In Kenya Moyale was bombed on June 28th and Wajir on June 27th with little effect. Italian troops attacked Moyale yesterday supported by artillery. Attack unsuccessful but no further details available.

Morale of majority of French navy is deteriorating everywhere and though diminishing minorities may wish to continue the struggle senior officers will no longer do so.